

WAUKESHA PUBLIC LIBRARY

POLICY: **PUBLIC ART**

Approved by Library Board: 10/9/2025

Number: D-4

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The Board of Trustees of Waukesha Public Library maintains a permanent collection of art for the following purposes:

- To complement the Library's print and non-print collections
- To enhance the library experience and building
- To allow citizens increased access to the work of local and Wisconsin artists

A Public Art Committee has been established by the Board. They are charged with overseeing all aspects of the collection, and their recommendations are subject to final approval by the Library Board. Members of the Committee, appointed by the President of the Board, may include representation from the Board, Library staff, the Friends of Waukesha Public Library, and the art community, as well as citizens interested in the Library's art collection.

Works of art in the collection are generally commissioned or purchased, but may be donated to the Library. Private funding is used for those works of art that are commissioned or purchased. Regardless of source, all works of art are reviewed by the Committee according to the same criteria.

These criteria shall include:

1. Artwork will represent a broad spectrum of artistic expression. Preference for artists living or working in Waukesha County and Wisconsin will be given when considering purchases and receipt of donations.
2. All artwork must be of sufficiently high artistic merit to warrant inclusion in the collection. This usually requires that the artwork be unique pieces created by artists of established reputation or recognized potential.
3. Artwork should be compatible with the character of the Library and appropriate to a City Library setting.
4. Artwork should support a unified vision for the Library's public art collection.
5. Artwork should not detract from or conflict with the public art collection installed by the City's Public Art Program.
6. Artwork must be durable, sound, non-hazardous and maintainable in terms of the nature of the materials.
7. Artists must be 18 years or older.

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Artwork that no longer has a relevant place in the Public Art collection will be decommissioned and disposed of in accordance with either standard library procedure or special prior agreements with the donor or artist.

Criteria for Deaccession:

1. The condition of the artwork has deteriorated to a degree that restoration would prove unfeasible, impractical, or would render the work essentially false.
2. The artwork presents a hazard to public safety.
3. The artwork requires excessive or unreasonable maintenance that impedes routine display.
4. The artwork is deemed incompatible with the Library's mission and goals.
5. Any deaccession recommendation will be furnished in writing by the public art committee for consideration and approval by the Board of Trustees.

Methods for Disposal

1. Transfer to another cultural institution or arts organization.
2. Destruction and disposal through standard Waukesha Public Library or City of Waukesha waste management procedures.
3. Sale of artwork acquired by the Waukesha Public Library through purchase or donation is not an approved method of disposal or deaccession.
4. Donated artwork being deaccessed may be offered back to the original donor/s at the discretion of the Waukesha Public Library's Public Art Committee.
5. Purchased artwork being deaccessed may be offered back to the original artist/s at the discretion of the Waukesha Public Library's Public Art Committee.

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All monies contributed or accumulated for art acquisition and exhibition will be recommended by the Library Director and approved by the Board of Trustees, in accordance with City of Waukesha financial procedures.

Nothing precludes the right of the Library to arrange for temporary exhibits or displays.

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10/9/25