

## LIBRARY DISPLAY POLICY

### **Purpose:**

The Cheshire Public Library offers a wide variety of displays for patrons of all ages as a means of promoting its mission of lifelong learning and community engagement. The Cheshire Public Library's Display Policy outlines the criteria used by Library staff for creating displays as well as informs the public about the principles used to make those decisions.

### **Library Displays:**

Displays highlight special sections of the collection often featuring a variety of print and media materials. They are provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all residents. They will showcase materials that seek to enrich, educate and entertain.

Library displays are often topical, representing a wide range of varied and diverging viewpoints and opinions. They provide access to content that is relevant to the research, independent interests, and educational needs of residents. Library displays are important resources for voluntary inquiry and the dissemination of information and ideas. They promote free expression and free access to ideas by residents.

### **Intellectual Freedom and Censorship:**

These Library displays and exhibits are meant to appeal to a wide range of ages, interests, and information needs. 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. Library initiated displays will not exclude topics, books, media, and other resources solely because they may be considered controversial. Selections will not be made based on anticipated approval or disapproval but on the merits of the material itself. The Cheshire 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.

The choice of library materials by patrons is an individual matter. 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. The selection of Library materials is predicated on the patron's right of access to information and freedom from censorship. Selections will not be made based on anticipated approval or disapproval, but on the merits of the Library material itself.

### **Display Curation:**

The Library Director is ultimately responsible for the display of Library materials and their content but day-to-day responsibility of creating the displays is shared by Library staff. Library staff are professionally trained to curate and develop displays and programs. Any librarian or staff member of a public library who, in good faith, implements the policies described in this section shall be immune from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed and shall have the same immunity with respect to any judicial proceeding that results from such implementation.

## **Principles and Criteria:**

- Community interests and needs
- Historical, cultural, or educational significance
- Availability of display space
- Connection to other communities or national programs, exhibitions, or events
- Currency and timeliness of content

Displays created by members of the public or community groups are at times exhibited in the Library via our community bulletin board. Acceptance of a display or exhibit topic by the Library does not constitute an endorsement by the Cheshire Public Library of the display or exhibit's content or 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 Conn. Gen. Stat. §46a-64 (2019).

## **Objection to Library displays:**

The Cheshire Public Library limits consideration of requests to reconsider displays or programs to individual residents of Cheshire. Please see our [Material Review and Reconsideration Policy](#) for more information.