

2017 ACNW Annual Report: New Westminster Public Library

The New Westminster Public Library provides space for art exhibitions that reflect the diverse cultural interests of the New West community.

Each year we select rotating monthly exhibits for our Upstairs Art Space by a call for artists in the Summer/Fall of the previous year. In 2017 this gallery hosted 10 solo artist exhibits and 1 group exhibit, which consisted of 2 dimensional works of photography, painting, drawings, and mixed media.

The Library also curates the 1st Floor Ramp Gallery, which hosted exhibits from 3 local artist groups in 2017. Artists from the Union Gospel Mission's Healing Through Art program occupied the space from February through May, students from New Westminster Senior Secondary exhibited their art from June to September and the Pottery Works art group displayed their work from November through December.

For the first time, the Library also hosted a brief exhibit of 3D sculptures created by the students of New Westminster Secondary School, which ran from mid-September to early October.

In addition to visual art exhibits, the library also hosted a number of literary and musical arts events. In partnership with the ACNW, the Library hosted the LitFest 2017 kick-off. This after-hours event featured a live taping of the *Pop This* podcast and refreshments from Steel & Oak Brewing. In May, local singers were showcased when the Anvil Community Choir performed for library patrons in a free public concert. The library also partners with the Royal City Literary Arts Society and New West World Poetry to host regular literary workshops and evening events, which are designed to develop and spotlight aspiring and established authors and poets.

The New Westminster Public Library strives to be a community hub for arts and culture. We are proud to offer local artists, writers, and musicians a space to showcase their diverse range of talents. In the autumn of 2017 the Library will begin an extensive renovation project to improve aging infrastructure and enhance our technology and services. Unfortunately, during the course this project many library programs, including the art galleries, will be impacted. Please monitor the library's website and social media channels for the latest updates.