



TO: Chair and Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: JoAnne Plummer, Neighborhood Services Director

CONTACT: Kelsey Hamilton, Recreation Supervisor

SUBJECT: Goleta Community Center Display and Exhibit Policy

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and support the proposed Goleta Community Center Display and Exhibit Policy.

BACKGROUND:

The Goleta Community Center (GCC) strives to provide a welcoming, safe, inclusive, and accessible space where all members of the community can gather, learn, and play. After reopening in the spring of 2024, interest has grown among artists, nonprofits, and community groups to showcase materials at the facility. This expanding community interest is in alignment with the GCC Strategic Plan as outlined below.

As such, a need has emerged for a clear, equitable, and established policy to manage display requests. To advance the goals laid out in the Strategic Plan, staff has developed a document, the Goleta Community Center Display and Exhibit Policy (Attachment 1), that guides the process for accepting and managing public displays and exhibits. The policy provides a consistent framework reflective of the vision and mission of the GCC, while promoting equitable access to exhibit opportunities. It is conceptually based on the display and exhibit policy that has been in place at the Goleta Library for several years and is familiar to the local art and non-profit community. It is designed to support social, cultural, educational, and recreational displays that enhance the visitor experience and align with GCC's strategic programming goals.

DISCUSSION:

The Goleta Community Center Display and Exhibit Policy sets out a formal process that ensures transparency, fosters community participation, and maintains the Center as a safe and inclusive public space. It aligns with principles of freedom of expression, non-endorsement, and access to diverse viewpoints, while providing clear operational procedures for both applicants and staff.

Key Elements of the Policy Include:

- **Purpose-Driven Displays:** Exhibits must support the educational, cultural, or informational goals of the Goleta Community Center and reflect the diversity and values of the Goleta community.
- **Submission and Approval Process:** Interested parties must complete a display request form for review by the Recreation Supervisor. Approved exhibits will be scheduled based on space availability and community relevance.
- **Content Guidelines:** Displays must adhere to community standards and the Center's mission. Materials that are controversial will not be excluded solely for that reason, provided they comply with the Center's overall policies and code of conduct.
- **Display Duration and Responsibilities:** Standard display periods are 30 days. Exhibitors are responsible for installation and timely removal of materials in accordance with the approved schedule with the Recreation Supervisor.
- **Complaint and Review Process:** A structured procedure is provided to address public concerns about exhibits, including informal resolution and formal review by the Parks and Recreation Manager, and finally the Neighborhood Services Director.

This policy not only enhances operational clarity but also supports GCC's commitment to providing a space for dialogue, learning, and cultural representation.

GOLETA COMMUNITY CENTER STRATEGIC PLAN:

The Goleta Community Center Display and Exhibit Policy supports the GCC strategic plan goals to enhance community vitality and recreational opportunities, specifically:

- Strategy 1.1.2: Create visual and auditory vibrancy that represents different cultures
 - Tactic 1.1.2.1: Explore working with community artists to create visual vibrancy in the GCC, including youth artists and artists representing different cultural backgrounds in Goleta, through painting murals and artwork for the GCC, using a selection process that includes public input.

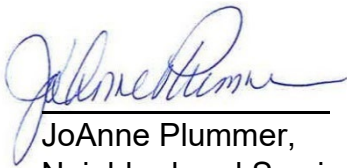
- Tactic 1.1.2.2: Use portions of the GCC as a gallery for local art.
- Tactic 1.1.2.4: Integrate historical displays with community art.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with the adoption of this policy. All costs related to the administration and support of displays and exhibits will be absorbed within the existing operational budget.

Consequently, this policy would lay the foundation to generate revenue through the collection of display fees. Fees range from \$100 to \$300 per month, depending on the rental of one, two, or three corridors. These fees were adopted for the 2025/2026 Fiscal Year by the City Council at the April 15th, 2025 meeting.

Approved By:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JoAnne Plummer", is written over a horizontal line.

