

Ledyard Public Library Display and Program Policy

Ledyard Public Library affirms its role as a community resource dedicated to intellectual freedom, equitable access, and lifelong learning. Through curated displays and thoughtfully developed programs, the Library provides opportunities for residents to explore diverse perspectives, pursue personal interests, and engage in cultural and educational experiences.

All displays and programs are guided by professional standards of librarianship, the principles of free expression, and the protections against discrimination established under section 46a-64 of the Connecticut General Statutes. This policy outlines the purpose, principles, and responsibilities that govern both displays and programs, ensuring that they remain consistent with the Library's mission and values.

Section I: Displays

Purpose

Ledyard Public Library provides displays as an extension of its mission to offer free and open access to a diversity of ideas, resources, and experiences; to enhance the quality of life in the community; and to encourage lifelong learning. Displays are important resources for voluntary inquiry, the dissemination of information and ideas, and the promotion of free expression and free access to ideas by residents.

Principles and Criteria

- Displays are provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all residents.
- Displays represent a wide range of varied and diverging viewpoints.
- Displays provide access to content that is relevant to the research, independent interests, and educational needs of residents.
- Exhibits may include cultural, educational, or artistic materials and will be accepted as space allows.
- The display case at Bill Library is available to Ledyard residents, organizations, or businesses for non-commercial, cultural, and educational displays.
- Bulletin boards are used to post community information, announcements for non-profit events, and cultural activities. Library information receives priority.
- Items on display or posted do not imply endorsement by the Library or the Town.
- Library-curated displays are distinct from those submitted by community members or organizations. Staff-created displays are developed in alignment with library collection and service priorities, while community displays are accepted as space and policy allow.

Intellectual Freedom and Censorship

All displays are evaluated and made accessible in accordance with the protections against discrimination set forth in section 46a-64 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Librarians are professionally trained to curate and develop displays in alignment with the Library's philosophy of free and open access to information.

The Library maintains a material review and reconsideration policy. Requests to reconsider displays are limited to individual residents of the Town of Ledyard.

Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read, and Freedom to View

This policy aligns with the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read Statement, and Freedom to View Statement, affirming the Library's commitment to intellectual freedom and the broadest access to information for all.

Section II: Programs

Purpose

Library programs extend the mission of the Ledyard Public Library by providing opportunities for discovery, learning, cultural enrichment, and community engagement. Programs foster intellectual freedom, support educational and recreational interests, and enhance quality of life.

Definition of a Program

A library program is a planned presentation, workshop, performance, discussion, or event developed or coordinated by library staff, sometimes in partnership with community organizations. Programs may occur in-person, offsite, or virtually.

Roles and Responsibilities

- Librarians are professionally trained to curate, develop, and present programs that reflect a diversity of ideas and interests.
- The ultimate responsibility for the selection and approval of library programs rests with the Library Director.
- Library staff may collaborate with outside presenters, organizations, or performers when appropriate.
- Library-curated programs are distinct from those offered by outside groups or presenters. Staff-led programs are guided by library priorities and professional standards, while outside contributions are considered in partnership with staff oversight.

Program Selection

- Programs support the educational, informational, cultural, and recreational interests of the community.
- Programs represent the wide range of ideas and views found within the Library's collections and broader society.
- Programs will not serve as platforms for generating income for sponsoring groups or individuals, except when funds directly support the Library.
- Sales of products or services during programs are prohibited, with the following exceptions:
 - Authors selling books they have written.
 - Performers offering recordings for sale.
 - Artists selling their artwork.
 - Local artisanal products that are directly related to programming or events.

Program Development, Coordination, and Supervision

- Programs are developed with attention to quality, balance, and the interests of diverse audiences.
- Promotion of programs may include names or affiliations of presenters or organizations; this does not constitute endorsement, only acknowledgment.
- Staff coordinate logistics, promotion, and supervision to ensure accessibility and professionalism.

Program Access

- All library-sponsored programs are free and open to the public.
- Access is consistent with protections against discrimination outlined in section 46a-64 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
- Programs are designed to provide equitable opportunities for residents of all ages and backgrounds.

Virtual Programs

- The Library may offer virtual programs to expand accessibility and reach.
- The same standards of quality, intellectual freedom, and inclusivity apply to virtual programs as to in-person ones.

Program Materials

- Supplementary materials (handouts, recordings, or digital resources) may be provided in conjunction with programs.
- Materials reflect the same standards as the Library's collection and are intended for educational and informational purposes.

Program Evaluation

- Programs are regularly evaluated for quality, relevance, and community impact.
- Feedback from participants is considered in planning future programs.
- Requests to reconsider programs are governed by the Library's material review and reconsideration policy and are limited to individual residents of the Town of Ledyard.

Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read, and Freedom to View

This policy aligns with the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read Statement, and Freedom to View Statement, affirming the Library's commitment to intellectual freedom and free expression.