

READ ME FIRST

Benefits for Talented Artist Exhibitors Selected

"Inspired by Nature" — Shepard Hall Gallery, Santa Maria Public Library — October

We built this exhibition to get your art in front of more people, helping you sell it, while raising funds for the Natural History Museum of Santa Maria and **honoring the life of Santa Ynez Sculptor John Cody**. Here's how we do that: ***JUST IN: ***Participating artists will not be required to obtain a business license from City of Santa Maria for this event.***

1. A Prime, High-Traffic Venue

Shepard Hall Gallery sits inside the Santa Maria Public Library — one of the largest and most architecturally significant cultural buildings in Santa Maria. That means your work isn't hanging in an out-of-the-way space; it's in a building people already come to.

The bonus: Shepard Hall is a popular meeting spot for municipal and nonprofit groups. Yes, that means the Gallery's public hours are sometimes limited — but it also means a steady stream of meeting attendees will walk in and view your art simply because they're required to be there. That's a built-in audience you didn't have to find yourself.

2. The Spotlight of a Major Anniversary Celebration

You're not just joining a show — you're joining a celebration. The Natural History Museum of Santa Maria is marking its 30th Anniversary this year with a full month of demonstrations, art talks, and cross-venue programming (including at the Hart Home Landmark building and native garden across the street). That extra buzz means more eyes on your work.

You'll also be showing under the banner of an impressive list of community partners helping drive attendance and visibility, including:

- Natural History Museum of Santa Maria members and friends
- Santa Maria Public Library
- Santa Maria Arts Council
- Santa Barbara County Office of Arts and Culture
- Santa Maria Camera Club
- Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Santa Maria Philharmonic
- Allan Hancock College
- Back Porch Florist, Flower Carriage, Joe Guggia Designs
- Lawn Bowling Club
- Oasis Senior Center
- KCBX
- ...and more

3. A Team Actively Selling Your Art For You

This isn't a "hang it and hope" show. Museum-trained gallery interns and volunteers will be on-site during all open hours, actively sharing artist information and working to sell your art on your behalf as part of the museum's fundraising efforts.

We're also running an affordable donated-art fundraising drawing designed to pull in first-time visitors — more foot traffic in the gallery means more potential buyers for your work.

4. Real Promotion, Not Just a Listing

A vigorous social media push is central to this show, aimed at reaching younger, tech-savvy audiences who might not otherwise walk into a gallery. Combined with our full calendar of programming, that means repeated, sustained attention on the exhibition — and on you:

- Noon Nature Art Talks
- Weekend Nature Art Demonstrations
- Curated Nature-themed Music each week, designed to bring visitors back more than once
- "Flower Fusion" on the closing weekend — local florists will each create an arrangement inspired by a hanging piece of art they select, staying on display through the final week. It's a guaranteed reason for people to come see the show (and your work) one more time.

More events mean more visits. More visits mean more chances for your art to be seen and sold.

5. Cash Awards and Financial Support

We want participating in this show to pay off for you directly:

- People's Choice Award \$50. (cash)
- 1st \$400., 2nd \$200., and 3rd \$100., Best in Exhibition Awards (cash)

6. Receptions to Honor Artists and Santa Ynez Sculptor John Cody

Opening and closing receptions are hosted specifically in gratitude to you, the exhibiting artists, and the life of Santa Ynez Sculptor John Cody who created the dolphin adorning the front yard of the Natural History Museum of Santa Maria. The receptions are a chance to be celebrated, meet collectors and fellow artists, and enjoy the show you helped create.

Join Us

This exhibition is going to spark real joy in our community — but only if talented artists like you step up. Take the leap and submit your work for "Inspired by Nature" at the Santa Maria Public Library this October.

Submission deadline is Sept. 11, 2026. Questions: 805-614-0806 naturalhistory412.santamaria@gmail.com

We can't wait to see what you bring!

Examples of art media for the fine art exhibit “INSPIRED BY NATURE”



"INSPIRED BY NATURE"

A FINE ART EXHIBIT FUNDRAISER

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number (s): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

MEDIUM (S): _____

SUBMIT YOUR ARTWORK:

- Please include 3 to 5 thematically consistent digital images of the **artwork you propose to exhibit** (by email) with this application.
- All images submitted should be at least 300dpi (no larger) and no larger than 2MB each.
- Images must be of **recent artwork** created within the last 10 years to be considered for this exhibition.

1. Title:	2. Title:	3. Title:	4. Title:	5. Title:
Year:	Year:	Year:	Year:	Year:
Med:	Med:	Med:	Med:	Med:
Size:	Size:	Size:	Size:	Size:

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- As this is a fundraiser, all artwork MUST be listed for sale. A commission of 40% of each art piece sold will go to the Natural History Museum of Santa Maria. A business license is required for art sales within the city limits (please see the Library's "Art Gallery Policy" online at <https://bit.ly/4x58xoo>). *If you need assistance, please contact the Library.*
- Incomplete applications will not be accepted.
- Artists will be notified of acceptance after the Natural History Museum's Art Committee has reviewed all submissions.
- A letter of acceptance will be emailed upon approval. Please provide the correct contact information.
- Artists' work within the Shepard Hall Gallery must be consistent with the images that are submitted with the application (see above).
- All artwork MUST be wired for hanging. Saw-tooth hangers, nails and staples are not allowed and the gallery cannot accommodate non-hangable art (i.e. ceramic pieces, etc.) at this time.
- All artwork must be original. The art is based on the artists own design and materials.

