

MAA Gallery Closing

We have expended considerable energy and resources in a variety of marketing techniques aimed at attracting visitors to the gallery as well as artists to exhibit in it. We feel that the location at the north end of town and the poor economy are strong factors in limiting the number of visitors. Dwindling numbers of artists are willing to display works and a limited number of artists fill the time slots needed to keep the doors open as scheduled. For these reasons, the MAA Gallery Advisory Board and the MAA Business Board voted unanimously to cease Gallery operation and terminate our lease.

On September 26, we submitted our official request to the Office of Mayor and Alderman. We requested a closing date following Trolley night on November 3. I have not yet received confirmation from the Mayor's office. I will announce the actual end date once it is finalized and approved. A project plan for closing will be forthcoming after the end date is confirmed.

Sadly, this will not only leave a dark corner on Elm Street, but also one less venue for sharing fine art with our community. However, it should in no way stop the Manchester Artists Association from remaining active and visible in the greater Manchester area. We will continue to bring three art shows to the area each year and to share our expertise in workshops and classes.

It is time for us to return our focus to Artists helping Artists: to supporting our membership and sponsoring young artists on the verge of discovery with scholarship awards. Please join in the spirit of reinventing our purpose and mission as we open a new channel of communication with the community. The artists of MAA will proudly display their work at any of the many remaining art galleries. We remain an association of exceptional artists and should be recognized as such. I encourage you to take an active role in creating a revitalized MAA.

Ginny Barrett, Your MAA President