

Services & Activities Fee Annual Program Review

Program Name: Sarah Spurgeon Gallery
Program Manager: Heather Johnson/Gregg Schlanger
Fiscal Year: FY2023

1. In what ways does your program support CWU students? Please be specific, yet concise.

The Sarah Spurgeon Gallery presents an average of six art exhibitions each academic year. We also host lectures and demonstrations by visiting professional artists. All programs are free and open to the public. In addition to exhibits by professional artists we host an annual Juried Undergraduate Student Art Exhibition (featuring artwork by between 50 and 75 undergraduate students), and exhibits by Master of Fine Arts thesis candidates (graduate students in the Art + Design program).

2. What are your specific program goals or learning/operational objectives? How are you assessing the effectiveness of your program in achieving those targets?

The Gallery's programs are designed to support the Department of Art + Design's educational objectives as well as to enhance, engage, and challenge the viewer's knowledge and understanding of art. Visual literacy and the ability to analyze and be critical of visual material is important for students in all disciplines, since we all experience media on a daily basis. The gallery has an advisory committee that selects and assesses programs.

3. What is the overall purpose of your program and what service(s) does your program provide?
 - a. Are there overlaps or intersections with other university programs who have a similar purpose or service?

The purpose of the Gallery is to offer the campus of Central Washington University and the community at large the opportunity to view and experience art, that they would not otherwise be able to experience, first-hand.

We often get questions from students on the S&A Committee about overlap with the Museum of Culture and the Environment, which also hosts exhibits and lectures. It is important to note that there are many different types of museums that focus on different subject matter and display different types of artifacts. The Sarah Spurgeon Gallery is the only visual arts gallery on campus and is part of the Department of Art + Design, in the College of Arts and Humanities. The Museum of Culture and the Environment is in the Anthropology Department, in the College of the Sciences.

4. How does your program align with the purpose of S&A funding? *“Supporting cocurricular and extracurricular activities and programs participated in by students in the furtherance of their education.”*

The Gallery is free and open to the public six days a week (it is closed on Sundays). The free talks and receptions are scheduled in the late afternoons and early evenings to give students time to attend outside of their class schedules.

5. How does your program support CWU's mission and goals? (<https://www.cwu.edu/mission/>)

The Gallery supports "a learning community of equity and belonging" by hosting an increasing number of exhibits and talks by artists who are BIPOC and LGBTQ+. Gallery programs are an opportunity for students to learn about identities, cultures, and viewpoints that may differ from their own. For example, the exhibit *El Zodiaco Familiar* (Fall 2022) included artwork by fourteen Mexican and ChicanX/Chicane artists, and included bilingual interpretative labels in both Spanish and English. Anthony White, a Queer Seattle-based artist of color, displayed his plastic artwork in an exhibit titled *Cultural Crisis* (Winter 2022). In the spring of 2023, the Gallery will display a solo exhibition by Rob Rhee, who is a Korean American interdisciplinary artist.

6. Please provide detailed information regarding who utilizes your program? (*Students, faculty, staff, community? Specific demographic information? Class standing, gender, ethnicity, transfer, campus location, etc.*)

The Gallery receives approximately 4,000 visits each academic year. The visitors are predominantly CWU students, faculty, and staff. Members of the Ellensburg community also visit the gallery, especially on Saturdays when parking is free. Faculty in a variety of academic areas bring their classes to the gallery to complete assignments related to visual culture and literacy. The Gallery Manager plans to develop an optional and anonymous questionnaire for visitors to complete that will assist in future planning.

7. How many unique CWU students utilize your program or services?
- How do you gather these metrics?
 - If you do not, what is preventing you from getting that data and how are you determining usage by CWU students?

Daily attendance numbers are tallied and recorded for exhibits and events. Class visits are also recorded. A new attendance form will be used in 2023 that records not only how many people visit on a specific day, but also what time they visit, in order to better understand traffic flow and help determine if the current gallery hours are serving everyone's needs.

8. Are there any current vacant positions in your program?

N/A

9. Given the budget reductions taking place and continuing for the remainder of the funding cycle, please tell us what specific impacts those reductions have had on your program compared to what was originally planned and including in your initial base funding request.

Due to budget reductions in both services and activities fees and at the college level, one of the exhibits that had been planned for this year was cancelled. Instead of displaying six exhibits (two exhibits per quarter), there will only be five exhibits. There will also be one fewer artist talk this year.

10. Are there any circumstances or challenges that are currently impacting your ability to use your base funding allocation this year?

The Gallery will spend all of its base funding allocation for this year.

11. What growth or increases would you like to see in your program in the future?

In addition to wanting to return to having at least six exhibits per year, we would like to afford more hours and compensation for our work-study student employees. Student workers are vital to hanging the art exhibits and keeping the gallery open for visitors. Budget reductions alongside increases in minimum wage have required us to cut student hours, putting more workload onto the full-time staff. In terms of programming and supporting CWU's new mission, while progress has already been made in this area, we would like to continue to diversify the featured artists and speakers in the gallery.