



# Public Library Exhibits and Galleries

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All your questions answered (maybe)



# Why should I listen to this person?

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- No formal training
- Farm girl with experience hanging my own pictures
- Have visited the Art Institute of Chicago
- Started managing PPL Gallery in 2018
- Can eyeball if a picture is straight or not pretty consistently
- MLIS



Edward Hopper (American, 1882-1967), *Nighthawks*, 1942, Oil on Canvas, 84.1 x 152.4 cm (33 1/8 x 60 in.), Friends of American Art Collection, 1942-51, The Art Institute of Chicago. All Rights Reserved.

# Order of events

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- Why public art?
- The space
- Supplies
- The art
- Policy
- Procedure



# Why public art?

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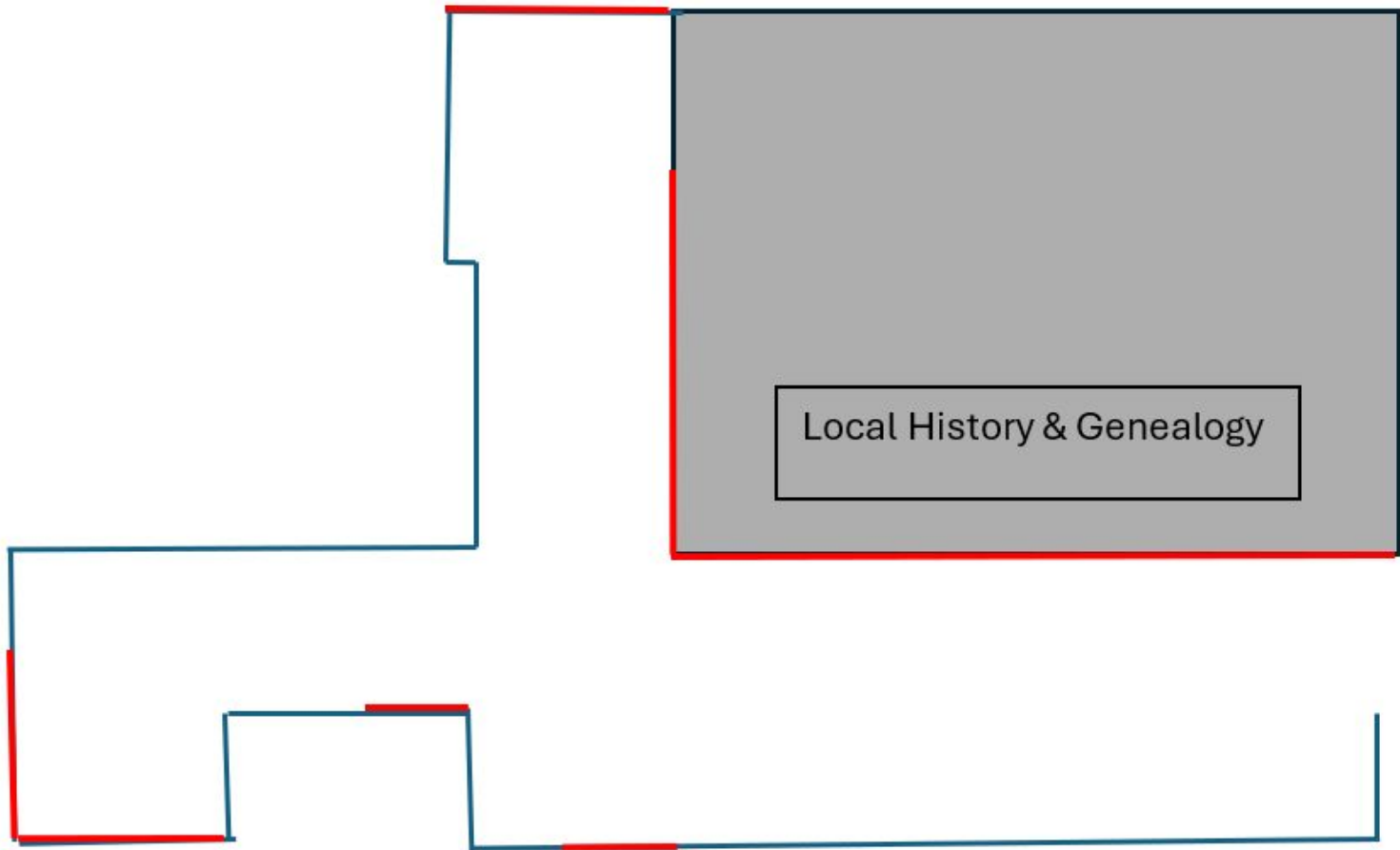
- Which comes first - the desire to display art or art that needs a home?
- Can your community support the space?
  - Supply of art
  - Supply of art appreciators (Does it matter?)
- Can you support the space?
  - “You” the library and “you” the person
  - Time
  - Resources
  - Patience

# The Space

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- What kind of space do you have?
  - Dedicated gallery
  - Blank wall(s)
  - Freestanding cases
  - Tops of shelves
  - Floor
  - Ceiling
  - Windows





Local History & Genealogy

# The Space

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# Supplies

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- Hanging system
- Easels
- Display cases
- Tools
- Tape
- Temperature & Humidity Sensor
- Odds & Ends



# Hanging System

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- AS Hanging Display Systems Click Rail Track
- Cables
- Hooks - Secure Self Gripping Hook



All-in-One Kit = \$80.80  
6 foot track, 4 cables with hooks

# Tape

- Painters Tape
- Scotch Wall-Safe Tape



# Temperature & Humidity

Temperature: 65-75 degrees

Humidity: 40-55%



GoveeLife 2.0 WiFi Hygrometer  
Thermometer

# The Art... or whatever

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- It does not have to be art
- Local artists
- Local art groups
- Schools
- Historical society
- Special collection
- Traveling exhibit
- Civic organizations



# Policy

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- YES, you should have a policy.
- 1st Amendment rules apply to art too
- Include all spaces
- Keep it simple
- Refer to procedures

# Vetting Artists

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- Formal application
- Trusted referral
- “Must have a cohesive body of work or educational display..”



# Procedure

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- Communicating with artists can be difficult
- Gather information
  - Title of show
  - Short description
  - Images for PR
  - Dates of opening and closing
  - Reception date and time (if applicable)



# Procedure

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- Set clear expectations
  - The boundaries of the space
  - What they can affix to any surface
  - When they can be in the building
  - What you can store for the duration of the show
- Put things in writing





# Receptions

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- Time for the artist to talk to guests
- Serve light refreshments
- Decide what you will provide
- 2 hours is great, 3 hours is forever



# Artist Talks

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- Leave it up to the artist
- It helps if they do their own promotion
- Hands-on activities are great



# When it's over...

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- Set deadlines for removing items from the building
- Allow plenty of time between displays



# Questions?

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