



BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY DISPLAY POLICY

Purpose:

The purpose of the Bridgeport Public Library display policy is to provide guidance for the display of library materials, flyers and posters by library staff, and to inform the public about the principles and criteria upon which these decisions are made, and to promote the purpose of the mission of the Library, which is “to provide open access to free resources and programs through knowledgeable staff, to promote literacy in all its forms, written, digital, financial and civic, to connect communities, enable lifelong learning, enrich lives and cultivate curiosity.”

Policy:

Bridgeport Public Library recognizes the importance of displays as resources for voluntary inquiry and the dissemination of information and ideas and to promote free expression and free access to ideas by residents. With a strong focus on encouraging the love of reading, lifelong learning, and creativity, the Library establishes responsive connection between the diverse needs of the Bridgeport community, the library’s vast collections, our digital services, and an array of engaging programming. A key aspect of our approach is the creation of thoughtfully curated displays, which play an essential role in informing and inspiring individuals of all ages and diverse backgrounds. Displays are provided for the interest, information and enlightenment of all residents, 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.

Principles and Criteria:

The final responsibility for the display of library materials rests with the Library Director, but day-to-day responsibility is shared by library employees throughout the library that are professionally trained to curate and develop displays. Library staff uses 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 and programs
- Relation to library collections, resources, exhibits, and programs
- The Library may partner with other community agencies, organizations, educational institutions, or individuals to develop and present co-sponsored displays and exhibits

Bridgeport Public Library strives to include a wide spectrum of opinions and viewpoints in library-initiated displays and exhibits, as well as offer displays and exhibits that appeal to a range of ages, interests, and information needs. Library-initiated displays and exhibits should not exclude topics, books, media, and other resources solely because they may be considered to be controversial.

The Library provides displays and exhibits curated by librarians or staff members of the public library 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 exhibit topic by the Library does not constitute an

endorsement by Bridgeport Public Library of the content of the display or exhibit, 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 choice of library materials by patrons is an individual matter. Bridgeport Public 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 customer's right of access to information and freedom from censorship. Selections will not be made on the basis of anticipated approval or disapproval, but on the merits of the material itself.

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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 to others. It is the parents' or guardians' responsibility to determine which library materials are appropriate for their children. Bridgeport 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.

Expressions of Concern:

At times, patrons may have concerns about a display in the library. Procedures to address such concerns are guided by the policy set forth in Bridgeport Public Library's Policy on Library Material Review and Reconsideration. This policy and a form to request a review and reconsideration of library material may be found on the library's website. All such concerns should be directed to the Library Director. If, after discussion with the Library Director the patron requests further action, a Library Material Review and Reconsideration Policy form may be submitted to the Library Director. Bridgeport Public Library limits consideration of requests to reconsider materials, displays or programs to individual residents of the City of Bridgeport.

Approved by State Library Board 10/23/2025
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