

Danbury Library's Display Policy

PURPOSE:

The Danbury Public Library's display policy provides a basis for the display of library materials by librarians, informs the public about the principles and criteria upon which these decisions are made, and promotes the purpose of the library's mission to be a "welcoming destination, responsive to the varied needs of our city's diverse community, and a source of inspiration through words and ideas."

POLICY:

The Danbury Library's displays are created and curated by library staff who are professionally trained to curate and develop displays. The staff recognizes the significance of providing timely and responsive library displays for the interest, information and enlightenment of all residents in Danbury's diverse community. Displays are provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all residents. Displays represent a wide range of varied and diverging viewpoints and provide access to content that is timely and relevant to the research, independent interests and educational needs of residents, as well as intellectual freedom and equitable access to diverse materials. Library displays act as resources for voluntary patron inquiry and the dissemination of information and ideas to promote free expression and free access by residents. The Library will strive to include a wide spectrum of opinions and viewpoints in library-initiated displays, as well as offer displays and exhibits that appeal to a range of ages, interests, and informational needs. Library-initiated displays and exhibits should not exclude topics, books, media, and other resources solely because they may be considered controversial. 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, including, but not limited to, discrimination based on race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability.

PRINCIPLES and CRITERIA:

The final responsibility for the display of library materials is held by the library director, but day-to-day responsibility is shared by library employees and librarians throughout the library that are professionally trained to curate and develop displays. Library staff use the following criteria in making decisions about display topics, materials, and accompanying resources.

Librarians are professionally trained to curate and develop a collection that provides residents with access to the widest array of library and other educational materials and

uses the following criteria in making decisions about display topics, materials, and accompanying resources:

- Community needs and interest
- Local and national events
- Historical, cultural, or educational significance
- Connection to other community or national programs, exhibitions, or events
- Relation to library collections, resources, exhibits, and programs
- Availability of display space

The library provides displays created or curated by librarians or staff members of the public library. The Danbury Library recognizes the distinction between public displays and library displays; the library does not permit displays to be created by members of the public or community groups. Acceptance of a display or exhibit topic by the library does not constitute an endorsement by the Danbury Public Library of the content of the display or exhibit, or of the views expressed in the materials on display.

Intellectual Freedom and Censorship

Danbury Library provides a useful collection of materials representing a wide range of varied and diverging viewpoints for the information, enrichment, and enlightenment of all residents and represents a wide range of varied and diverging viewpoints in the collection as a whole. The inclusion of an item in the Library's collection in no way implies endorsement of its author, contents or views. Furthermore, the exclusion of an item does not imply disapproval. The Library recognizes that tastes vary widely in a given community, and an item which is pleasing to one borrower may be unacceptable to another; however, no one person or group has the right to impose standards on other members of the public. Decisions are not made on the basis of any anticipated approval or disapproval, but solely on the merits of the work in relation to the building of the collection that will serve the interests of the public. Materials will be provided which appeal to library users of all backgrounds, ages and interests, and will be equally available. It is the right of the individual patron not to read, view or hear materials that the individual considers objectionable. It is never the right of any library patron or patrons to deny access to library materials to others. The freedom to choose from a broad range of informational and artistic materials will not be abridged. When evaluating library materials the Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read, and Freedom to View statements from the American Library Association are used as guiding documents.

The Danbury Library welcomes expressions of opinion concerning materials, programs or displays. A Danbury resident with a vested interest who wishes that a specific item, program or display be reconsidered is asked to complete and submit a Reconsideration Form. The form requires that the individual initiating the reconsideration to specify which

portions of such material the individual objects to, and provide an explanation of the reasons for such objection. Such individual shall not submit a request for reconsideration form without including their full legal name, address, and telephone number. In accordance with **Public Act 25-168 Sec. 322, 323**, Danbury Library abides by the following statutory requirements:

- No library material, display or program shall be removed, or programs be cancelled, because of the 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.
- Library materials, displays and programs shall only be excluded for legitimate pedagogical purposes or for professionally accepted standards of collection maintenance practices as adopted in the collection development and maintenance policy or the display and program policy.
- The materials review and reconsideration process for library cardholders/town residents to challenge any library material, display or program shall neither favor nor disfavor any group based on protected characteristics.
- The individual completing a reconsideration form must include specific information about which portion or portions of such material they object to and provide an explanation of the reasons for such objection. The Request for Reconsideration form must include the individual's full legal name, address and telephone number.
- Reconsideration requests are not confidential patron records under section 11-25 of the general statutes.
- Any library material being challenged will remain available in the library according to its catalog record and be available for a resident to reserve, check out or access until a final decision is made by the Library Board of Trustees and Director.

Selection of materials will not be inhibited by the possibility that materials may inadvertently come into the possession of or be seen by minors. No one can exercise censorship to restrict access to library materials by others. It is the parents' or guardians' responsibility to determine which library materials are appropriate for their children. The Danbury Public 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.

Procedures for the Questioning of Library Displays by Patrons

The Library limits consideration of requests to reconsider material, displays or programs to individuals residents of Danbury. Please see our Statement of Concern Policy and reconsideration form for further information on this process.

For more information about reconsideration of materials, please see our "Material Review and Reconsideration" Policy and form.

"This policy will be reviewed and updated at least every five years as required by state directives."

Appendix

1. "Library Bill of Rights," American Library Association, June 30, 2006.

<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill>

2. "The Freedom to Read Statement," American Library Association, July 26, 2006.

<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomreadstatement>

3. "Freedom to View Statement," American Library Association, May 29, 2007.

<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomviewstatement>

4. "Code of Ethics," American Library Association, June 29, 2021.

<https://www.ala.org/tools/ethics>

Approved by the Library Board of Directors 10/9/25