

UConn Library Exhibition Policy

Program Purpose

The libraries' exhibit program is an important component of the libraries' mission to support the research, teaching, learning, and public engagement activities of the university.

Program Goals

The Exhibits Program is managed and implemented by the Communication and Marketing unit, which reports to the Dean of the Library. Selection of exhibits serve one or more of the following goals:

- Promotion of the role of the library, its collections, resources and services central to the research and teaching programs of the university;
- Development of opportunities to cooperate with library friends, donors, university departments, programs, faculty, staff and students; and with regional artists, scholars, and cultural agencies in the sponsoring of exhibits and related events;
- Underscore themes articulated by the university as priorities including diversity, human rights, and public engagement;
- Enrichment of the intellectual and cultural life of the university community;
- Promotion of the library and the university as cultural resources for the citizens of Connecticut;
- Support university events, programs, symposia, activities, and accomplishments; and
- Create an inviting and educational setting for library users and visitors.

Eligible Exhibitors

The library makes this space available in accordance with the [*American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights*](#) which states, in part, that libraries should make exhibit spaces available "on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use." As a result, we may grant permission to present an exhibit to:

- The University of Connecticut staff, faculty, students, departments, programs, and other groups affiliated with the University.
- Individuals, organizations, groups or societies whose work is consistent with the exhibits programs goals.

Exhibit Content

As a public space aimed at enriching the user's experience, the library conducts an ongoing public art program. We aim to present exhibits that are of broad, general appeal, designed for the interest of and viewing by the university community and the public generally, keeping in mind the appropriateness of the subject, technique, and style.

Suggested subject areas for exhibits include historical, cultural, scientific, artistic, recreational, athletic, educational, and social or community related topics.

Because the University and the Library are concerned with academic freedom and the free expression of ideas, the library will not exercise any censorship of exhibit materials; images, labels, catalogs, or promotional literature which does not offend the guidelines as expressed below.

We view the library as a venue for the presentation of ideas, some of which may be controversial, even offensive to segments of the viewing population. Materials that may arouse controversy because of their political, religious, or sexual views will be considered and may be judged acceptable if presented appropriately. If the unit approves an exhibit that is strongly partisan, it will give serious consideration to the presentation of other points of view should these be offered for exhibit.

Materials that are judged by the team to be sexually harassing, intimidating, humiliating, or demeaning to persons or groups, or that undermine their security or self-esteem, as stated within the official [Policy Statement on Harassment](#) for the University of Connecticut, will be excluded.

Complaint Procedure

Assuming an exhibit does not breach the University's [Policy Statement on Harassment](#), we subscribe to the [American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights](#) as it applies to exhibits, specifically:

The library should not censor or remove an exhibit because some members of the community may disagree with its content. Those who object to the content of any exhibit held at the library should be able to submit their complaint and/or their own exhibit proposals to be judged according to the policies established by the library.

The policies stated by the library are as follows:

- Complaints will be referred to the Head of Communication & Marketing;
- The opportunity to submit a written complaint and/or discuss the complaint in person will be offered;
- The Head of Communication & Marketing will present the complaint to Dean of the Library; and
- If as a result from the complaint the exhibit or particular object(s) are determined to be in violation of the University's [Policy Statement on Harassment](#), the exhibit or particular object(s) will be removed from public display.