

Community Exhibit Policy

Effective Date: 7/17/2024

An exhibit is a collection of paintings, sculptures, or objects displayed together for public viewing in the exhibit space in the Library.

Exhibit space is defined as the art hanging system in the Community Room. In addition, limited space may be available on tables in the Community Room and above existing Library shelving if approved by the Sharon Public Library Director or their designee (“the Director”).

General Guidelines and Conditions of Use

1. All requests must be approved by the Director.
2. Exhibit space may be made available to organizations engaged in educational, cultural, historical, intellectual, or charitable activities on an equitable basis.
3. The Sharon Public Library adheres to the principles of intellectual freedom as described in Article VI of the American Library Association (ALA) Library Bill of Rights: “Libraries which make exhibit space available to the public should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.” [see #7 and #8 for reasons for denial]
4. Exhibitors may display art information and pricing on or next to the artwork or display.
5. If artwork is made available for sale, a 10 percent donation of the proceeds of all artwork sold during an exhibit is required for use of the exhibit space. Payment should be made to The Sharon Public Library.
6. The Library allows a broad spectrum of opinions and viewpoints; however, authority over the layout and use of the exhibit facilities rests with the Director. All exhibit material must be shown to the Director BEFORE being allowed to be displayed.
7. Permission may be denied or revoked for any exhibit whose purpose is personal or commercial, contains hate speech, and/or has the potential to cause substantial disruption or interference with the functions of the Library. Hate speech is defined by the ALA as any form of expression through which speakers intend to vilify, humiliate, or incite hatred against a group or class of persons on the basis of race, religion, skin color, sexual identity, gender identity, ethnicity, disability, or national origin.
8. Permission may be denied by the Director or revoked if the exhibit is not in compliance with the Library Community Exhibit Policy.
9. Exhibitors must acknowledge that neither the Town of Sharon nor the Sharon Public Library provides insurance for artwork on exhibit in the Library.
10. Permission to use the exhibit space is conditional upon completing and signing the “Exhibit Application” and “Exhibit Release” forms available on the Library website.
11. All measures necessary for the setup and removal of exhibits are the sole physical and financial responsibility of the exhibitor. This includes, but is not limited to, shipping, packaging, storage, signage, labels, framing, set up and removal, and the equipment and supplies needed for same.

12. Exhibitors agree that they are responsible for and will pay for all damage sustained to Library property.
13. Exhibitors will not have access to electrical outlets for their exhibits.
14. The scheduling of exhibits will take place at the discretion of the Director and exhibits will be displayed for two weeks. Additional time may be requested and is at the discretion of the Director. An artist/exhibitor will not be allowed to reserve exhibit space more than once during a twelve (12)-month period not to exceed four weeks in one year.
15. Exhibitors cannot request reservation space more than 3 months in advance of their exhibit.
16. Videotaping, cameras set up on tripods, television filming, or interviewing arranged or accomplished by the exhibitor is not allowed inside the Library without receipt of written permission from both the exhibitor and the Director. Written permission will be provided by the exhibitor to the Director before this request is approved. Other attendees or Library patrons cannot be photographed or videotaped during the program.
17. Materials must be picked up after the exhibit period ends. The Library will NOT store materials.
18. Exhibits may not be publicized in a manner that suggests Library sponsorship or endorsement.
19. Use of the Library for an art exhibit opening reception requires permission from the Director and must be included on the original Exhibit Application.

Criteria of Selection for Exhibit Space

Priority will be determined at the discretion of the Director within the following framework:

1. Library-sponsored programming
2. Local groups and organizations affiliated with the Library
3. Neighborhood and community-based groups and organizations from Sharon
4. Other groups that serve the needs of the community

Clothing the Deborah Sampson Statue

The Deborah Sampson statue is a gift from Sculptor Lu Stubbs in memory of an American Revolutionary War hero who disguised herself as a man in order to fight for America's freedom.

- As a sign of respect for the work of the sculptor and the statue's Veteran distinction, the Board of Trustees has determined that no items of clothing shall be placed on the statue.
- The Library is not responsible for any items placed on the statue or taken from the statue.
- The Library is not responsible for the storage of items found on the statue.