SML Exhibits Committee

The Sterling Memorial Library (SML) Exhibits Committee provides oversight and support for the exhibition program that provides content for the Memorabilia Room and Student Exhibit Corridor in Sterling Memorial Library. The membership comes from across the Yale University Library (YUL) system and is led by the Exhibits Program Manager. The membership rotates annually, with members serving staggered two year terms. Additionally, the Library’s Director of Communications and Director of Undergraduate Research Education and Outreach are permanent committee members.

The Committee performs these tasks:

- Increases use of SML exhibit venues by YUL staff, Yale faculty and students, and Yale-affiliated groups
- Coordinates communication about the programming and use of the SML exhibit venues
- Reviews exhibition proposals to ensure that programming reflects and supports teaching and research at Yale
- Establishes and maintains appropriate guidelines for the use of exhibition venues and the handling of objects on display in SML
- Supports the Library Exhibits Liaison as needed

Yale University Library Exhibitions Mission/Vision

The Yale University Library’s Exhibitions Program will support and enhance research, teaching, and learning at Yale and for the world-wide scholarly community. Library exhibits:

- Highlight YUL expertise, collections, and services
- Contribute to making the Library the physical destination of choice for the Yale community
- Encourage collaboration among Library staff, researchers, faculty, students
- Offer opportunities for Library staff professional development
- Present a “borderless” view of the Library and its collections
- Uphold the highest standards for the care of collections on display and encourage good handling and preservation practices

Learn more about current and past exhibitions in Sterling Library

What's happening now [1]

Past exhibits in the Memorabilia Room [2] and Lawrence Exhibit Corridor [3].

For Students

Student-Curated Exhibits at Yale Library

Wall Street Exhibition Corridor, Sterling Memorial Library

Learn how to present your research using the unique narrative form of an exhibit. The library’s exhibit staff will assist you to choose, describe, sequence, and arrange objects from the library’s diverse collections.

Our primary student-curated exhibit opportunities are:

2021 Senior Exhibit Project - Proposals due April 5th

Are you a junior who is curious about how to curate an exhibit, enjoy working collaboratively, and would like to see
your senior essay transformed into an exhibit in the Sterling Library exhibits corridor? Consider submitting a proposal to the Yale Library senior exhibit project. Yale Library provides one rising senior with training in curatorial skills which culminates in the production of a library exhibition based on the student’s senior essay topic using materials from the Yale Library collections. This exhibit project is sponsored by the Sterling Memorial Library exhibits committee.

- Open to students of the Class of 2022.
- The selected student will work closely with exhibit project advisors and YUL’s exhibit professionals to plan and execute their exhibit.
- Exhibit staff will provide production tools, templates, technical expertise, and guidance while connecting the student with additional library staff for support and access to materials.
- The selected student will have an opportunity to explore presenting their research in a different narrative form—with a strong visual component, a defined physical space, and its own conventions and practices.
- The senior exhibit project is perfect for students who have experience researching with primary source materials and whose senior essay subject can be strongly represented by physical objects from the Yale Library collections.

The Timeline

- Proposal deadline is April 5th
- Curatorial work will occur throughout the fall 2021 and spring 2022 semesters, with optional independent research during summer of 2021.
- Final exhibit will be installed April 2022.

The production schedule is subject to change if COVID related closures inhibit curators’ abilities to meet agreed upon deadlines. In this instance the exhibit team will work together to revise the schedule as needed.

Discover past students exhibit projects and related promotional material here. [3]

If you are considering submitting a proposal:

- Review the guide for submitting a senior exhibit project proposal. [5]
- Think about a Faculty Advisor [6] or a Librarian [7] to work with and advise you throughout the entire project. If you don’t already have a faculty advisor or librarian you are currently working with, the exhibit committee can help you connect with one.
- Submit your proposal here [8].

Send questions to kerri.sancomb@yale.edu [9]

If you are just getting started ...

