

Revision Date:	May 2022	Policy Type:	Administration
Approval Level:	CEO	Distribution:	All Employees
Review Schedule:	5 Years (or as required)		

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## **1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish the conditions under which Markham Public Library ("the Library") provides space for temporary art exhibits by artists.

## **2. SCOPE**

"Art Exhibits" refer to temporary exhibits of artwork. In cases of permanent gift, donation or transfer of artwork to the Library, the *Gifts (Donations) and Sponsorship Policy* applies.

## **3. POLICY STATEMENT**

Through its collections, the Library provides access to a wide range of expressions of imagination, knowledge, creativity, intellectual activity and thought, in a welcoming and supportive environment. Exhibit space is also provided to local community artists for the display of their work, enabling visitors to participate in the creative life of their community and providing local artists with a valued avenue for exhibiting their work.

The Library supports the principles of intellectual freedom and freedom of expression adopted by the Canadian Library Association and expressed by the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

## **4. CRITERIA FOR ART EXHIBITS**

Exhibits present a diverse Markham community with artwork and exhibits that reflect a wide range of views, expressions, opinions and interests. Proposals for exhibits are accepted, evaluated and scheduled through the Library's Marketing and Community Development Department. Proposed exhibits must:

- Be consistent with the mission and vision of the Library
- Be relevant to community interests and issues
- Reflect the diverse interests of the community and foster community and individual expression
- Be respectful of freedom of expression and human dignity and of the values of the community
- Be provided to the Library free of charge by the exhibitor
- Provide an opportunity for community conversations through informed discussions and respect for creative expression
- Not be in contravention of federal or provincial laws or regulations or municipal by-laws

- Not be primarily intended as advertising or soliciting for recruitment, business, political campaigning or fundraising
- Be in compliance with copyright law

The Library and approved exhibitors will sign an agreement detailing the rights and responsibilities of each party.

## **5. ART EXHIBIT AREAS**

The Library consists of multiple branches, each having unique exhibition opportunities. Within buildings, Management will determine the location of exhibits. The criteria for such decisions include the facility itself and the need to provide a community gathering space.

Exhibit space is offered subject to availability in conjunction with the Library's needs, including that of maintaining all regular functions and operations throughout the period of the exhibit.

The Library has the final authority over the review, selection and arrangement of all exhibitions within its facilities.

Exhibits are unsupervised and are accessible to the public throughout regular operating hours except when the space is required for Library purposes. The Library is not liable for any damages, loss or theft that may occur to any component of the exhibit.

## **6. SALE OF EXHIBITED ART WORKS**

Exhibited artworks may be offered for sale, with prices established by the artist. The artist is responsible for conducting any sales directly with the purchaser. The Library and its staff are not responsible for customer enquiries regarding art exhibits. Works sold will remain on exhibit throughout the designated exhibit period.

Apart from an opening reception, the Exhibitor will not promote or sell their works in person at the Library.

Artists must advertise in their name only, and must not imply Library sponsorship.

## **7. REQUEST TO RECONSIDER**

The Library reserves the right to refuse any art exhibit, in whole or in part. In the event of a refusal, a request for reconsideration may be submitted in writing to the Director, Community Engagement. A further review may be referred to the Chief Executive Officer, who shall render a decision.

Some exhibits may include items that can be interpreted by some community members as being unorthodox, unpopular or controversial in nature. When this occurs, the Library's display of such items does not constitute endorsement of their content but rather facilitation of their expression. Residents who object to any portion of an exhibit are required to complete a written request for the reconsideration of the exhibit.

Decisions will be communicated to the originators of the requests following completion of a formal staff review. The Library Board is the final arbiter for all exhibit reconsideration requests.

**8. RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Art Exhibit Agreement
- Request to Reconsider Form

**9. RELATED POLICIES**

- Gifts (Donations) and Sponsorship Policy