

East Providence Public Library Library-Initiated Programs and Displays Policy

Purpose

This policy provides a basis for the selection of displays and programs facilitated by library staff, informs the public about the principles and criteria upon which these decisions are made, and promotes the purposes of the library's mission, which is:

The mission of the East Providence Public Library is to provide equal access to a wide range of materials and services, to facilitate self-education and to promote lifelong learning. The Library is dedicated to the special interests of children and their caregivers encouraging a love of reading and learning. Emphasis is placed on supplying current reading materials in various formats, including emerging technology, and providing resources to improve quality of life. Programs on a variety of topics are offered in a welcoming, clean, safe environment for all.

Library initiated programs and displays support our mission by providing the public with additional opportunities for accessing information, education and entertainment. Programs and displays also introduce the community to library resources and local services.

The Library actively seeks to include a variety of programming options representing diversity of genres, formats, ideas, and expressions with a multitude of viewpoints and cultural perspectives that reflect the diversity in our community.

Programs and displays can be on site, off site or online and provided by library staff, volunteers, or community partners, or in collaboration with other City departments.

Responsibility

Ultimate responsibility for programming and displays at the Library rests with the Library Director, under the designated authority of the Board of Trustees. The day-to-day responsibility is shared by library staff throughout the system.

Criteria

Library staff uses the following criteria in making decisions about displays and programs:

- Relevance to the Library's vision, mission, goals, and objectives
- Availability of space
- Quality
- Presenter background/qualifications
- Budget

- Relevance to community interests, needs, and issues
- Historical, cultural, or educational significance
- Connection to other community or national programs, exhibitions or events
- Relation to Library collections, resources, exhibits, and services

The Library will strive to include a wide spectrum of opinions and viewpoints in library-initiated programs and displays and seeks to appeal to a range of ages, interests, and information needs. Library-initiated programs and displays should not exclude topics solely because they may be considered to be controversial. Acceptance of a display by the Library does not constitute an endorsement by the East Providence Public Library of the content or views expressed.

Library-initiated programs and displays are not for commercial, religious, or partisan political purposes nor for the solicitation of business.

Library use of display space takes precedence over any other use.

Access

All library initiated programs are free and open to the public. The Library Director may approve a fee for certain programs to cover the cost of materials and supplies. Any collection and retention of program participants' personal information should be on an opt-in basis only. Subject to registration caps, and age requirements for children's programs, any member of the public may attend programs offered unless those programs have additional restrictions (e.g., an advanced class for a skill-based program).

Any individual may propose an idea, recommendation, or suggestion for a program or display. Such proposals shall be provided in writing to the Library Director.

Reconsideration

Any individual who objects to the content of a library-initiated program or display is invited to complete a Reconsideration of Programs/Services form available on our website or by obtaining a physical copy at the library. The request will be reviewed by the Director, who will respond within 30 days. Written appeals to the Director's decision may be made to the Library Board of Trustees. The East Providence Public Library reports challenges to public and professional offices including the American Library Association Office for Intellectual Freedom and the Rhode Island Library Association.

Approved by the Library Board of Trustees March 2023