

# Gavilan College Gallery Proposal

Submitted by: Jane Rekedal and Jane Edberg  
In collaboration with: Fran Lozano  
Arturo Rosette, Christine Canepa, Deborah Gustlin

December 13, 2016

## **Rational for Gallery Coordinator Position**

The proper management of a gallery is a complex and labor-intensive undertaking. The benefits of an active art gallery on the Gavilan campus, however, are multiple. It provides instructional resources to art classes, including opportunities for students to showcase their work, write gallery reports, and develop a critical eye. The community benefits from culturally enriched experiences that are visually stimulating and thought-provoking. Art exhibitions ideally bring the public to our campus and generate interest in Gavilan in a broad sense. Service learning may be incorporated into the running of the gallery and by exhibition themes. Instructors from various disciplines may use the exhibitions as a stimulating source for their students to experience other perspectives and world views.

The Gallery Coordinator will produce a minimum of four exhibitions per year, as well as train students in gallery management and gallery operations. He/she will be responsible for identifying and contracting with artists to bring their work to the gallery, installation, publicity, receptions, and returning work to the artists.

## **Background**

The Gavilan College Library Gallery has a history of being funded from two sources—an annual \$3,000 stipend paid to the gallery coordinator, and compensation from teaching Art 40, a one unit (three lab hours) gallery class (about \$3,000 per semester). The Art 40 class usually has 1-5 students enrolled, and for several years the low enrollments were allowed as it was recognized as an important component of the compensation package for the gallery coordinator. Recently, when Art 40 was cut due to low enrollments, the stipend was insufficient to sustain the Library Gallery, and it floundered. This year the gallery is being sustained by the stipend alone, without the additional resources that Art 40 provided, but this is not a viable long-term solution.

## **Moving Forward**

As a solution to the fluctuations of whether or not Art 40 is offered, and the uncertainty of it being able to provide a stable funding source for the gallery coordinator, we propose that the gallery be funded entirely through a larger stipend with the requirement that the coordinator will teach Art 40 as part of that stipend. A reliable funding base will allow the coordinator to plan exhibitions regardless of how many students are available to assist and participate in gallery management.

The labor breakdown to curate a single, simple exhibition is approximately 16 hours, with complex professional exhibitions requiring considerable more time:

- Exhibition design, research, layout and hanging of artworks - 10 hours
- Lighting design and installation - 2 hours
- Labels, artists statements, exhibition signs - 3 hours
- Press release, media contact, promotion - 3 hours
- Contracts, waivers, artists communications - 3 hours
- Food purchase, prep and cleanup - 2 hour
- Exhibition breakdown, artwork returns, and cleanup - 3 hours

To adequately compensate the gallery coordinator, we propose a stipend of \$9,000.00 for two semesters, fall and spring. The stipend is broken down as follows:

\$3,500.00 payment to coordinator per semester for two curated exhibits per semester

\$1000.00 for promotion/operations/gallery maintenance per semester

\$4500.00 per semester total, or \$9,000.00 for fall and spring semesters combined.

It will be up to the gallery coordinator to establish a series of exhibitions for the year, with a suggested minimum schedule as follows:

1 Gavilan College Student Exhibit

1 Regional Art Exhibit

2 Gavilan-centered Thematic Exhibits, such as Equity, Dreamers, Faculty, STEM

During periods without scheduled exhibitions, the permanent collection will be hung so the gallery will not be empty.

### **Looking Beyond**

This proposal is for the immediate reinstatement of the Library Gallery operations only, because this is the most immediate need. It is hoped that after the Library Gallery is re-established that additional exhibition spaces on the Gilroy campus and on the satellite campuses will be created and maintained. Morgan Hill, Coyote Valley, and Hollister all have potential for establishing small exhibition spaces. Further institutional support could enhance the Library Gallery by refurbishing the walls and investing in a locking hanging system to prevent theft.

When a full time Art instructor is hired, there is the potential to include gallery curator duties as part of that new position. This could work especially well for an art historian who would demonstrate to students how the gallery brings art to life.