

Rahr-West
Art Museum
The Art Experience

June 11, 2021

Manitowoc City Council:

This letter serves as an explanation of the updates made to the Rahr-West Art Museum Code of Ethics and Collections Management Policy. Through our Accreditation process with the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), the Rahr-West was made aware of limitations to our current code of ethics and policy that could be exploited in the future to the detriment of the museum. The changes that seek to close these limitations are:

- Updated conflict of interest language regarding gift disclosures and the ethics of sales. The current policy allows members of the staff, volunteers, or the Board of Directors to bid on deaccessioned items at a public sale, which creates a conflict of interest.
- Updated deaccession language regarding funds that come from sales of collections objects. The current policy states that funds can be used for the care of collections. This is deemed too broad, and the term “direct care” is inserted to align with current museum ethics.

The museum asks for your approval of these language updates to ensure that our policies align with general museum practice.

Sincerely,



Greg Vadney
Executive Director
Rahr-West Art Museum