

Purpose:

To establish a healthy environment, grounded in RPL's values, that supports community services, spaces, and technologies to inspire discovery, learning, and connection.

Objective:

The policy upon which the exhibitions program at the Dunlop Art Gallery (Dunlop) is based provides Dunlop staff with guidelines for development of the exhibitions program and informs the public and RPL staff about the basis of exhibitions.

Delegated Authority:

Director/Curator, Dunlop Art Gallery

Legislated Authority:

The Public Libraries Act, 1996, s.67

Other Relevant Documents:

- *Dunlop Art Gallery: About Us*

Application:

This policy applies to all RPL staff.

Policy:

- 1.0. The Dunlop offers a balanced program of contemporary visual art exhibitions that reflect contemporary art practice and respond to the interests and expectations of its varied audiences.
- 2.0. The exhibition program is designed to:
 - 2.1. Educate;
 - 2.2. Inform;
 - 2.3. Engage; and
 - 2.4. stimulate thought, discussion, and lifelong learning.
- 3.0. The exhibition program reflects themes in artistic expression and the diversity of artists' practice as well as themes and issues in society as a whole.
- 4.0. The Dunlop supports creativity and showcases the work of artists.

- 5.0. Exhibition decisions are informed by the *Constitution Act, 1982*, Part 1, Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Section 2b which guarantees “everyone the following fundamental freedoms ... freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication.”
- 6.0. Exhibition decisions are also informed by the Canadian Federation of Library Association’s Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries.
- 7.0. The Library Director and CEO delegates responsibility for the administration of this policy to the Director/Curator, Dunlop Art Gallery.
- 8.0. Exhibitions consist of original works of contemporary visual art which may be accompanied by educational, interpretive, or supplementary resources.
- 9.0. The following statements provide a context for the exhibition programs at the Dunlop:
 - 9.1. The Dunlop creates a balanced variety of experiences for its diverse audiences through the yearly exhibitions cycle.
 - 9.2. The main focus of the programs is contemporary culture.
 - 9.3. The yearly exhibition cycle features a balance of visual media:
 - 9.3.1. installation,
 - 9.3.2. painting,
 - 9.3.3. drawing,
 - 9.3.4. sculpture,
 - 9.3.5. performance art,
 - 9.3.6. moving image,
 - 9.3.7. new media,
 - 9.3.8. prints, and
 - 9.3.9. other.
 - 9.4. Exhibitions reflect broader society in their representation of ethnicity, gender, sexuality, personal and social values, and issues in contemporary culture.
 - 9.5. Dunlop audiences have varied interests, backgrounds, and tastes. An exhibition or individual work that one person does not relate to may be highly meaningful to another person.

- 9.6. The exhibition program is designed with Dunlop audiences in mind. Consideration is given to the fact that interest might not come into existence without the artworks to create it. The Gallery has a responsibility to foster interest as well as to sustain it.
- 9.7. Exhibitions may feature works from the Dunlop's permanent collection, borrowed works, borrowed exhibitions, or a combination of them.
- 10.0. The Dunlop may partner with other organizations for specific events, activities, or exhibitions.
- 11.0. If elements of an exhibition may be challenging for some viewers or may risk creating an unwelcome environment, staff will ensure that those elements of the exhibition cannot be viewed from the Dunlop entrance and a prominent notice will be posted.
- 12.0. Parents/guardians have a responsibility to supervise their children's attendance at Dunlop exhibitions. Library staff cannot assume this responsibility.
- 13.0. Exhibition programs will be determined by the Director/Curator, Dunlop Art Gallery and will reflect the context, values, and practicalities of its location as a gallery inside a public library.
- 14.0. When making decisions about the program as a whole or individual exhibitions, the Director/Curator, Dunlop Art Gallery may seek advice from other RPL staff, arts scholars, or curators at other galleries.
- 15.0. Individual exhibitions may be curated by staff of the Dunlop or guest curators.