

Guide for Senior Exhibit Project applicants:

Members of the selection committee come from a range of subject areas and have experience producing exhibits. Based on our collective knowledge and experience, we will be considering whether the objects and facsimiles proposed in each proposal would make a good exhibit.

Selected exhibition proposals will be clearly executable in the given timeframe and the exhibit committee will look for *some or all* of the following elements during the selection process:

1. Thorough and careful original research
2. Thoughtful analysis of library collection materials
3. Compelling and innovative research subjects
4. Visually engaging collection materials
5. A focus on underutilized collections
6. The inclusion of original materials over facsimiles
7. The incorporation of associated programming

In addition, the Committee will give preference to proposals that provide evidence of the following student qualifications:

1. Excellent organizational skills;
2. Ability to manage cascading or overlapping deadlines;

What makes a good exhibit in the Lawrence Exhibit corridor?

1. A strong narrative.
2. Strong visual elements that further the thesis or narrative of the exhibit.
Fluidity between the elements telling a strong story.
3. Use of a variety of types of library collections material to tell a story. For example, an exhibit with manuscript documents, photographs, prints, and bound material will be stronger than an exhibit with only textual collection materials.
4. Keep these points in mind as you think about items to include in your exhibit:
 - a. Use of originals is limited.
 - b. Most special collections materials can only be shown in reproduction.
 - c. Proposed objects should consider the special limitations of the exhibition cases.

- d. The Lawrence Exhibit corridor is not presently equipped to incorporate multimedia.

Examples of what is included in a strong proposal:

1. Shows an in-depth exploration of a significant collection or draws from multiple collections in the Yale University Library. Yale museum collections may also be included if appropriate to the topic.
2. Shows evidence of previous experience working with [primary source materials](#).
3. Shows strong familiarity with the subject discipline. For example, if your topic is about bookplates, you should be familiar with research in the history of art.
4. Shows evidence of time already spent with the collection and/or letters of support need to indicate that applicant has the time and ability to develop the project more fully.
5. Outlines how the narrative of the thesis will be furthered through the elements of the exhibition (labels, visual elements, collections materials, facsimiles where needed, etc.).
6. Demonstrates clear understanding of responsibilities and timeframe of the exhibit project independent of the senior thesis project for their department.
7. Includes letters of support from faculty advisor/s. Letter/s of support should:
 - a. Demonstrate a strong connection between the subject of the proposal and the faculty advisor
 - b. Agree to the responsibilities outlined for the faculty advisor in the document on the website [insert link and clarify]
 - c. Attest to the student's past success the subject discipline.
 - d. Speak to the student's ability to successfully complete the project in the timeframe allotted.

Contact Kerri Sancomb, Exhibits Committee Chair with any questions.
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