



L.E. Phillips Memorial  
**Public Library**

**Number:** 8  
**Category:** Library Services

**Policy Title:** Art  
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## **GENERAL OBJECTIVE**

The L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library Art Policy provides a framework for the growth and development of exhibitions and permanent art collections in support of the Library's mission. It is the Library's goal to present a diverse Eau Claire community with artwork and exhibitions that reflect a wide range of views, expressions, opinions, and interests. Specific displays may include items that may be unorthodox or unpopular with the majority of viewers or controversial in nature. The Library's display of these items does not constitute endorsement of their content but rather makes available its expression. L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library adheres to the principles of intellectual freedom, adopted by the American Library Association, as expressed in the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read and Freedom to View Statements.

## **ART PROGRAM MISSION**

The L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library is dedicated to enriching the library experience of customers by:

- Enhancing community appreciation of the arts
- Serving as a focal point for area artists
- Educating library users to different types of art and visual expression
- Providing opportunities for library visitors to encounter original artwork and increase their visual literacy
- Supporting the freedom of artists to express themselves through visual media
- Cooperating with area, regional, and national cultural agencies in fulfilling its cultural role in the community

## **EXHIBITIONS AND TEMPORARY DISPLAYS**

L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library offers a dedicated art gallery exhibition space as well as the possibility for site-specific installations throughout the library.

Library art exhibits and related programming are arranged and overseen by the Library's Visual Arts Committee, which is comprised of library staff, artists, art educators, and art professionals. Youth library art exhibits and related programming are arranged and overseen by the Library's Youth Services Manager or designee.

Exhibits typically run for two months, and gallery space is often booked out more than a year in advance. Artists are encouraged to submit proposals according to the Call for Artists procedure, keeping the Guidelines for Installation in mind.

Displays must be appropriate to an environment with viewers of all ages.

The Programming and Communication Services Manager, or the Manager's designee, may request that a display be altered or removed under certain limited circumstances, such as if the exhibit is too large for the space or adequate security cannot be provided. Alteration or removal of an exhibit which displays material not protected by the First Amendment may also be required.

## CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

General criteria for selecting Library exhibitions are listed below. An item need not meet all of the criteria in order to be acceptable.

- Potential for public interest
- Culturally and identity inclusive
- Contemporary significance, popular interest, or permanent value
- High artistic merit
- Prominence, authority and/or competence of artist
- Attention of critics and reviewers
- Timeliness of material
- Relation to existing collections and exhibitions
- Statement of challenging, original, or alternative point of view
- Authenticity of historical, regional, or social setting

LEPMPL will cover loss or damage to artwork being displayed (unless caused by faulty materials or workmanship) while in its possession up to \$1,000 per piece with a maximum of \$10,000 per exhibit regardless of the number of exhibitors. The artist assumes responsibility of additional insurance coverage if an individual piece of artwork is valued higher than \$1,000.

Should loss or damage occur, LEPMPL will pay the artist a determined value for affected artwork. Various factors will be considered by administrative staff of LEPMPL in order to determine the value of loss or damage. In case of loss or damage, the artist will be required to furnish appraisals or proof of previous sales of similar works to document the value placed on the exhibit.

LEPMPL will insure art in the exhibit beginning with the installation date and continuing through the removal date. Transport, delivery, or pick-up of art is not covered by the Library.

Work left beyond the pick-up date is no longer insured unless prior arrangements are made. LEPMPL reserves the right to make exceptions to the Art Show Guidelines at any time.

Artwork not claimed within 30 days of the end of the exhibit will become property of the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library.

## **PERMANENT ART COLLECTION**

The Library Board of Trustees, under guidance of the Visual Arts Committee and Programming & Communications Services Manager, will consider prospective gifts and/or purchases of artwork in order to determine the appropriateness for inclusion in the permanent collection.

### **CRITERIA FOR SELECTION**

General criteria for selecting items for the library's permanent art collection are listed below. An item must meet all of the criteria in order to be acceptable. Artwork acquired by the Library should be of sufficiently high artistic merit to warrant inclusion in the Library collection. This generally requires that the works be unique pieces created by artists of established reputation or recognized potential.

- Artwork should be compatible with the character of a public library.
- Artwork must be durable, sound, non-hazardous, and maintainable in terms of the nature of the materials.
  - An exception to this could be made in the case of works that are specifically time-based or of a temporary nature when it is understood that their installation would be of limited duration.

### **GIFTS OF ARTWORK**

The Visual Arts Committee and Programming & Communications Services Manager will consider all artwork offered as a gift to the Library. In addition to the Permanent Art Collection Criteria for Selection, the Committee will take into account the significance of artwork as it relates to the library's presence within the community.

The Library will provide recognition to all individuals, groups and/or corporations who donate gifts of art to the Library. Appropriate recognition will be determined through consultation with the Visual Arts Committee and will generally be consistent with the recognition given to library donors. Display of accepted artwork is at the discretion of the Library. There is no obligation for display of accepted artwork.

### **DEACCESSION OF ARTWORK**

The Library will work to retain all works accepted as gifts, but does retain the right to de-acquisition any items if it is seen to be in the best interest of the Library. Any de-acquisition must be approved by either the Library Board of Trustees or Library Director, with respect to the Donated Personal Property and Gifts of Materials Policies, and under

the guidance of the Collection Development committee with a recommendation by the Visual Arts Committee.

Any deaccession of non-gifted artwork must be approved by the Library Director, with respect to the Collection Development and Management Policy, and under the guidance of the Collection Development committee with a recommendation by the Visual Arts Committee.

## **REQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF ARTWORK**

Requests for removal of artwork should follow the “Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials” section of the Collection Development and Management Policy. The Visual Arts Committee should be consulted for a recommendation when responding to any request for reconsideration of artwork, whether it is part of a temporary exhibit or permanent collection. The standards and criteria provided in this policy shall be applied in deciding any such appeal.