

EASTON PUBLIC LIBRARY DISPLAY POLICY

Purpose:

The Easton Public Library's Display Policy provides a basis for the display of Library materials by Library staff, informs the public about the principles and criteria upon which these decisions are made, and promotes the purposes of the library's mission.

Policy:

The Easton 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. Our creation of thoughtfully curated displays is provided for the interest, information and enlightenment of all residents. These displays 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 is held by the Library Director, but day-to-day responsibility is shared by librarians, who 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, or events
- Relation to library collections, resources, exhibits, and programs
- Holidays & seasonal significance

The Library may partner with other community agencies, organizations, educational institutions, or individuals to develop and present co-sponsored displays and exhibits.

There is a difference between Library displays that are created or curated by librarians and those created by members of the public or community. For example, the Library features rotating art exhibits throughout the year in its two meeting rooms. These exhibits are curated by the Easton Arts Council and affiliated volunteers, not by Library staff. Acceptance of a display or exhibit topic by the Library does not constitute an endorsement by the Easton Public Library of the content of the display or exhibit, or of the views expressed in the materials on display.

Intellectual Freedom and Censorship:

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 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.

The Library will strive 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.

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 by others. It is the parents' or guardians' responsibility to determine which Library materials are appropriate for their children. The Easton 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.

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.

Procedures for the Questioning of Library Displays by Patrons:

The Library limits consideration of requests to reconsider material, displays, or programs to individuals who are residents of Easton, CT. Please see our Material Review and Reconsideration Policy for further information on this process.

Adopted by the Library Board of Trustees on October 14, 2025.