



## Art Exhibit Policy

In support of its mission to enrich lives and build community, Mesa County Libraries (MCL) hosts exhibits and displays art acquired through purchases, donations, loans, or sponsorships. All exhibits must further MCL's mission, goals, objectives or priorities. They must not drive the library's agenda or priorities. MCL displays materials from its own collections, accepts proposals and also solicits individuals or organizations to provide materials for exhibitions on a variety of topics and interests, appealing to the diverse interests and concerns of the community. MCL has sole discretion regarding selection, timeline and in what manner objects are exhibited. The Library retains the right to deny or refuse any exhibit proposal and also has the right to cancel a loan upon reasonable request to the Lender.

### Selection Criteria

Responsibility for the selection of exhibits resides with MCL's Art Committee or designated manager. Granting permission to display materials does not imply MCL endorsement of content or points of view. Art reviewed solely on its own merit.

The following criteria will be considered when approving all exhibits:

- Originality
- Artistic expression
- Overall community interest
- Historical prominence or significance
- Relevance to library programs
- Proximity in time to previous displays of similar items or topics
- Item suitability for hanging if applicable
- Content suitability for all audiences
- Any special needs, costs, and/or requests associated with the exhibit
- Ease of installation
- Availability of exhibit space

### Requirements

1. MCL locations are public spaces used by many people. MCL will not be responsible for any damage or loss that may occur during exhibit setup, removal, and display. Exhibit display dates will be established in advance at the discretion of the Art Committee or designated manager.
2. Library use of display areas takes precedence over any other use. In the unlikely event that MCL should require display/exhibit space for its own use, the Library Director has the right to pre-empt such space without notice.





3. Permission to photograph, film, and reproduce any exhibited artwork for publicity purposes is granted to MCL and media outlets covering MCL exhibits unless otherwise stated in writing.
4. Artists must enter into an Artist Agreement with MCL before the display of the artwork.
5. No sales transactions may take place on MCL premises, but exhibitors' contact information, logo and/or sale prices, if applicable, may be discreetly displayed in conjunction with exhibits.
6. Refer to MCL's Sponsorship and Donation Policy for more information on sponsoring artwork and/or exhibits at MCL.

**Reconsideration of Art Exhibits:** Mesa County Libraries fully supports and believes in the freedom of information for all. However, community members have the right to challenge MCL to reconsider library exhibits.

All requests to reconsider an exhibit must be made in writing using MCL's Request for Reconsideration form, which is available at any MCL location and online. The completed Request for Reconsideration form is open to review under the Colorado Open Records Act. Completed forms go to designated staff who review the request in relation to the Library's written policies. Individuals may submit up to five Requests for Reconsideration forms per month. Only forms filled out in full by Mesa County residents will be given full consideration and review. An exhibit may only be reviewed once every five years. The Executive Director then reviews the request and replies in writing within thirty days of receipt of the request. The Library Board of Trustees will be notified of all Requests for Reconsideration received. Should a resident believe the library's process was not followed under this policy, they may ask the Board to review the staff's process. The exhibit in question will not be removed during the reconsideration process.

*REVIEWED AND ADOPTED ON MAY 30, 2024.*

Alice Dow – MCPLD Board President

Mary Watson – MCPLD Board Secretary