JoAnne Plummer,
Neighborhood Services Director

Attachments

1. Goleta Community Center Display and Exhibit Policy

ATTACHMENT 1

Goleta Community Center Display and Exhibit Policy



GOLETA COMMUNITY CENTER DISPLAY AND EXHIBIT POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Goleta Community Center's Display & Exhibit Policy is to provide guidelines for the display and exhibit of materials at the Goleta Community Center, to inform the public about the principles and criteria on which these display decisions are made, and to promote the purposes of the Goleta Community Center mission and vision, which are:

- **Vision:** The Goleta Community Center is a welcoming, safe, inclusive, and accessible place where everyone can go to gather, learn and play.
 - **Mission:** The Goleta Community Center provides programs, services, activities, and a safe space for social, cultural, educational, and recreational offerings in an inclusive and welcoming way.
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POLICY

The Goleta Community Center encourages the display of materials that reflect the diverse interests, cultures, and values of the community. These displays and exhibits serve as an opportunity for patrons to learn, explore, and engage with ideas that inspire creativity, foster understanding, and promote cultural awareness.

The Goleta Community Center will manage displays and exhibits with the following goals:

- To provide access to a variety of educational, cultural, and informational resources.
 - To support the mission of the Goleta Community Center by presenting materials that are relevant and meaningful to the local community.
 - To ensure that the display process is inclusive, balanced, and reflective of the diverse perspectives within the community.
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PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA

Decisions regarding the selection of materials for display and exhibit at the Goleta Community Center are based on the following criteria:

- **Relevance to Community Interests:** Materials that reflect the interests, needs, and diversity of the Goleta community will be prioritized.

- **Educational or Cultural Significance:** Exhibits that promote education, cultural understanding, and awareness of relevant social or historical issues will be encouraged.
- **Space Availability:** Displays and exhibits will be organized based on available space and the suitability of the materials to the space.
- **Connection to Community Programs and Services:** Displays that support or complement ongoing programs, events, or initiatives at the Community Center will be prioritized.
- **Variety of Viewpoints:** The Community Center will seek to present a variety of perspectives, including materials that represent different cultural and social viewpoints.

Intellectual Freedom and Censorship

The Goleta Community Center recognizes the importance of intellectual freedom and the right to access diverse viewpoints. In alignment with this principle:

- **Freedom of Expression:** The Community Center will not restrict the display or exhibition of materials solely because they may be considered controversial, in so long as the topic is appropriate for all ages, and is in alignment with the overall goals, policies, and code of conduct of the Community Center.
 - **Non-endorsement:** Acceptance of materials for display or exhibit at the Community Center does not imply endorsement by the Goleta Community Center or the City of Goleta of the content or opinions expressed in the materials.
 - **Parental Responsibility:** Parents and guardians are responsible for monitoring the materials their children may encounter. The Community Center will provide appropriate guidance to create an environment that is appropriate for all ages, but parents have the final responsibility for what their children view or engage with.
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Exhibit Procedures

- **Request for Display:**

Individuals, groups, or organizations interested in exhibiting at the Goleta Community Center must submit a display request form to the Recreation Supervisor. The request should include:

- A description of the materials or exhibit to be displayed
- The educational, cultural, or community value of the exhibit
- Preferred display dates and duration (standard display times are 30 days)
- Any special requirements for the display (e.g., equipment, setup, etc.)

- **Approval Process and Payment:**

The Recreation Supervisor will review the request based on the criteria outlined in this policy. Requests will ideally be reviewed within 5 to 7 business days. Once approved, and payment has been received, the Recreation Supervisor will coordinate with the exhibitor to schedule the display and provide guidance on setup, duration, and the content of the display.

- **Display Duration and Removal:**

Displays will be available for a set period, as agreed upon in advance with the Recreation Supervisor. Upon completion of the exhibit, the exhibitor is responsible for removing all materials from the display space. The Recreation Supervisor will coordinate the dismantling and removal of the display, ensuring that all items are returned or disposed of appropriately. Any items not removed will be disposed of in accordance with the Goleta Community Center Lost and Found policy.

Procedures for Addressing Concerns

If a patron has concerns about a display or exhibit, the following process will be followed:

- **Informal Resolution:** The patron should first discuss the issue with a Community Center staff member. The staff member will attempt to resolve the concern informally by explaining the policy and the rationale behind the display.
- **Formal Complaint:** If the issue is not resolved informally, the patron can submit a written Statement of Concern to the Recreation Supervisor.

- The Statement of Concern should include the nature of the concern, the specific materials in question, and the desired resolution.
- **Review and Decision:** The Parks and Recreation Manager will review the concern and determine whether any changes should be made to the display or exhibit. The patron will be notified of the decision in writing.
- **Escalation:** If the patron is not satisfied with the decision, they may escalate the matter to the Director of Neighborhood Services, who upon review will make a final and binding decision.