

PARMLY BILLINGS LIBRARY FINE ART POLICY

SECTION 1: PURPOSE

The Fine Art Policy defines the criteria by which the Library incorporates art into its programs and operations.

SECTION 2: POLICY STATEMENTS

2.1 City of Billings art policy statement (pending Billings City Council approval.)

The City of Billings will select art of enduring excellence that enhances the identity of Billings as a cultural destination and recognizes the cultural diversity that has been part of the history of Billings. The City of Billings will proactively identify and evaluate potential host sites, and will document, promote, and build the City's Art Collection.

The City of Billings will embrace opportunities to enhance the community through public art, and to engage the community in dialogues about public art opportunities.

2.2 Parmly Billings Library art policy statement

The Parmly Billings Library will selectively and judiciously include art in its public spaces when it enhances the Library's mission and site. Art selected will complement the aesthetic atmosphere created by the site architecture.

Although the Parmly Billings Library does possess an art collection, acquired by various means during its history, it will not actively pursue further development of an art collection, with the following exception: it may acquire through the year 2014 a limited number of works through purchase, donation, or commission that provide permanent enhancement to the site.

The Parmly Billings Library will in addition pursue a limited program of temporary art exhibitions comprised of long- or short-term loans when these exhibitions significantly enhance primary mission-based programs and immediate Library goals.

This policy applies to all fine art acquired for and/or exhibited at the Parmly Billings Library location at 510 North Broadway, Billings, Montana 59101.

SECTION 3: ART COMMITTEE

3.1 Composition of the Art Committee

The Parmly Billings Library Art Committee is a standing committee of the Parmly Billings Library Board and will make recommendations to the Board in accordance with policy.

The Committee shall consist of the following representatives:

- One member of the Parmly Billings Library Board,
- One member of the Parmly Billings Library Foundation Board,
- One member of the staff of the Yellowstone Art Museum,
- At least one representative from the art departments of the colleges in Billings,
- At least one community representative unaffiliated with the Library Boards,
- and the Library Director or his/her designee.

With the exception of the Library Director or designee, who is a permanent member of the Committee, Committee members will serve a three-year term with the potential for a second three-year term. No Committee member will serve more than two consecutive terms without a period off the committee of at least one year. The Committee will meet on an as-needed basis but no less frequently than once annually.

The Parmly Billings Library Art Committee does not assume any legal or financial function and does not supersede any City of Billings approval processes, including those of the City's own Art Commission.

3.2 Mission and duties of the Art Committee

The mission of the Art Committee is to create and facilitate a process through which potential additions or deletions from the Parmly Billings Library art collection and art exhibition program may be made. The Committee will establish and revise art policy statements, establish and revise management procedures for fine art, and participate substantively in public art commission processes in which the City of Billings may engage that affect the Library's property.

The Committee will review and recommend, by simple majority vote, non-binding action(s) to the Parmly Billings Library Board on offers to donate, lend, or dispose of art. The Committee is to provide consistent oversight and policy guidance for art-related issues, resolving issues relating to art collection management; review temporary art exhibition programming proposals; and resolve aesthetic disputes that may arise in connection with the Library's art collections or art programs. The Committee will seek to ensure that the aesthetic of the Parmly Billings Library building completed in 2014 is not compromised.

SECTION 4: ART COLLECTION

4.1 History of collection

The Parmly Billings Library currently owns works of art that it has acquired in various ways since its founding. This history of acquiring art does not constitute precedent that must be followed into the future.

4.2 Non-Collecting Institution

The Parmly Billings Library is periodically offered gifts of art or opportunities to buy art that a donor or seller believes is appropriate to the library. Two circumstances influence the Library's ability to respond to these offers: 1) the Library does not budget to acquire art, nor does the Library Foundation typically fundraise for the purpose of buying art; this circumstance is

expected to continue into the foreseeable future and 2) the Library building opening in 2014 is not designed to maintain the security and environmental controls that high value and/or historic works require if they are to be responsibly maintained. For these reasons, and to maintain focus on the Library's core mission, the Parmly Billings Library will not actively collect art.

Should this policy be altered in the future, requiring procedures for art acquisition, the Art Committee should make reference to the Art Management Policies for the City of Billings, Art Acquisition section.

4.3 Definitions

This policy is applicable to paintings, drawings, prints, photographs, murals, sculptures, electronic art, fine craft, and objects of historic or literary interest whose primary purpose is aesthetic. Not covered by this policy are gifts or acquisitions of books or other library materials. For the purposes of this policy, "art" is defined as objects or visual experiences (such as video projections) that are created primarily or substantially for aesthetic purposes.

4.4 Art Integral to 2014 Library Building

Through 2014, art proposed as permanent or long-term elements of the site will be considered within the scope of the completion of the capital project. Any such art must enhance the aesthetic of the site, have a meaningful connection to the Library's mission and programs, and foster community pride. Any aesthetic or practical consideration that may result in rejection of a work of art is not necessarily to be regarded as a judgment on the artistic merit of that work of art.

This policy imposes no restrictions regarding style or subject matter, nor preferences for local or regional artists. Art selected must be appropriate to the site conditions, durable, safe, and not light sensitive, and it must not impose undue management demands upon the staff. Artists chosen by the Committee for permanent acquisition shall be favorably recognized in their field, locally, regionally, nationally, or internationally.

The Library cannot accept works of art where the primary purpose of the proposed gift or purchase is to memorialize or perpetuate the memory of any person. Works of art may be accepted, however, where the name of the donor is noted.

SECTION 5: TEMPORARY EXHIBITION PROGRAM

The Parmly Billings Library Exhibition Program will represent a broad spectrum of artistic expression and ensure high aesthetic standards. Art work must be original or high-quality reproductions clearly identified as such, and must be appropriate to all ages. Exhibitions will stem from rather than determine core mission-based programming. Viewpoints expressed by means of a work of art on exhibition are those of the artist(s) and not necessarily those of the Library, staff, or board. The foregoing notwithstanding, the Library has the right to be selective in its choice of exhibitions without these actions being interpreted as violating First Amendment rights. Further, the decision to decline an exhibition opportunity is not necessarily to be regarded as a judgment on the merit of the exhibition or its fit to the Library's core programming.

Exhibitions should be of local interest to the community, or enhance an subject area in which the community Library has strength or has chosen to pursue coordinated programming.

Available staff resources (human resources, financial, promotional capacity, and similar) will determine the extent to which a temporary exhibition program will be pursued.

Adopted this ____ day of _____ 2013.

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