Learning how to do research in the collections is the first step toward any exhibit opportunity. Start by getting to know your personal librarian or subject librarian, as well as archivists and collection specialists. Explore and discover the collections at archives.yale.edu. Get ideas by looking at previous years’ exhibits via the SML Exhibits LibGuide [10]. Learn about opportunities to create online exhibits at Yale University Library [11].

2021 SML Student Research at YUL Online Exhibit Opportunity

Proposals due March 8th

Have you completed a research paper or project that you would like to transform into an online exhibition? Consider applying to this opportunity and submit your proposal here [12]. One student will be selected to curate their own online exhibition, based on a completed paper, using digital images from the Yale Library collections. The site will be posted on Yale Library’s online exhibitions homepage. This exhibit project is sponsored by the Sterling
Memorial Library exhibits committee.

- Open to Yale college sophomores and juniors, graduate, and professional students
- The selected student will work closely with advisors and YUL’s exhibit professionals to plan and execute their exhibit.
- Exhibit staff will provide production tools, templates, technical expertise, and guidance while connecting the student with additional library staff for support and access to materials.
- All exhibit production meetings will occur via Zoom during the spring semester.
- Upon completion of the required exhibit components, in consultation with the student curators, a Library Exhibit Technician will build the online exhibition using the Library’s approved Omeka templates.

The Timeline

- Proposal deadline is March 8th
- Curatorial work will be completed by the end of Spring 2021 semester
- Exhibit review, completion, and launch will occur during the Fall 2021 semester

The production schedule is subject to change if COVID related closures inhibit curators’ abilities to meet agreed upon deadlines. In this instance the exhibit team will work together to revise the schedule as needed.

View an example of a Student Research at YUL online exhibit here. [13]

If you are considering submitting a proposal:

- Review deadlines and workflows (tentative). [14]
- Review the guide for submitting proposals for the Student Research at YUL exhibit. [15]
- Think about a Faculty Advisor [6] or a Librarian [7] to work with and advise you throughout the entire project. If you don’t already have a faculty advisor or librarian you are currently working with, the exhibit committee can help you connect with one.

- Submit your proposal here. [12]

Send questions to kerri.sancomb@yale.edu [9]

For Faculty

Ways faculty can get involved with exhibits at Sterling Memorial Library (SML):

- Encourage highly motivated and committed students in their junior year to submit a proposal [16] for the Yale Library Senior Exhibit Fellowship.
- Encourage a student to submit a proposal for the Student Research at Yale University Library Exhibit [17] in the Student Exhibit Corridor.
- Be a faculty advisor for a Senior Exhibit Fellowship [18] or a Student Research at Yale University Library exhibit [17]. Review responsibilities for each project here: Senior Exhibit Fellowship Advisor [6], Student Research at YUL Exhibit Advisor [19]
- Spread the word about new exhibit opportunities in SML to colleagues across campus.
- Attend an information session [20].
- Learn about online exhibits at Yale University Library [11]

Ways students can benefit from curating exhibits in the library:
Academic/research skills:

- Provides a cohesive picture for the student of their academic support network: academic advisor, library specialists, IT specialists
- Develops a familiarity with physical library collections and spaces
- Provides experience researching with primary source materials
- Facilitates interactions with Yale University Library (YUL) staff
- Supports use of online resources to enhance research skills
- Encourages cross-disciplinary and cross-collection research and investigation
- Supplements traditional research outputs such as papers, essays, blogs, or web sites

Life skills:

- Accountability and self confidence
- Project management and organizational skills
- Communication skills and experience

For Library Staff

Ways library staff can get involved with exhibits at SML:

- Encourage a student to submit a proposal for the Student Research at Yale University Library [17] exhibit in the Student Exhibit Corridor.
- Encourage highly motivated and committed students in their junior year to submit a proposal for the Yale Library Senior Exhibit Fellowship [17].
- Volunteer to be a Librarian Exhibit Advisor and mentor a student curator through the research and object selection of an exhibit.
- Spread the word about new exhibit opportunities in SML to our colleagues across campus.
- Talk to your department head about serving on the exhibits committee in the future.
- Learn about online exhibits at Yale University Library [11]

Librarian Exhibit Advisor

Open to all professional library staff with supervisor’s approval, the Librarian Exhibit Advisor is a rotating volunteer support role for exhibit production in the Sterling Memorial Library venues [21]. This person will offer guidance in content development to student curators and exhibit curators with little or no experience with SML exhibitions.

