

Museum Gallery At SC's Main Library Receives Endorsement

By **BILL NEUBAUER**
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The Art Museum of Santa Cruz County won the enthusiastic endorsement of the Library Board this morning for the establishment of a museum gallery on the second floor of the Santa Cruz Main Library.

"This is something that we have needed in this community," commented Al Reetz, board vice-chairman, following a unanimous vote to recommend the program to the Santa Cruz City Council.

Trustee Mary Ann Kaplan added: "We wish you very good luck."

The proposal was submitted by Dr. Ruth Frary, president of the non-profit,

public-benefit corporation.

Proposed is that the museum gallery occupy about 2,000 square feet of space in what is now the library's music art room. Some \$12,000 to \$15,000 would be spent to convert this space for museum use that would not interfere with the library's operation.

The museum gallery would be located at the front of the room and would have its own entrance off the meeting room lobby. Expenses for installing partitions, security measures, lighting, telephone, heating and ventilation would be paid by the corporation.

The Library Board indicated that it would be all right to grant the Art Museum of Santa Cruz County a five-year

lease, with an option to renew, if the City Council approves.

The group was incorporated on Oct. 16, 1980, to sponsor exhibitions of fine art, conduct classes and lectures in public art education programs and to perform other services to encourage participation in,

and appreciation of, the fine arts.

The Art Museum has federal and state tax-exempt status and will support its programs through memberships, donations, fees and grants from private and governmental agencies.

The Art Museum has a small grant from

the Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County to assist with its initial exhibition.

The Art Museum wants to take over the premises July 1 so that it may prepare the museum gallery for the first exhibition, which is set to open Sept. 1.

It plans to mount a charter membership campaign and fund drive soon.

Librarian Charles Atkins called the proposal "a grand opportunity for this library and this community. We simply do need an art museum in this county. We have been striving to present exhibitions of artists in this room, but this museum gallery will enable the library to stop using its staff for this work and will really provide a much better level of museum service."

Atkins said that the music and arts room would continue to function but would be able to make better use of its space.

It was Atkins years ago who urged the interior library stairway built to the second floor so that some 5,000 square-feet of space there could be used for music and art.

Other officers of the Art Museum of Santa Cruz County are Sam Leask IV, vice president; Robert Swenson, treasurer; Sally Franks, secretary.

Other members of its board of trustees are Beth Hall, Dianne Hart, Diana Henrichsen, Winifred Heron, Margaret Lezin, David McGuire, Mary K. Mooser, Roy Rydell, Alice Santana, Eloise Smith and Jack Zajac.