

Art Exhibit Policy

Revised and Approved: 4-28-2025

Art exhibits in different formats are welcome at Portage District Library. Exhibits stimulate interest in a variety of library materials, provide information, develop aesthetic appreciation, and offer an opportunity for individual and/or groups to display artistic and educational materials. The Portage District Library provides space for exhibits and displays of a civic, educational, cultural, or recreational nature.

Display areas may also be used for Library purposes such as to display materials from the Library's collection, or to publicize Library services, collections, or activities. Thus, this policy does not apply to the Library's use or co-sponsored use and the Library's use and co-sponsored use has first priority. When not used for Library sponsored or co-sponsored events, space designated by the Library for public use may be used for exhibits and displays pursuant to this Policy.

I. General Principles

- A. It is not the goal of the Portage District Library to build an art collection.
- B. Exhibit and display areas are available on an equitable basis regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.
- C. The Library does not endorse content nor imply agreement or disagreement with beliefs or viewpoints expressed in the exhibits or displays.
- D. Display space is limited.

II. Temporary Exhibits

- A. Acceptance and placement of an art exhibit will be determined by the Library Director or designee. Those who wish to display their artwork at the Portage District Library must read and sign the "Art Where You Are Artist Contract". Permission for hosting an art reception, and for conducting any activities or mounting displays during an art reception, will be granted at the discretion of the Library Director or designee.
- B. The Library reserves the right to determine at its sole discretion what materials will be displayed as well as scheduling, duration, and assignment of exhibit and display spaces. Applications for exhibits or displays will be reviewed in light of the Library's educational, cultural, intellectual, or recreational purpose and community interest. The limitations on space will also be taken into consideration.
- C. Length of time for each display will be determined by the Library Director or designee. Set-up and removal dates will be determined in advance.
- D. Artists may indicate that their art is for sale by affixing 'POR' (price on request) on the title label. Sales transactions may occur on the library premises during gallery hops or special art receptions. However, artists must delay delivery of any purchased artwork to buyers until the agreed upon exhibit schedule at the library had concluded. No price tags may be affixed to any artwork on exhibit at the library, but price lists will be made available to the public at the Adult Information Desk for the duration of the art exhibit. Subject to the approval of the Library Director, artists may display their names, addresses, and telephone numbers on their artwork.

- E.** The Library must be provided with a license to use images of the artwork for Library uses, including but not limited to advertising, brochures, posters, catalogs, the Library's website or similar uses.
- F.** The Exhibitor may be identified by name within the exhibit or display.
- G.** Artists are responsible for printing and supplying their own labels as well as their own artistic statement and signage. The library's Curator is responsible for installing and labeling the exhibit or display on the agreed upon date.
- H.** All exhibits or displays must be set up and removed with as little interference as possible to the daily operations of the Library. Once the exhibit or display is installed, changes may be made only with Library approval.
- I.** The library's Curator shall remove the exhibit or display promptly on the agreed upon date at the end of the scheduled period. Exhibits or displays will be considered for exhibit for longer than the scheduled period with written approval of the Library Director or his/her designee.
- J.** The Library has the right to remove exhibit or display materials if they are not picked up by the agreed upon date. Exhibit materials may be disposed of if not claimed within sixty (60) days after the scheduled display period.
- K.** Exhibitors may not charge an admission fee or request donations.
- L.** Damages to the premises, equipment or furnishings as a result of the Exhibitor's use will be charged to the Exhibitor.

III. Decision and Appeal

- A.** The Library Director or his/her designee shall make the determination regarding the use of exhibit and display spaces. The Library Director or his/her designee has the right to review the materials, including promotion or publicity materials, in advance. The Library Director's decision shall be final.
- B.** Any person or organization aggrieved by the Director or designee's decision may appeal that decision to the Library Board. Such appeal shall be made within ten (10) business days of the decision. The appeal letter must indicate it is an appeal and be sent to the Library Director.
- C.** The Library reserves the right to remove any item from an exhibition or display on the above grounds or if the exhibition is a possible safety hazard, is too large for the display space, creates a maintenance problem, exceeds acceptable noise and light levels, interferes with the public service or other activities in adjacent Library areas or has been displayed without authorization.