Art Gallery Policy

The Wauwatosa Public Library (WPL) maintains an Art Gallery for the interest, information, and enlightenment of the community. The Art Gallery is available for local artists to display their work.

The WPL Library Board subscribes to the tenets of the American Library Association's Bill of Rights, which states in part, "Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use." Use of the Art Gallery does not constitute an endorsement by WPL of the views of those utilizing the Art Gallery.

WPL does not attempt to ensure that all points of view are represented in any exhibit. Use of the Art Gallery does not imply WPL endorsement of content; nor will WPL accept responsibility for the accuracy of statements made in any exhibits.

All exhibits must meet existing State and Federal laws on obscenity, libel, defamation of character or invasion of privacy. Organizations or individuals who willfully violate this policy may be denied use of display space.

Organizations and individuals may appeal decisions to the WPL Library Board.

Application and Scheduling
Art Gallery reservation requests are approved on a first-come, first-served basis and may be accepted up to 18 months in advance of the date requested. Art Gallery exhibits may be displayed for up to one month. Artists and artist groups must have 12 months between Art Gallery exhibits.

Library Rights
WPL is not responsible for any loss, damage, destruction, or theft of artworks or other objects in an exhibit.

WPL reserves the right to determine the placement of exhibits and the conditions under which they will be displayed. WPL reserves the right to reschedule reservations based on WPL and City of Wauwatosa needs.

WPL reserves the right to photograph any portion of an exhibit.

WPL reserves the right to limit or prohibit at any time the use of display or exhibit spaces which, in the judgment of the Library Director or his or her designee, represent a threat to the health or safety of WPL users, or the orderly use of WPL.

Exhibitor's Responsibilities
The organization or individual is responsible for setting up and taking down the exhibit. WPL staff is not available to assist with setting up or taking down the exhibit.

Art Gallery exhibits may include sale prices and artist contact information. Transactions for the purchase of items may not take place at WPL. Artwork may not be removed from the Art Gallery before the end of the exhibition unless such removal is approved by WPL Administration.

The name of the organization or individual responsible for the exhibit shall be clearly posted. All promotional materials relating to exhibits must clearly state "This exhibit is not sponsored by the Wauwatosa Public Library."

All exhibitors are required to sign a waiver which releases WPL from any responsibility or liability for items on display. Any person or group using WPL's Art Gallery hereby agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the WPL and City of Wauwatosa from any and all actions or suits relating to its use of such spaces.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Wauwatosa Public Library on May 15, 2019.
Revised on November 18, 2020; May 15, 2024.