

BURLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY DISPLAY POLICY

PURPOSE

The Burlington Public Library's Display Policy serves to articulate the principles and criteria that guide the Burlington Public Library staff in the creation of displays of library materials and to inform the public about those standards.

PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA

The Burlington Public Library's mission is to be the best small-town public library we can be through exceptional service, relevant resources, and cultural, social, and educational programming for the community.

In support of this mission, the Library develops its collection and related displays to meet the diverse needs, interests, and enrichment of people of all ages who live in or pay taxes in the town of Burlington, Connecticut. Displays highlight the range of the Library's collection and are designed to promote voluntary inquiry, encourage discovery, and inspire a lifelong love of reading and learning.

In accordance with Connecticut Public Act 25-168, library displays shall:

- Be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all residents.
- Represent a wide range of varied and diverging viewpoints.
- Provide access to content relevant to the research, independent interests, and educational needs of residents.

Library displays provide equitable access to materials that support research, independent interests, and educational pursuits. They also encourage exploration by drawing attention to resources that patrons may not otherwise encounter, helping connect the community with ideas, stories, and perspectives that reflect both local interests and the wider world.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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

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

The library may partner with other community agencies, organizations, educational institutions, or individuals to develop and present co-sponsored displays and exhibits; however, in such collaborations the library maintains responsibility for the display. Displays of library materials will not be curated solely by outside individuals or organizations.

Displays and materials shall not be excluded, removed, or canceled on the basis of the origin, background, or views of the person(s) contributing to their creation, nor solely because an individual finds the material offensive. Displays may only be excluded or removed for legitimate pedagogical reasons or in accordance with collection or display maintenance standards as set forth in library policy.

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM AND CENSORSHIP

The library will create displays and exhibits that appeal to a range of ages and information needs and represent a varied range of topics, genres, and areas of interest. Displays and exhibits should not exclude topics, books, media, and other resources solely because they may be considered controversial.

Displays outside of the children's section of the library will not be inhibited by the possibility that materials may be seen or come into the possession of minors. It is the responsibility of parents or guardians to determine which library materials are appropriate for their own children and monitor their access to materials. More information about the choices of library materials by minors, and the library's commitment to intellectual freedom, can be found in the Collection Development and Maintenance Policy.

All library materials are evaluated and made accessible in accordance with the protections against discrimination set forth in section 46a-64 of the Connecticut General Statutes, including, but not limited to, discrimination based on race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability. Additionally, the Burlington Public Library subscribes to and affirms the Library Bill of Rights and its interpretations, the Intellectual Freedom Statement, the Freedom to Read Statement, and the Freedom to View Statement adopted by the American Library Association.

REQUESTS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY DISPLAYS

Formal complaints about library displays must be made in writing on the form provided by the library. The form must be filled out by a Burlington resident or taxpayer.

The request form shall require the complainant to identify the specific item(s) or portion(s) objected to, state the reasons for objection, and provide the complainant's name, address, and telephone number. Requests for reconsideration are not considered confidential patron records under section 11-25 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Challenged materials or displays shall remain available and accessible to the public until a final decision has been rendered.

Upon receipt of a request for reconsideration, the Library Director shall review the request, read or examine the challenged material in its entirety, evaluate it against this policy, and render a written decision within 60 days. A copy of the decision shall be provided to the complainant.

If the complainant is not satisfied with the Library Director's decision, they may appeal in writing to the Library Board of Directors. The Board shall review the decision, consult as appropriate with the Connecticut State Librarian, the Connecticut Library Association, the Association of Connecticut Library Boards, or other relevant organizations, and issue a final written decision with reasons stated.

No material, display, or program shall be reconsidered more than once in a three-year period, and the Library Director may consolidate multiple reconsideration requests for the same material.

Please see the Review and Reconsideration Policy for further information on this process.

STAFF PROTECTIONS

Library staff and the Library Director who act in good faith in carrying out this policy shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability, and from any claims or legal proceedings of any nature, arising from such actions.

POLICY ACCESS AND REVIEW

This policy shall be publicly available on the Burlington Public Library or Town of Burlington website, and in print at the Library.

The Burlington Board of Library Directors shall review and, if necessary, update this policy at least once every five years.

Approved by the Board of Library Directors 11/4/2025