This opportunity has numerous benefits both for individual professional growth and in support of the library’s mission to support and enhance research, teaching, and learning at Yale. The Exhibits Production Coordinator will provide training for each new librarian exhibit advisor, and when necessary connect new exhibit advisors with other library staff who have prior exhibit experience.

Review exhibit advisor responsibilities for each project here: Senior Exhibit Fellowship Advisor [7], Student Research at YUL Exhibit Advisor [19]

If you have specific questions about being a librarian exhibit advisor please contact Kerri Sancomb [22], Exhibits Program Manager.

Sterling Memorial Library Exhibit Spaces
Sterling Memorial Library offers two exhibit venues to showcase student research and Yale library collections. Topics and curators are selected by the Sterling Memorial Library Exhibit Committee from proposals submitted by prospective curators.

Exhibits may feature materials from any Yale University Library collection. The library provides funding and staff support for production. Materials requiring special display conditions or security may be presented in facsimile.

**Sterling Library Exhibit Corridor**

Exhibits in the Exhibit Corridor are curated by students, based on their own research with materials from any Yale library collection.

- In the fall, the Student Research at Yale University Library Exhibit features research by two student-curators (Yale undergraduate, graduate, or professional students) based on already completed research papers.
- In the spring, the Yale Library Senior Exhibit Fellowship is curated by one senior using all five exhibition cases to present a capstone project.

See examples of past exhibits in the Exhibit Corridor.

**Sterling Library Memorabilia Room**

The Memorabilia Room is no longer used for library exhibits. Watch for information on a new exhibit space in the Nave.

Email questions to kerri.sancomb@yale.edu.

See examples of past exhibits in the Memorabilia Room.

**Forms**

Use the following online forms to submit proposals for:

- Student Research at Yale University Library Proposal
- Senior Exhibit Project Proposal

For questions contact any member of the SML Exhibits Committee.

**SML Exhibits Committee Membership**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name, Job Title</th>
<th>Term and role (if applicable)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Melissa Barton - Curator, Prose &amp; Drama Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Library</td>
<td>Two-year term</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelly Blanchat, Undergraduate Teaching and Outreach Librarian</td>
<td>Two-year term</td>
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<td>Patricia Carey, Director of Communications</td>
<td>Permanent Member</td>
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# Information Sessions

There are currently no information sessions scheduled.

Please contact [Kerri Sancomb](mailto:kerri.sancomb@yale.edu) [22] with any questions about the SML exhibition program.

**Source URL:** https://web.library.yale.edu/sml-exhibits-committee

**Links**

[1] https://guides.library.yale.edu/sml-exhibits-current/
[3] https://guides.library.yale.edu/sml-exhibits-current/past_exhibit_corridor
[6] https://web.library.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/Faculty%20Advisor%20Senior%20exhibit%20production%20responsibilities.pdf
[8] https://web.library.yale.edu/form/senior-exhibit-project-proposal
[9] https://onlineexhibits.library.yale.edu/s/female-architecture-graduates/page/architecture
[12] http://web.library.yale.edu/forms
[13] http://web.library.yale.edu/students
[14] http://web.library.yale.edu/sml-exhibits-committee/students
[15] https://onlineexhibits.library.yale.edu/s/female-architecture-graduates/page/architecture
[16] http://web.library.yale.edu/students
[17] http://web.library.yale.edu/sml-exhibits-committee/students
[18] https://web.library.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/Student%20Research%20at%20YUL%20exhibit%20advisor%20responsibilities.pdf
[19] http://web.library.yale.edu/information-sessions
[23] https://web.library.yale.edu/sml-exhibits-committee/sml-exhibits-committee-membership
[25] https://web.library.yale.edu/sd/staff/8486
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[34] https://web.library.yale.edu/sd/staff/2214