

*****ATTACHMENTS*****

**Minutes
Mead Public Library
Ad Hoc Arts & Facilities Committee
July 29, 2021**

A meeting of the Mead Public Library (MPL) Art Committee was held on Friday, July 29, 2021. Present committee members: Chris Campe (online), chair, Barbara Alvarez, Andre Walton and Sherry Speth. Additional Board Members present: Maeve Quinn. Staff present: Garrett Erickson, Melissa Prentice and Erica Huntzinger.

1. OPENING OF MEETING 1.1 CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM. Campe called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. She determined there was a quorum present.

1.2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Speth moved to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2021 meeting. Alvarez seconded. The motion passed.

2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION 2.1 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON CREATION OF AN ART POLICY Erickson started the discussion by stating at the last art committee meeting, the group had asked Mead management to emulate the art policy of the Madison Public Library. Subsequently, Erickson had contacted Madison Public Library Director Greg Mickells who said he had no problem with Mead using their policy language. Erickson went through a rough draft of the proposed new art policy. Huntzinger stated that current art collection does not reflect the diversity of Sheboygan. The group discussed what an art de-acquisition process might look like. Currently, when a citizen offers a formal complaint about a library book, the complaint is reviewed by an appointed staff committee, and if the citizen is not happy with the outcome, they can ask the library board to review the complaint as well. The committee members asked Erickson to put a similar process in place for artwork complaints at the library. Alvarez asked staff to clarify some of the language in the proposed policy. Erickson stated that he had talked with Travis Gross from the historical society and that Gross stated that the historical society would likely accept the Cameron Murals if the library board decided to part ways with them. Huntzinger stated that she had asked staff from the John Michael Kohler Art Center to look at the Cameron Murals to see how difficult they would be to remove from their current location. The consensus was that the murals could be brought down and actually *should* be, soon. Since the artwork is not in a climate controlled environment, the group noticed degradation to one of the pieces that should be rectified soon. Huntzinger was asked to get a budgetary quote for safely pulling down and transporting the murals. Campe was tasked with writing follow up letters to each citizen who had written the committee with their opinions on how to handle the murals. At the next art committee meeting, Erickson was asked to add a public comment section to the agenda. The committee will attempt to meet again in August or September to continue the conversation.

2.2 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON CAMERON MURALS IN QUIET STUDY ROOM. The committee tabled this agenda item until after an art policy is approved by the full board of trustees.

3. UPCOMING MEETINGS 3.1 NEXT MEETING: TBD

4. ADJOURN 4.1 ADJOURN. Campe adjourned the meeting at 11:41 a.m.

Mead Public Library Art Policy

Mead Public Library Vision

We aspire to create a vibrant, informed and cohesive community.

Mead Public Library Mission

We connect people with ideas, resources and technology to educate, entertain and empower.

Mead Public Values

Service, Inclusiveness, Innovation and Enrichment

Goals for the Policy

The Mead Public Library Art Policy provides a framework for the growth and development of temporary exhibitions and permanent collections in support of the Library's mission. It is the Library's goal to present our community with artwork and exhibitions that reflect a wide range of art styles and mediums, views, expressions, opinions and interests. Mead Public Library adheres to the principles of intellectual freedom, adopted by the American Library Association, as expressed in the [Library Bill of Rights](#), the [Freedom to Read](#) and [Freedom to View](#) Statements and the [Equity, Diversity, Inclusion Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights](#) as adopted by the American Library Association..

Guidelines and Criteria for Art Displayed in the Library

Exhibitions of art may include temporary visiting displays as well as rotating exhibits of items owned by the library. Mead staff are responsible for selecting exhibitions based on the library's needs and appropriateness to the exhibition space available. General criteria for selecting art for Library exhibitions are listed below. An item need not meet all of the criteria in order to be acceptable.

- Contemporary significance, popular interest or permanent value
- Local interest and connection to community partners or events
- Potential for public interest
- Timeliness of material
- Relation to existing collections and exhibitions
- Authenticity of historical, regional or social setting
- Reflecting the diverse interests, backgrounds, cultures, and identities of the community
- Collections may be given priority over individual pieces
- The ability of the library to protect the piece(s) over time

Policy for Gifts of Artwork

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

Work will be considered based on the following criteria:

- Artwork acquired by the Mead 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 vision, mission and values 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.

