

NEWS

PRESS RELEASES



City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

NEWS ADVISORY

SUBJECT: Pilot Gallery Project in 'City Space' Ends

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

2/9/2005 9:08:00 AM

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Pilot Gallery Project in 'City Space' Ends

Exhibitions Continue in Seattle Municipal Tower

SEATTLE - The Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs has chosen not to renew its lease on the Bank of America gallery space that has operated under the name of "City Space" since July 2002. The partnership with Equity Office Properties Trust, owners of the tower, was a pilot project designed to showcase the City's Portable Works Collection and artists involved in City projects.

"When time came to renew our lease, we reviewed the return on our overall investment in the project," said Jim McDonald, public art program director. "Once we assessed the workload and staffing commitments, we realized that we could no longer maintain the program at the level we believe necessary. While we are proud of the exhibitions in 'City Space,' attendance has remained low for the past two-and-a-half years. This was a terrific experiment, but it's time to move on."

When approached by Equity Office Properties Trust about a potential partnership in 2002, the Office agreed to try managing the gallery with existing resources and staff. Staff, including the City's curator, took on additional duties to fulfill the gallery's mission. The location of the gallery, across the street from the Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs in Seattle Municipal Tower, also required staff to work remotely, with limited access to office equipment and information.

"There have been significant changes in available resources since the opening of "City Space," continued McDonald. "Many exhibitions were produced through creative partnerships with other groups and funded from different sources, some of which are no longer available to us. While we utilized interns and work study students as much as possible, it still comes back to our ability to devote staff time to ongoing management."

The Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs will continue to showcase the City's Portable Works Collection on the third floor concourse of Seattle Municipal Tower at 700 Fifth Avenue. Other exhibits may be mounted in City Hall, either in the lobby or on the L2 level, in partnership with other City departments.

The Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs promotes the value of arts and culture in and of communities throughout Seattle. The 15-member Seattle Arts Commission, citizen volunteers appointed by the Mayor and City Council, supports the City agency.

[Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs](#)