

## **USE OF WALLS POLICY - Approved Unanimously - December 16th 2021**

Kesher Israel House Committee

*December 16, 2021*

### **BACKGROUND**

The House Committee encourages artwork, murals, and a limited number of plaques and signs on the walls of Kesher Israel, as long as they conform to these guidelines.

The space at Kesher Israel is all sacred space. Some places are more sanctified than others, however, the entire synagogue should be considered as a special place. This includes the walls. (As used in this policy, walls shall include ceiling and exterior walls of the building.)

Within the walls are the circuitry, plumbing, HVAC and other structural components that make the building function. Some walls are inappropriate for placement of objects due to the inner contents of that wall which likely will not be visible from the outside.

The House Committee establishes this policy to ensure that our space is utilized in an appropriate manner that enhances our space, does not damage our building, and does not detract from our mission as an Orthodox Synagogue.

As used in this policy, the term “Works,” includes artwork, paintings, murals, plaques, signs, wall hangings, and other objects.

### **I. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. Nothing should be placed on the walls unless it conforms with this policy and without the prior approval of the House Committee.
2. Anything that has been affixed to the walls of Kesher Israel that does not comply with this policy may be removed from the walls by the Committee. Any expense to repair any wall may be assessed against the member who affixed the item to the wall.
3. Members and visitors should respect anything that is properly on the walls and not remove or obstruct that thing.
4. The House Committee at its discretion and as appropriate, may consult with the Rabbi, President, Executive Committee, Board of Directors, Ritual Committee, Fund Raising Committee, and Construction Committee. Final decisions will be made by the House Committee.
5. The House Committee as a whole shall decide whether to permit the placement of anything on the walls of Kesher Israel. All such meetings of the House Committee shall be open to all members of Kesher Israel.

6. If anyone is dissatisfied with a decision of the House Committee, they may appeal that decision to the Board of Directors.
7. The Rabbi may place anything on the walls of his office without regard to these rules.
8. This policy goes into effect after the completion of construction of Keshet Israel's new building. Prior to that time, decisions are made by the Construction Committee.

## **II. ART**

1. The Committee encourages Works of art to be affixed to our walls.
2. Any Works of art that will be affixed to our walls must be approved prior to placement of the art.
3. Any Works of art that will be affixed to the walls of KI shall be in good taste, appropriate for display in a synagogue, and reflect some interest of Keshet Israel Congregation.
4. A donor who wishes to donate a Work of art to be affixed to a wall should consult with the Chair of the House Committee and suggest the proposed location of that art. The donor should provide the artwork—if currently available or a photograph and dimensions of the artwork if it is not currently available.
5. Because Keshet Israel will want to insure that the Work is permanently affixed to our walls, the Committee may engage a contractor/handyman to affix the Work permanently. Any cost of affixing the Work to the wall may be assessed to the member who donates the Work of art.
6. Unless agreed upon in advance with the donor, in writing, the Committee reserves the right to move the Work of art to another location at any time for any reason.
7. Unless agreed upon in advance with the donor, in writing, the Committee reserves the right not to display the Work of art at any time for any reason.

## **III. MURALS**

1. The Committee believes that murals can be awesome and enhance our space. Due to the nature of murals, they are painted on the wall and are relatively permanent. Any murals that are proposed for the walls of KI should be approved in advance by the Committee. They should be appropriate to the room or space in which they are located.

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2. The artist shall provide the committee with a drawing, dimensions, list of materials proposed to be used, and proposed location of the mural.
3. The mural should be executed by an artist who is familiar with how to paint a mural. Helpers who are not familiar with painting a mural may assist the artist, as long as the artist supervises the effort of the assistants.
4. Because painting murals will disrupt other functions in the area in which it is being painted, all efforts on murals shall be completed within thirty (30) days, unless the committee allows an exception to this requirement.
5. The proposed location should be approved in advance by the Committee.
6. Any mural that is painted onto the walls of KI, should be covered with a varnish or other permanent, clear coating to prevent it from being damaged.
7. Once it is painted on the wall of KI, the mural becomes the sole and exclusive property of the Congregation.
8. Unless agreed upon in advance with the artist, in writing, because the function of a room may change or the interest of the congregation may change over time, the artist(s) agrees in advance that any mural may be painted over by the committee at any time and waives any rights to prevent painting over the mural that he or she may have under any law.
9. Unless agreed upon in advance with the artist, in writing, the Committee reserves the right to remove the mural at any time for any reason.

### **IV. SIGNS and PLAQUES**

1. The heavy brass plaques previously utilized at our former location are too heavy for most of the walls at our new location and cannot be incorporated into our new building. Memorial plaques, honorary plaques and the like will be incorporated into the electronic plaque board. Yarzeits will be memorialized by another electronic board for that purpose.
2. As a result, generally the policy of the committee is to discourage physical memorial and honorary plaques to be placed on the walls except as provided in this policy.
3. A very limited number of plaques may be affixed to the walls of Keshet Israel. Generally, the plaque should be small and must be approved prior to installation. Also the location of the plaque must be approved, in advance, by the Committee.
4. The following plaques are permitted if approved by the Committee:

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- a. Designation of a room. A plaque noting that a person, family, or group has sponsored a room or space (e.g. foyer, hallway).
  - b. Designation of a Work of art. A plaque noting that a person, family, or group has sponsored a Work of art. That plaque may briefly describe the Work of art.
  - c. Plaques honoring the accomplishments of a member of KI in his or her function as a member or as a member of the Jewish Community.
5. Functional signs designating certain functions are mandated by the Code of the City of Harrisburg and must conform to the Code (e.g. exits, restrooms, stairways). Also, signs must be uniform to conform to the general design and look of the building.
  6. The placement, size, wording, and design of functional signs shall be approved by the Committee.

### **V. SANCTUARY AND CHAPEL**

1. The Sanctuary and Chapel hold our sacred Torah scrolls and are a place of prayer and meditative contemplation. As a result, the Committee will limit most Works on the walls in those places.
2. With rare exception, the Committee likely will not approve Works to be placed on the wall on the Sanctuary and Chapel.
3. The Committee will seek the advice of the Rabbi and President, prior to approving the placement of anything on the walls of the Sanctuary or Chapel.

### **VII. POLICY**

1. This is a policy of the House Committee. The House Committee may revise this policy by majority vote.
2. The Committee may disregard elements of this policy by a majority vote of the Committee.
3. This policy was approved by the House Committee on December 16, 2021.