



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2022.** Please include this submission form with the electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: Loudoun
Program Title: Teen Micro Art Gallery at Loudoun County Public Library
Program Category: Libraries; Customer Service; Parks and Recreation

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Chang Liu
Title: Director
Department: Loudoun County Public Library
Telephone: 703-771-5235 Website: Library.Loudoun.Gov
Email: Chang.Liu@Loudoun.Gov

SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Charles Yudd
Title: Deputy County Administrator
Signature: _____

VACO Achievement Award Nomination, July 1, 2022

Loudoun County Public Library: Teen Micro Art Gallery

Brief Overview of Program: To supply a need for fine art opportunities for teens, a library assistant created a Teen Micro Art Gallery, where young artists can create, curate, and display original “micro” artwork. Besides creating an artistic and innovative outlet for local youth, partnerships and collaborations with schools, nonprofits, and artists have provided teen artists with career advice and mentorship.

Executive Summary of Program: After seeing a need for fine art opportunities for teens in Loudoun County, library assistant and former fine arts professor Troy Wingard created a Micro Art Gallery, where teens can exhibit their artwork within a dedicated space at the library. Wingard and the teen services staff at Brambleton Library created a system and guidelines for this ongoing exhibit so teens wouldn’t be overwhelmed by options as they created their micro artwork.

Once a teen’s artwork is selected, library staff use social media and flyers to promote and host a public reception where teens can talk about their artwork, sharing it with friends, family, and the community. Beyond the program itself, Wingard has built relationships with community artists who mentor the teens. As a result, the Micro Art Gallery has created a thriving creative opportunity for teens, giving them an outlet to share their work and gain confidence in their artistic skills.

Problem/Need for Program: In Loudoun County, few opportunities exist for teens to exhibit their fine art. While there is a thriving art scene for adults, and multiple county and local government buildings show regional artists' work, there is no similar outlet for teens.

Troy Wingard, a library assistant for the Brambleton Library branch of Loudoun County Public Library, decided to create an innovative service to meet this need. Utilizing his career experience as a professional artist and a former university fine arts professor, Troy applies his passion for the visual arts toward developing effective arts programming for teens. One of his most innovative and effective teen programs is the Micro Art Gallery.

Description of the Program: Troy created the Micro Art Gallery Program as a unique initiative to award artistic teens with a solo exhibition of their artworks within a dedicated gallery space in Brambleton Library. This program allows teens to develop greater self-confidence and pride within themselves by having their drawings, paintings, photographs, and sculpture exhibited to professional standards, as seen in commercial art galleries and famous museums around the world.

Troy's goal for the Micro Art Gallery program is straightforward: to inspire teens by encouraging active learning and personal development through the visual arts. He has achieved this through the following objectives:

- Bolstering teen self-esteem and prioritizing self-expression.
- Encouraging teen ownership of the proposal, curatorial, and exhibition process.
- Incorporating library resources to enhance understanding and experience of the visual arts.
- Fostering collaboration and partnerships within the local arts community for mentoring teens.

Creating a cohesive series of artworks can be a daunting task for any artist, but Troy's Micro Art Gallery program makes this process much more achievable for teens by specifying that the required artworks for an exhibition are tiny - each of the six required pieces can be no larger than four inches by four inches. The program's premise is that teen applicants are more likely to create a series of smaller artworks, as this kind of time commitment better fits into their busy schedules and lifestyles. To help simplify the submission process, Troy created an online exhibition proposal form that allows teens to upload images of their artworks, including a brief artist's statement about their imagery, all from the convenience of their smartphones.

Teens whose exhibition proposals are selected receive a three-week solo exhibition within the Micro Art Gallery. Exhibitions are then promoted extensively throughout Loudoun County using social media, flyers, and email lists. Teen participants are also offered a public art reception where they are encouraged to invite their family, friends, fellow students, and teachers to attend. During this event, they can speak about their exhibition experience in front of library patrons, as well as explain the motivations and inspirations leading to the creation of their artwork.

Collaborations with the Program: Troy's efforts to increase the effectiveness of the Micro Art Gallery have led him to develop important partnerships and collaborations within the local community. He regularly enlists the assistance of artists and creative professionals to serve as mentors for teens who may have questions about job paths and the educational requirements of specific careers within the visual arts. Troy also collaborates with art educators to assist in developing themed art assignments in local schools that teens can use as a basis for exhibition submissions in the Micro Art Gallery.

