

Services & Activities Fee Annual Program Review

Program Name: Sarah Spurgeon Gallery
Program Manager: Gregg Schlanger/Heather Johnson
Fiscal Year: FY2025

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

The gallery presents 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 and are promoted to students through Hype and the Publicity Center. Faculty in a variety of academic areas bring their classes to the gallery to complete assignments related to visual culture and literacy.

In addition, the gallery hosts an annual spring Juried Undergraduate Student Art Exhibition, featuring artwork by between 50 and 75 undergraduate students. The exhibit is open to any CWU student who has taken a class in the Art + Design Department, and awards are given for excellence in student artwork. Some of the awards are purchase awards, where student art is bought by the university and becomes part of the university's permanent art collection, or the SURC permanent art collection.

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 made up of faculty from the Department of Art and Design, who review the effectiveness of gallery programs. The committee selects the visiting artists, speakers, and exhibits that are presented, and works to ensure that the programs represent a diversity of peoples, cultures, and ideas, as well as artistic media.

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 Sarah Spurgeon Gallery is to offer the campus of Central Washington University and the community at large the opportunity to view and experience visual art, that they would not otherwise be able to experience, first-hand. The gallery's exhibitions and related outreach programs are designed to enhance, engage, and challenge the viewer's knowledge and understanding of art. The gallery also presents students with opportunities to explore culturally diverse ideas in an academic environment.

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. We engage students and student clubs in our programs as much as possible; for example, members of the Pacific Island Heritage Club attended the opening events for the Fall 2024 exhibit by the Native Hawaiian Artist Lehuauakea.

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

Sarah Spurgeon Gallery supports “a learning community of equity and belonging” by hosting exhibits and talks by artists from a variety of places and backgrounds, including artists who are BIPOC and LGBTQIA+. Under the core value of belonging, it is stated that: “CWU believes that a diversity of peoples, cultures, and ideas are essential to learning, discovery, and creativity.” Gallery programs are an opportunity for students to learn about diverse identities, cultures, and viewpoints through the arts.

Practices that “...honor the Indigenous peoples who have resided here since time immemorial and continue to reside here” are listed under the CWU core value of stewardship. Spurgeon Gallery has brought a number of Indigenous exhibiting artists and speakers to campus to share their unique and creative perspectives. In February 2025 the Galley will host an exhibit of fifty prints by Native American artists from the Crow’s Shadow Institute of the Arts’ permanent collection.

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.

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 the primary metric that is used to gauge the success of the gallery's exhibits and programs. Class visits are also recorded.

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

No

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.

Student workers are essential to the gallery's operations. The combination of budget reductions and salary increases has required us to cut student hours, putting more workload onto the full-time staff. It has also reduced the goods and services funds that we have available for gallery programs. We can only afford to hire students who qualify for work study, even though non-work-study students may also be qualified and interested in the positions.

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 its entire base funding allocation for this year.

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

The gallery would benefit from regular cost-of-living increases in funding for student salaries, to provide more hours and opportunities for student employees. The costs for art shipping and travel for our visiting artists have also gone up over time. In terms of programming we would like to acquire funds for a summer exhibition; the gallery is currently closed during the summer. In addition, from 2018 through 2020 we hosted a multi-disciplinary art lecture series that was funded by a one-time donation. We would like to revive the series, which featured both nationally and internationally known speakers, and would benefit students in a number of different academic areas.