



West Hartford Public Library Display Policy

Purpose

As a center for reading, learning, creating, and celebrating culture, the West Hartford Public Library ("Library") is a space where everyone will have the opportunity to pursue their interests, connect with the community, and access ideas and information freely. Library displays reflect and support this vision by offering curated exhibits that highlight diverse resources, create teachable moments, and spark curiosity across all ages.

The purpose of the West Hartford Public Library Display Policy is to guide Library staff and inform the public of the principles and criteria upon which Library displays are developed, selected, displayed, and managed in furtherance of the Library's mission to serve the informational, educational, and recreational needs of the community while upholding principles of intellectual freedom and inclusivity.

Definition of a Display

Library displays refer to a temporary arrangement of Library materials created and curated by Library staff to inform, educate or engage the public on topics of interest. Library staff retain full responsibility for the content and placement of displays.

Art created by members of the public or community groups, and exhibited in the Library, is separate and distinctive from that created by Library staff. Art exhibited at the Library is done so in accordance with the Library's Gallery Exhibit Procedures.

Scope

This policy applies to all Library displays regardless of venue.

Principles and Criteria

Library displays are provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all residents. The Library aims to represent a wide range of varied and diverging viewpoints and provide access to content that is relevant to the research, independent interests, and educational needs of residents.

The Library recognizes the importance of displays and programs as resources for voluntary inquiry and the dissemination of information and ideas and to promote free expression and free access to ideas by residents.

The development of Library displays is an interpretive process based on the professional knowledge and judgment of staff under the overall direction of the Director. Library staff are professionally trained to curate and develop displays using the following guidelines and considerations:

- Relevance of themes/topics and materials to:
 - o community needs and interests
 - o library programming, services, initiatives, or resources
 - o current or historical events
 - o culturally significant events, issues, or trends
 - o the promotion of lifelong learning
 - o the inclusion of diverse perspectives and interests
- Aesthetic appeal of content and signage
- Availability of materials and display space

Library staff curate and rotate displays regularly to ensure they remain current, engaging, and responsive to the community's needs and interests. Themes may align with seasonal events, Library programs, current issues, or historical anniversaries. Among the rotating displays, the *Staff Picks* display reflects the varied reading interests and personal recommendations of Library staff.

Suggestions for display themes and materials from residents are welcome and are given serious consideration using the aforementioned guidelines. Library staff may partner with other community agencies, organizations, educational institutions, or individuals to develop displays; however, final decisions regarding the content of the display rest with the Library staff.

Intellectual Freedom and Censorship

The Library upholds the principles of intellectual freedom, as set forth by the American Library Association's *Library Bill of Rights*, *Freedom to Read Statement* and *Freedom to View Statement* (see the Collection Development and Maintenance Policy). All Library materials are evaluated and made accessible in accordance with the protections against discrimination set forth in Connecticut General Statutes §46a-64.

The Library opposes attempts by individuals or groups to censor items in Library displays. The selection of display materials is predicated on our patrons' right to access information and freedom from censorship. Selections will not be made on the basis of anticipated approval or disapproval, but solely on the merits of the work in relation to the aforementioned criteria.

The Library does not endorse every thought, expression, or belief represented in the Library's displays and topics, and the Library does not accept responsibility for ensuring that all points of view are represented in any single display. It is the right of the individual to choose what materials they access. Responsibility for the reading, viewing, and listening of children and teens rests with their parents or legal guardians.

Procedures for the Questioning of Library Displays by Patrons

The Library limits consideration of requests to reconsider material, displays, or programs to individuals residing in West Hartford. Please refer to the Library's Collection Development and Maintenance Policy and Reconsideration Form for additional information on this process.

This policy is in accordance with Section 322 of Public Act 25-168, as that Public Act may be codified, recodified or amended from time to time.

Adopted by the West Hartford Public Library Board on October 27, 2025