Cost and Funding for the Program: Troy and the staff of Brambleton Library largely use funds from the library's programming budget, at a minimal cost of \$385 so far:

Initial Program Costs:

- Four 4" x 4" picture frames – \$48.00
- iPad Kiosk Stand - \$75.00
- Four Acrylic Display Cubes – \$80.00
- Display Pedestals - \$150.00 (Troy constructed all the pedestals with a funding award provided by the non-profit Friends of Brambleton Library)

Monthly Program Costs:

- Curatorial Supplies - \$15.00 (foam board, vinyl adhesive sheets for wall lettering, and glue sticks)
- Reception Supplies – \$15.00 (bottled water, soft drinks, and disposable cups)

As mentioned above, Troy requested and received funding from a local non-profit organization, Friends of the Brambleton Library, for the acquisition of display pedestals. These pedestals now allow for the exhibition of tiny three-dimensional artworks, such as sculpture, jewelry, and ceramics.

Most recently, Troy added an iPad kiosk with headphones for teen artists interested in submitting pieces in the performing arts, such as songs, music, and spoken word poetry. This greatly expands the Micro Art Gallery's reach to teens interested in these art forms.

Results and Success of the Program: Since its inception, the Micro Art Gallery has hosted over 16 exhibitions by Loudoun County's most talented and driven teens. Their artworks have

sparked the imaginations of the hundreds of patrons visiting Brambleton Library each day. Troy's creative and innovative Micro Art Gallery program continues to inspire teens to become lifelong learners, as well as to develop an intense appreciation of the visual arts. His contribution and dedication serve as an outstanding example of the vital mission public libraries play in Virginia counties.

Addendum: Letter from Loudoun County High School art teacher Stephanie Wosher.

Wosher encouraged three of her students to submit to the Teen Micro Art Gallery:

Troy - Thank you so very much for this opportunity. This is such a great chance for kids to showcase their work in a professional manner. It provides them the experience of submitting their work for exhibition and writing an artist statement and proposal. These experiences are real-world and cannot be taught in a classroom setting. I am encouraging more of my students to take advantage of the Micro Gallery. I wish I would have had this available to me as a young art student. It would have definitely given me knowledge and confidence going into art school. Thanks again for your support of youth art!!

Pictures of Student Art:



Artist: Ashal Khan



Artist: Jocelyn Ortiz



Artist: Katerina Chebotaryova



Artist: Rachel Kelly

MICRO ART GALLERY

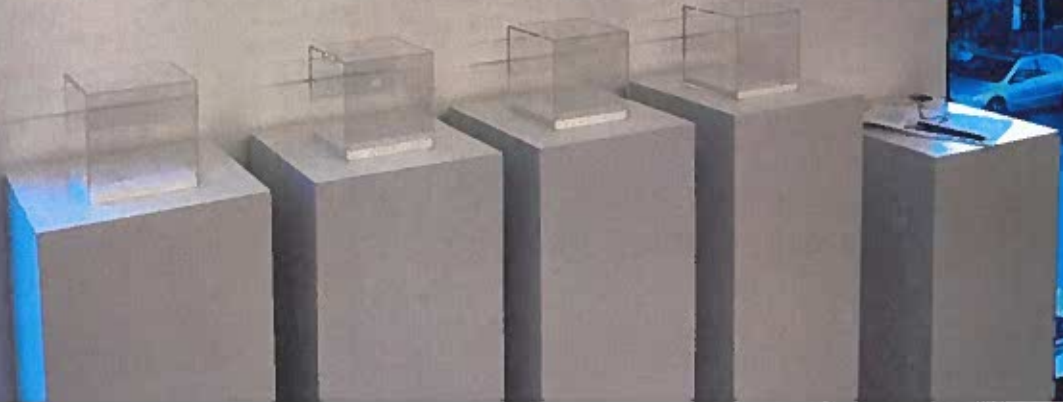
A Program of Brambleton Library Teen Services

CREW MARIE HARDY

Brambleton Middle School



Informational text panels on the wall, including a larger one at the top and a smaller one below it.





MICRO ART GALLERY

A Program of Brambleton Library Teen Services

ZAINA QADAN

Loudoun County High School



ABOUT THE EXHIBITION
This exhibition is a collection of artwork created by Loudoun County High School students. The artwork is displayed in the Micro Art Gallery at Brambleton Library Teen Services.

ARTIST STATEMENT
I am a student at Loudoun County High School and I am proud to have my artwork displayed in the Micro Art Gallery. I hope you enjoy my work.



