



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH CITY ARTS COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

March 12, 2026
Agenda Item No. 4

TO: CITY ARTS COMMISSION

FROM: Library Services Department
Melissa Hartson, Library Services Director
(949) 717-3801, mhartson@newportbeachca.gov

PREPARED BY: Rebecca Lightfoot, Library Services Manager

TITLE: Central Library Gallery Exhibit Artist for Consideration – March 2026

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend that the City Arts Commission vote to either approve or reject an exhibition by Lawrence Sherwin, as the Art in Public Places Subcommittee did not reach consensus on recommending the artist for approval to exhibit in the Central Library Lobby Gallery.

DISCUSSION:

The City of Newport Beach maintains two exhibit spaces at the Central Library. The Lobby Gallery in the Central Library has approximately 38 feet of linear wall space designed for two-dimensional pieces of art. Additionally, artists may apply to exhibit three-dimensional works in the two display cabinets that were added to the Central Library display offerings in 2010. The display cases are approximately 24" high x 24" deep x 24" wide.

Artists who want their work to be considered for display submit a completed Application for Review and Consideration of Art.

The Library Services Director manages the gallery space. The City Arts Commission's Art in Public Places Ad Hoc Subcommittee meets periodically to review artist's submissions. Staff notifies artists of acceptance and arranges the staging of the art.

The Art in Public Places Subcommittee reviewed an application for exhibition by photographer Lawrence Sherwin. The Subcommittee was unable to reach a consensus to approve or reject his application. Library staff presents the application submitted by Mr. Sherwin for the full City Arts Commission to review and vote to either approve or reject his proposed exhibition.

NOTICING:

This agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the City Arts Commission considers the item).

ATTACHMENT A: Lawrence Sherwin's Application for Review and Consideration of Art