

Display Policy

Purpose

The purpose of Union Free Public Library Display Policy is to provide guidelines for any displays erected at the Library by Library Staff or by outside groups. This policy should make the guidelines transparent to the public, and better inform them about how decisions regarding displays are made. Decisions regarding displays will be guided by our institution's goals:

- To collaborate with local organizations in order to support the healthy growth and education of our community;
- To be flexible and mindful of changing community needs, and to be supportive of diverse needs within the community;
- To meet the needs of our users by providing updated and engaging services, technologies, exhibits, and programs, and to provide any materials that help to meet its objectives;
- To serve all residents of the community without prejudice. Service will not be denied or abridged because of religious, racial, social, economic, or political status.

Principles and Criteria

Library displays should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all residents; should represent a wide range of varied and diverging viewpoints; and should provide access to content that is relevant to the research, independent interests and educational needs of residents. Displays are important as resources for voluntary inquiry and the dissemination of information and ideas, and to promote free expression and free access to ideas by residents.

Library Sponsored Displays

It may be the responsibility of library staff members to research, propose, design, and/or create a library-sponsored display. Librarians are professionally trained in disseminating information, and professionally trained to curate and develop thoughtful displays. Topics should be wide ranging in the material that they cover, and should be informative, engaging, and enriching. Special consideration may be given to seasonally appropriate topics, topics related to literature, or topics related to local culture or history. The fact that something is displayed in the library does not imply an endorsement in the themes presented by any library staff member, board member, or by the Town of Union.

Displays by Community Groups or Members of the Public

Community members and groups are welcome to propose and design displays. Groups or individuals which prioritize the community's needs (including but not limited to civic groups, cultural groups, social welfare groups, and outreach groups from the local school) will be given priority. Final say on what may be displayed, and according to what timeline, lies with the Library Director, and displays must be approved in advance of being shown. Our limited square footage is always a consideration. There are no separate community rooms or enclosed display cases, so many spaces must serve multi-purposes; displays which hinder the efficient or safe functioning of the library space will not be allowed. Displays that promote any viewpoint or event that serves to exclude anyone or maliciously target any

person or group of persons, will not be approved. Displays should not be commercial in nature, and should not promote, proselytize, or oppose any one religion. Displays should ideally consist of original artwork or crafts, notices of importance to the Library community, and items of local historical importance. The Library, Town, Library Board, and Library Staff are not liable for any damages or loss of display items.

Intellectual Freedom and Censorship

The library recognizes that what may be appealing to one person may be considered controversial or distasteful to another. While individuals have the right to choose not to engage with a display, they may not restrict the access of another person. All library visitors have the right to access information displayed at the library. Display materials will not be removed based solely on an individual's preferences or disapproval. Selection of materials will not be inhibited by the possibility that materials may inadvertently come into the possession of or be seen by minors; it is the parents' or guardians' responsibility to determine which library materials are appropriate for their children. The Library supports intellectual freedom and endorses the American Library Association (ALA) Freedom to Read Statement, Freedom to View Statement, the Library Bill of Rights and all relevant interpretations. No library material, display, or program shall be removed, or programs be cancelled, because of origin, background, or viewpoints expressed in such material, display, or program or because of the origin, background, or viewpoints of the creator of such material, display, or program.

Reconsideration of Library Displays

The Library limits requests to reconsider a material, display, or program to residents of the Town of Union. We value the input of our community members, and encourage those with concerns to follow the procedures for reconsideration requests outlined in the Library Material Review and Reconsideration Policy.

If a controversy arises over any library display, the display will not be removed nor access to it be limited, while the procedures for reconsideration are followed and until a final decision is made by the Library Director.

All library materials are evaluated and made accessible in accordance with the protections against discrimination set forth in section 46a-64 of the general statutes.

Reconsideration Requests are not confidential patron records under section 11-25 of the general statutes.