



Call to Artists

Bartlett Public Library Art Enhancement Project
Sponsored by Friends of the Bartlett Library



Introduction and Overview

The Friends of the Bartlett Library invites local artists to submit ideas for an art enhancement project in the Children's area and Program Room of the Bartlett Public Library, 5884 Stage Road, in Bartlett, Tennessee.

The Bartlett Public Library serves a family-oriented community that values its library facility and services. Some of the library's most popular services are its children's materials and programming. Four weekly storytimes for ages 2 through 5 serve approximately 80 children per week. Special weekly programs in the summer for ages 6-11 are well-attended, bringing weekly program participants to 140 children during the summer months. Almost 40% of the items circulated at the Bartlett Library are children's items.

The new Bartlett Public Library facility at 5884 Stage Road opened in April 2008. The Friends of the Bartlett Library wish to add character and charm to the children's area and Program Room using artwork that reflects the Bartlett Library's service to children, the Library's young customers' perceptions of that service, and the overall spirit of the Bartlett community.



Project Goals

The artwork should:

- Be appropriately themed for a Public Library.
- Provide a positive impression and lasting memory for young customers.
- Be designed and fabricated for durability and ease of maintenance.
- Be easily removable (no murals or painting directly onto walls).
- Present no safety hazards to library customers of any age.
- Reflect the Bartlett Public Library's services to children.

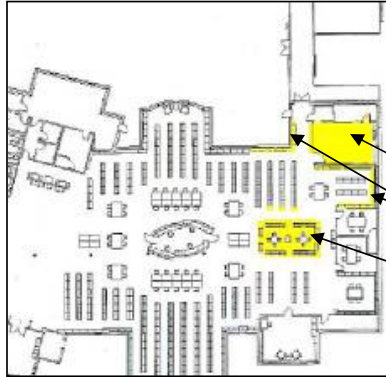


Budget

The Friends of the Bartlett Library will pay \$6000 to the artist chosen for this project. This amount includes the artist's design fee, travel, materials, fabrication costs, transportation, installation of the work, and recommendation for a maintenance plan.

Description of Area

The area to be enhanced is located in the rear of the library. It includes the walls above and space surrounding the children's collection as well as the Program Room and area directly in front of that room. This space is highlighted in the layout below.



For description purposes, the area is broken down into three major sections:

1. Program Room
2. Wall space above shelving
3. Easy Fiction area

1. Program Room

The Program Room measures 24' x 16'. The 24' (east and west) walls have ample space for art. The north wall has a work counter and overhead cabinets with about a 2' space above the cabinets. The south wall has windows looking out into the corridor.



Program Room (view from outside looking in)



North wall inside Program Room



South wall inside Program Room



2

West wall inside Program Room

East wall inside Program Room



Just outside the Program Room is a hallway with wall space measuring approximately 8' wide.

2. Wall space above shelving



The wall space above the Children's Audio shelving measures approximately 15' x 3'.

There are three walls of an alcove surrounding the Children's Fiction shelving. Space above the shelving on the east and west walls measures approximately 17' x 4'. Space above the shelving on the south wall measures about 15' x 4'.



3. Easy Fiction area

The Easy Fiction shelving forms a square near the back of the library. The shelves are 48” high with a flat surface above them measuring 2’ in depth. There are two 12” square columns in that area.



Interested artists are encouraged to visit the Bartlett Public Library to examine the areas referenced above, to observe staff and customers, and to explore the Library’s functions and collections in order to develop artwork that reflects the character of the Library. For more information or to schedule a tour of the Bartlett Library, please contact Gay Cain, Library Manager, at (901)386-8968 or caing@memphislibrary.org.

Selection Process

Artists will submit applications and sketches to the Friends of the Bartlett Library. Selection will be made by the Friends of the Bartlett Library Board of Directors based on the overall design concept and the artist’s ability to meet the project goals and timeline. Final approval will be given by the City of Bartlett.

Comment: Check with Mayor McDonald on how this should be worded.

All artists, regardless of race, sex, religion, national origin, or handicap, who live and/or work in the Memphis/Shelby County area are eligible. Bartlett residents are preferred.

Timeline

Comment: Discuss with Board. Completion near the end of October would coincide with National Friends of Libraries week.

