

# **Delaware Township Library Art Policy**

## **I. Goals for the Policy**

The Delaware Township Library Art Policy provides a framework for exhibition and display of local art and artists in our area. It is the Library's goal to present a range of artists, art styles, and artistic expressions and interests. Specific displays may include items that may be in nature. The Library's display of these items does not constitute endorsement of their content but rather makes available its expression, but also understands the need for public decency within its displays. Delaware Township Public Library adheres to the principles of intellectual freedom, adopted by the American Library Association, as expressed in the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read and Freedom to View Statements. However the Library Director retains the right to have an artist to remove a piece or pieces if it does not fit within the overall spectrum of the aforementioned public decency/public good. Such purview is solely left to the discretion of the director of the Delaware Township Library.

## **II. Art Program Mission**

Delaware Township Public Library is dedicated to enriching the library experience of patrons of the Delaware Township Public Library by:

- Enhancing community appreciation of the arts.
- Presenting a variety of exhibitions by artists as well as exhibitions of an educational and/or historical significance.
- Providing opportunities for library visitors to encounter original artwork and increase their visual/artistic literacy.
- Helping local and regional artists to expand their public exposure.

## **III. Exhibitions and Displays**

The Delaware Township Public Library consists a single library. Therefore each artist shall be displayed at the central library building for a period of four weeks to roughly coincide with the 1<sup>st</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of each month. The artist will agree to take down their exhibits by the 30<sup>th</sup> or the 31<sup>st</sup> of the month or the final day of the month, whichever is more applicable to give the next artist time to set up their own display. Special exhibits may take precedence over the regular exhibit schedule. These decisions will be made by the director and are final.

## **IV. Selection of Exhibitions and Displays:**

This information pertains to the selection of art/artists to be displayed at the Delaware Township's Library:

Proposals for artists/art are accepted throughout the year. The director will be the final selector of artists/art and coordinate with artists on what month/four week period they are to display. Artists are notified of acceptance to be displayed within approximately one month their acceptance. The Library Director may use his or her discretion to address the Library's scheduling needs. Decisions made by the Library Director are final.

## **V. Criteria for Selection**

General criteria for selecting Library exhibitions are listed below. An item need not meet all of the criteria in order to be acceptable.

- High artistic merit
- Potential for public interest
- Timeliness of material
- Relation to existing collections and exhibitions
- Interest/value to the local community
- Authenticity of historical, regional or social setting

## **VI. Policy for Gifts of Artwork**

The Delaware Township Library Board under guidance of the Director of Delaware Township Public Library will consider prospective gifts and/or purchases of artwork in order to determine the appropriateness for inclusion in the Delaware Township Public Library art collection.

Work will be considered based on the following criteria:

- Artwork acquired by the Delaware Township Public Library should be of sufficiently high artistic merit to warrant inclusion in the Library collection. This generally requires that the works be unique pieces created by artists of established reputation or recognized potential.
- Artwork should be compatible with the character of the Library.
- Artwork must be durable, sound, non-hazardous, and maintainable in terms of the nature of the materials.
  - An exception to this could be made in the case of works that are specifically time-based or of a temporary nature when it is understood that their installation would be of limited duration.

The Director of the Delaware Township Public Library will consider all artwork offered as a gift to Delaware Township Public Library. In addition to the criteria above, the Library Board will

take into account the significance of artwork as it relates to the library's presence within the community.

Delaware Township Public Library will provide recognition to all individuals, groups and/or corporations who donate services, financial support or gifts of art to the Library. Appropriate recognition will be determined through consultation with the donor and will generally be consistent with the recognition given to library donors. Display of accepted artwork is at the discretion of the Delaware Township Public Library. There is no obligation for display.

## **VII. Gifting Art to the Delaware Township Library**

Once a piece of art is accepted into the library's collection, the Library may then use the piece however it sees fit. Basic upkeep and conservation or repairs are then the responsibility of the Delaware Township Library.

## **VIII. De-Acquisition of Artwork**

The Delaware Township Public Library will work to retain all works accepted as gifts, but does retain the right to de-acquisition any items if it is seen to be in the best interest of the Library. As the artwork to be de-acquisitioned is owned by the Delaware Township Public Library, then any de-acquisition must be approved by a simple majority of the Delaware Township Public Library Board.

## **XI. Request for Removal of Artwork**

The Library welcomes citizens' expressions of opinion concerning artwork displayed at the library. Requests to remove materials will be considered within the context of the policies set forth in this document. Anyone who wishes to request that a specific item be reconsidered for inclusion in the collection of materials is asked to write a communication listing the specific items and reasons they think the item should be removed. The communication will be given to the Library Director, who will consider the request in a timely fashion. The questioned material will be reviewed, in its entirety, and once a decision has been made regarding the retention or removal of the material, a letter will be sent to the person, explaining the decision. If the person indicates dissatisfaction with the resolution, he/she may appeal to the Library Board. The Board will reconsider the decision based on whether or not the particular title conforms to the Board-approved Art Policy, as outlined above.