I have read and will abide by the Library's Art Gallery Policy. I understand that the Santa Maria Public Library and the Natural History Museum do not provide insurance or additional security for this exhibit. My artwork will be displayed at my own risk.

SIGN: _____ DATE: _____

SHEPARD HALL ART GALLERY ~ CITY OF SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY
 421 SOUTH MCCLELLAND STREET,
 SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA 93454
 805.925.0951 EXT. 2832



FAQ's

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF SANTA MARIA
FINE ART EXHIBIT FUNDRAISER

How do I apply?

It's easy! Just follow these 3 steps:

1. Fill out an application. Be sure to read through the Library's "Art Gallery Policy" first. View the policy online at <https://www.cityofsantamaria.org/services/departments/library/library>
2. Gather your required images to submit. Images should be of the artwork you propose to exhibit.
3. Send your application and images digitally via email to svoss@cityofsantamaria.org.

What happens next?

1. Once the deadline for applications has been closed on **Friday, September 11**, the Natural History Museum's Art Committee will meet to review all submissions.
2. Artists will be notified of acceptance by email. Please be sure your contact information is correct.
3. This fine art exhibit will run for one month from Saturday, October 3 - Tuesday, November 3, 2026.
**Please note: the art installation will be: Friday, October 2, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and the art takedown will be Tuesday, November 3, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.*

What are the benefits of exhibiting in this show?

- Potential to win juried monetary prizes. "Best in Show" awards will include: first place: \$400, second place: \$ 200, third place: \$100 and a "people's choice" award: \$50.
- Public exhibition of your artwork with NO exhibit space fee!
- All artists will be included in the Library's and Natural History Museum's P.R. materials. This will include a press release including participating artists, library signage, e-newsletter and posts to our social media sites.
- Being an ambassador of nature education to the public through art.

How will art sales work?

- Artists will indicate their work is "for sale."
- As this is a fundraiser, a commission of 40% of each art piece sold will go to the Natural History Museum of Santa Maria.
- The artist is responsible for handling all sales, taxes and fees associated with the sale of their artwork. This includes obtaining a California seller's permit (required by the State) and a City of Santa Maria business license is required (for art sales within city limits). *For more information regarding obtaining a business license, please contact the city's Finance Division at (805) 925-0951 extension 2422 or visit the City of Santa Maria [website](#).*

What is the criteria for selecting artists?

- Our goal is to provide the community with professional quality work that promotes the arts and nature in Santa Maria, while aligning with the Natural History Museum of Santa Maria's mission statement and the Library's Art Gallery Policy.
- This fine art exhibit will serve as a fundraiser for the museum. We will consider all factors when selecting including: technical ability, quality of work, creativity, expression, appropriateness, uniqueness and if the art aligns with the exhibit's theme of "Inspired by Nature."

FAQ's

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF SANTA MARIA
FINE ART EXHIBIT FUNDRAISER**How do we see art in Shepard Hall if it is closed for a meeting?**

Shepard Hall serves as both a community meeting space as well as a venue for art.
There are no designated gallery viewing hours.

To view artwork in the gallery:

1. CHECK [ONLINE!](#)

Our online calendar lists all upcoming Shepard Hall events. If there is a meeting or event booked for Shepard Hall, the gallery will be unavailable to view art during that time.

To check our calendar online:

1. Go to <https://www.cityofsantamaria.org/services/departments/library/library>.
2. Click on the "Library Events Calendar" icon.
3. The calendar will show events throughout the entire library.

Please note: to display Shepard Hall events only, select "Shepard Hall -Santa Maria Public Library" under the "Limit by Location" drop down option. Click "GO" and the calendar will now display Shepard Hall events only.

2. Plan your visit in advance.

The schedule for Shepard Hall is updated daily/weekly. You may call our administration office at 805.925.0994 ext.2321 to ask if Shepard Hall is booked that day. Alternately, email us at svoss@cityofsantamaria.org. Meetings and events can be booked or canceled daily, so please plan accordingly.

3. Come on by and hope for the best! You can always enjoy the many other amenities the library has to offer.

Will there be an artist reception?

- Yes! On Saturday, October 3, 2026 the Santa Maria Natural History Museum will hold an artist reception in Shepard Hall at the Santa Maria Public Library. Time is TBD. Selected artists will be notified with more details.

For more information, please email: svoss@cityofsantamaria.org
or contact Sara Voss at 805.925.0994 ext. 2832.

www.smnaturalhistory.org

