

Policy Exhibits and Displays Policy	<u>Date Approved by WGRLS Board</u> 05/10/2022, 05/14/2024
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Purpose:

West Georgia Regional Library System (WGRLS) enriches the lives of its patrons, making accessible informational, educational, recreational, and cultural resources. The library serves as a cultural center for its communities. The primary emphasis of exhibits in West Georgia Regional Libraries is to promote the artistry of its community. West Georgia Regional Library System seeks to provide opportunities that allow individuals to freely examine subjects and make their own decisions. While patrons are free to reject for themselves what they do not approve of, they cannot exercise a right of censorship to restrict the freedom of access to others. Patrons with concerns about an exhibit or display should reference the [Library Services Reconsideration Policy](#) and [Library Services Reconsideration Form](#).

This policy was established to create procedures and standards for exhibits at WGRLS.

Policy:***Application and Approval:***

Those who wish to have their works exhibited in a library must contact the manager or manager's appointee of the member library at which they would like to display their works or collection. Interested artists can contact the member library manager or manager's appointee for an application. Acceptance of the application is at the discretion of the manager or manager's appointee. They may consult their library board and/or appropriate county or city officials if additional input is needed. Acceptance of the application does not constitute the library's endorsement of the artist, exhibitor, organization, or their viewpoints. Criteria which will be considered includes:

- The type of display space required for the works for the collection. Not all locations can accommodate all types of material
- The condition of the work, including the size, weight, or fragility of the pieces proposed
- The aesthetic and technical quality of the work
- The relevance of the artist, the collection, or their work to the community
- The relevance of the artist or their work to the library's mission

Library staff will not:

- Be held responsible for damage, destruction, or theft of items on exhibit
- Provide insurance on items put on exhibit
- Be responsible for setting up, dismantling, or maintaining the exhibit
- Store the work prior to or after the exhibit has ended
- Charge for the use of the exhibit space

Responsibilities of the Artist or Collection Owner:

- Submit a portfolio to the manager or manager's appointee containing examples of works which will be in the exhibit
- Prepare their collection for exhibition. This includes ascertaining it is in a condition where it can be displayed without risk of damage
- Ensure the display will fit in the display space provided.
- Set up and dismantling the exhibit in a timely manner. Set up and dismantling must take place during the library's open hours.
- Store the works prior to or after the exhibit has ended
- Have the exhibit be non-commercial in nature, and free and open to the public
- Provide valid proof of insurance on the art or collection to be displayed or;
- Complete and sign a [waiver of liability](#) with WGRLS or with an appropriate local government agency

Proposing an exhibit does not guarantee that the exhibit will be accepted. Preference will be given to those whose work has not been exhibited in the library in the past year.

The library reserves the right to change, reschedule, or cancel exhibits when necessary. Exhibition of works does not constitute the library's endorsement of the artist, exhibitor, organization, or their viewpoints.

Displays and Bulletin Boards

WGRLS' libraries may display posters, flyers, and other advertisements about library services and programs. The library may accept other postings to community bulletin boards by other government agencies, businesses, organizations, or individuals. Posting by outside entities is at the discretion of the library manager. Decisions will conform to the American Library

Association's *Library Bill of Rights*, which states:

- "Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation." (Article I)
- "Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval." (Article II)
- "Libraries which make exhibit spaces...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." (Article VI)

WGRLS' libraries are not required to make space available to community groups or individuals for displays, notices, pamphlets, or flyers. However, if they do, the library should post a permanent notice stating these spaces are available as a service for the public and *the West Georgia Regional Library System does not advocate or endorse the viewpoints represented*. Displayed materials may be removed on a weekly or monthly basis or after the date and information is no longer relevant. Materials provided by government or funding agencies may stay up indefinitely, if there is no associated end date.