

# Call for Curators for 2020

Tompkins County Public Library aspires to provide the community with four curated art exhibits around the theme of Myth. We are seeking experienced and new curators.

## Theme

The theme for the 2020 Art Exhibits at TCPL is MYTH. We invite curators to present exhibits that address this theme in thought-provoking ways. The word “myth” has two basic definitions. It is a traditional story that explains a natural or social phenomenon, sometimes involving imaginary or supernatural beings. It can also be a widely held, but false, belief or idea. Myths can explain origins, but they can also, sometimes, be a barrier to true understanding.

We’d like to invite curators to propose shows featuring art that centers on one or more definitions of myth. The art can ask and/or answer questions such as: Who is creating this myth, listening to it, and telling it? Is it fantastical or rooted in reality? Is it a story that’s been told about someone or something, that is untrue? How has the perpetuation of the myth shaped the evolution of a person, place, or community?

## Dates

The dates for curated art exhibits at the library are:

March through May

June through August

September through November

December through February 2021

## Exhibit space

- Wall art and other free standing art in Avenue of the Friends
- Wall art on the curved wall by the self-check-out machines.
- Art appropriate for the free standing glass cases in the Avenue of the Friends

See below for specific dimensions. You are not required to use all the space provided, but you are required to use space within the Avenue of the Friends—the wall art space and/or the glass cases.

## Expectations

- Meet with exhibit coordinator at various times prior to the installation.
- Determine with the exhibit coordinator installation and de-installation dates.
- Become familiar with the hanging systems available at the library.
- Install and take down exhibit during library operating hours. (There is no installation team. The art exhibit coordinator will be present during installation and take down.)
- Serve as liaison with artists, and ensure necessary paperwork is collected (liability waiver, condition reports, etc.).
- Design/provide content for all collateral and marketing material for exhibit: signage, press release information, flyers, posters, etc. at agreed upon deadlines. (Library will print and may modify based on branding parameters.)
- Provide all images that will be included in exhibit no later than two weeks before the exhibit opening.
- Independently market the exhibit. (The library will also promote the exhibit.)
- Participate in the identification, selection and interaction with performance artists for Gallery Night. The library will be the final coordinator/decision maker of any additional events.
- Be available to host Gallery Night on the first Friday of the exhibit.
- Check in routinely throughout the course of the exhibit to make sure the exhibit is maintained.

## Proposal Guides and Tips

- Proposals must be conceptually rigorous and focus on the theme of Space.
- Extra consideration will be given to proposals that clearly demonstrate a unique and creative approach to exhibiting the art work, lend themselves to learning, and present ideas or topics that generate dialogue and debate.
- The proposal must include four or more artists, and preference given to one or more artists who are under-recognized (no gallery representation and no solo exhibitions in a major venue within the two or more years).
- Curators may include their own work in the exhibition, but not more than 10% of the artwork can be the curator's.
- The curator and proposed artists must currently reside in or work in Tompkins County, or live in one of the counties served by the Finger Lakes Library System namely, Cayuga, Cortland, Seneca, and Tioga.
- TCPL strongly encourages applications that contribute to our ongoing commitment to diversity, learning and community.

## Submission Requirements

- Short synopsis/executive summary of proposed project and how it addresses the theme. (200-250 words).
- Preferred exhibit dates.
- Detailed exhibition proposal that outlines both the background and plan for the exhibition – up to 1,000 words.
- List of no fewer than two participating artists and short bios or websites (if possible) for each artist.
- Curator's CV.
- Work samples: if possible, provide a few images of the selected artists in pdf format; or provide a link to the artist's website.

## Exhibit Space Specifications

### Two-dimensional may be hung along:

- The Avenue of the Friends
  - 2 alcoves of 15 feet long
  - 6 columns, 42" each
- The curved wall near the self-check-out machines

### For 3-dimensional art there are free standing glass cases:

- 2 Double cases:
  - Each case has four shelves so the case can be used in two sections and divided down the middle with black foam core if necessary. Each shelf measures 29" x 21 ½". Height available from floor of case to top is 45".
  - All shelves adjustable, 2 each in each case. In double cases, the shelves are half width and each half is separately adjustable.
- 3 single cases:
  - Each has 2 shelves measuring 21 ½" x 23 ½".
  - All shelves adjustable, 2 each in each case.

## Compensation

\$600 (Pending receipt of grant)

## Deadline

Submit proposal with the above information in pdf format to [exhibitcoordinator@tcpl.org](mailto:exhibitcoordinator@tcpl.org) by August 24, 2019. The Art Exhibit Committee of TCPL will review proposals and respond by September 10. There may be an interview before a decision is made no later than September 14.