



# Public Art Policy

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## **Purpose**

This policy establishes the criteria for the purchase or acceptance of donated artwork to the St. Charles Public Library's esteemed collection. To ensure that artwork contributes to the Library's mission, vision, and goals, the following guidelines should be considered when purchasing or accepting donations of artwork.

## **Guidelines**

- **Enhancement of the Library's Mission:** Artwork should add to the educational and cultural enrichment of the community. It should spark curiosity, critical thinking, and cultural awareness among patrons of all ages.
- **Quality and Artistic Merit:** The artwork should demonstrate a high level of artistic quality, craftsmanship, and creativity. Ideally, art pieces would have aesthetic value and contribute to the beauty of the space.
- **Historical Significance:** Artwork with historical significance can enrich the Library's collection and provide insight into different time periods, cultures, and artistic movements. Artwork that represents people and places of the Fox Valley area, Kane County, and surrounding communities should be considered for preservation value.
- **Accessibility:** Artwork should be accessible and inclusive, welcoming patrons of diverse backgrounds, abilities, and perspectives to enjoy it. It should be appropriate for public display and comply with all applicable Library policies and ADA.
- **Durability and Maintenance:** Artwork should be in good condition and suitable for long-term display in a public setting. Artwork that needs extensive restoration, cleaning, or ongoing maintenance will not be acquired unless maintenance plans are in place at the time of purchase/donation.
- **Space and Display Considerations:** Artwork should fit within the library's physical space and complement existing displays, furnishings, and architecture.
- **Community Input:** The Art Committee will make recommendations for the acquisition or removal of art pieces while remaining open to feedback from community members and experts.
- **Ethical Considerations:** Artwork should comply with ethical guidelines and legal requirements regarding copyright, intellectual property rights, provenance, and cultural sensitivity.

## **Funding and Insurance**

Artwork should be acquired through transparent and responsible acquisition practices. Before using taxpayer funds to purchase artwork, the Library will seek donations from the Foundation, the Friends of the Library, or other local donors. The purchase and maintenance of artwork may be funded through the Library's budget pending approval of the Board of Trustees.

Upon acquisition, costly artwork should be evaluated by a professional appraiser and added to the Library's inventory list. Artwork is insured through the Library's general liability insurance policy.

## **Donations**

The St. Charles Public Library gratefully considers donations of artwork by local organizations and community members. Not all donations will be deemed acceptable for the Library's collection and may be rejected or returned to the donating organization. The Library's Gift Policy applies to donations of artwork and will be provided to donors upon acceptance of the piece.

Board Approved: 8-14-2024