

1.11 DISPLAY POLICY

Purpose

The North Branford Public Libraries' ("NBPL" or "the Library") philosophy of open access to information and ideas extends to Library displays. NBPL creates displays to further its goals of inspiring curiosity, discovery, and lifelong learning. It maintains several Library-initiated display areas that aim to further NBPL's mission, showcase its collections, promote Library services and programs, and highlight cultural, educational, and local interests.

NBPL recognizes the importance of displays as resources for voluntary inquiry, independent ideas, the dissemination of information, and the promotion of free expression and access to ideas by residents. Curated displays by Library staff play an essential role in informing and inspiring individuals of all ages and diverse backgrounds, providing access to content relevant to the research, independent interests, and educational needs of residents.

Dedicated displays, as well as books displayed on Library shelves, are provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all residents and represent a wide range of varied and diverging viewpoints, expressions, opinions, interests, and formats.

This policy provides a basis to assist NBPL staff with the planning and implementation of exhibiting topics, resources, and related materials, and seeks to inform the public about the principles and criteria that guide the planning process.

Principles and Criteria

Library displays are planned, curated, and developed by professionally trained Library staff. The staff will use the following criteria in making decisions about display topics, materials, and accompanying resources:

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

In addition, the Library draws upon other community resources in developing displays and may partner with community agencies, organizations, educational institutions, or individuals to develop and present co-sponsored displays and exhibits.

The Library provides displays curated by Library staff, as well as allowing displays created by members of the public or community groups to be exhibited in the public Library. Acceptance of a display or the inclusion of an item in a display does not constitute an endorsement by NBPL of the content of the display or of the views expressed in the materials on display.

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.

Intellectual Freedom and Censorship

The North Branford Public Libraries support intellectual freedom and endorse the American Library Association's (ALA) *Freedom to Read Statement*, *Freedom to View Statement*, the *Library Bill of Rights*, and all relevant interpretations.

The Library preserves the right of citizens to obtain information on all sides of potentially controversial issues so that each individual can decide for themselves the value of opposing ideas. The selection of Library materials is predicated on the patron's right of access to information and freedom from censorship.

The Library has a responsibility to protect the rights of all patrons. The choice of Library materials by patrons is an individual matter, and no one may exercise censorship to restrict access to Library materials by others. The Library recognizes that some materials may be controversial or offensive to an individual but maintains that individuals can apply their values only to themselves. Displays that may be considered frank or offensive to some are permitted if they adhere to the Library's *Display Policy* and contribute to the furtherance of its mission.

Parents, caregivers, and legal guardians have the right and responsibility to restrict the access of their children to Library resources. The display of materials is not inhibited by the possibility that particular works may inadvertently be seen by, or come into the possession of, children and young adults.

Requests for Reconsideration

Patrons who request the reconsideration of a Library display are encouraged to discuss their concerns with a Librarian or the Library Director. If the patron is not satisfied with the outcome of those discussions, they must complete and sign the *Request for Reconsideration* form. Requests for review of specific displays will be considered in the same manner as requests for reconsideration of materials, as outlined in the *Material Review and Reconsideration Policy*. Materials and displays under review will remain in place until a determination can be made.

The Library limits consideration of requests to reconsider materials, programs, or displays to residents of North Branford. Please refer to the *Material Review and Reconsideration Policy* for further information on this process.

Approved by the Library Board: September 10, 2025