In addition to the criteria above, the Art Committee will take into account the significance of artwork as it relates to the library's presence within the community.

Mead 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 Mead Public Library. There is no obligation for display.

De-Acquisition of Artwork

Mead Public Library will work to retain all works accepted as gifts, but does reserve the right to de-acquisition any items if it is seen to be in the best interest of the Library; any de-acquisition of items owned by the library would have to be approved by the Mead Public Library Board and the library will have sole discretion in what to do with pieces at the time of de-acquisition.

Request for Reconsideration 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 review the Policy for Reconsideration of Library Materials, Programs, and Exhibits and follow the procedures outlined in the policy.

Policy for Reconsideration of Library Materials, Programs, Art, and Exhibits

In its selection of materials, programs, art, and exhibits, the Mead Public Library endorses the [Library Bill of Rights](#) and the [Freedom to Read Statement](#), and the [Equity, Diversity, Inclusion Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights](#) as adopted by the American Library Association. Additionally, the Library endorses ALA's interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights as it applies to [library programs, exhibit spaces, art, and displays](#). The United States Constitution requires a procedure designed to focus searchingly on challenged expression before it can be suppressed. Therefore, any attempt, be it legal or extralegal, to regulate or suppress materials in libraries must be closely scrutinized to the end that protected expression is not diminished.

In order to request that material, programs, art, or exhibits be considered for exclusion or removal from the library, a patron must:

- Be a resident of Sheboygan County. Sheboygan County residents taxes pay for the materials held by the library; therefore, only residents may request that a material be reconsidered.
- Have either read the material, or seen/heard the program or art exhibit, in its entirety
- Have reviewed the Mead Public Library [Collection Development Policy](#), [Program Policy](#), [Art Policy](#), and/or [Community Bulletin Board Policy](#) AND the [Library Bill of Rights](#).
- Complete the Mead Public Library "Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials, Programs, Art, or Exhibits" form. Only completed forms will be reviewed by the library. The library does not respond to anonymous phone calls, rumors, or voiced concerns according to the reconsideration process; however, alternative formats to the form will be made available upon reasonable request.
- Individual titles or art pieces will only be reviewed once every five years, unless substantial content changes have been made.

If the nature of the concern applies to a perceived lack of material, programs, art, or exhibits on a given subject or point of view, a patron must:

- Be a resident of Sheboygan County. Sheboygan County residents taxes pay for the materials held by the library; therefore, only residents may request that a material be reconsidered.
- Have searched the [Monarch Catalog](#) to verify that subject or interest area is not represented in our collection; have submitted a [request for purchase](#), community program proposal, and/or items for the community bulletin board or exhibit space that were rejected despite alignment with the above policies.
- Have reviewed the Mead Public Library [Collection Development Policy](#), [Program Policy](#), [Art Policy](#), and/or [Community Bulletin Board Policy](#) AND the [Library Bill of Rights](#).

- Complete the Mead Public Library “Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials, Programs, Art, or Exhibits” form. Only completed forms will be reviewed by the library. The library does not respond to anonymous phone calls, rumors, or voiced concerns according to the reconsideration process; however, alternative formats to the form will be made available upon reasonable request.

Complaints will be considered by a review committee appointed by the Public Services Manager. The committee’s recommendations will be sent to the Director who will make the decision regarding the request. The Library Director will notify the customer of the decision.

If the customer is not satisfied with the response, the customer may ask that a review of the request for reconsideration be done by a review committee consisting of two members of the Library Board, two community experts, and one staff person as appointed by the Library Director. The Library Board will make the final decision regarding the request based on this committee’s recommendation. The Library Director will inform the customer of the decision. Content under reconsideration will remain accessible in the library until a determination has been made.

No duly selected materials, programs, or exhibits whose appropriateness is challenged shall be removed from the library except upon the recommendation of the review committee, with the concurrence of the Library Director, or upon formal action of the Board when a recommendation of the review committee is appealed to it.