

MT. LEBANON PUBLIC LIBRARY

POLICY NUMBER: 32

TITLE: Library Displays Policy

DATE ISSUED: July 16, 2024

PURPOSE: To provide guidance and direction to the Library staff for the display of Library materials in conjunction with our Library's collection; to inform the public about the principles and criteria upon which displays are created.

REFERENCES:

1. Mt. Lebanon Public Library Policy Number 20, "Collection Development Policy"

STATEMENT OF POLICY:

1. Mission and Statement of Purpose:

- 1.1. Mt. Lebanon Public Library (MLPL) will provide for all patrons an inclusive, welcoming environment of intellectual enrichment, creativity and enjoyment, and a forum to exchange ideas by providing top-tier programs, materials, services, and community support. It strives to provide robust, dynamic collections of physical and electronic resources from diverse perspectives and voices that meet the needs of today's patrons, from young children to seniors.
- 1.2. It recognizes that the freedom to read is essential in a democracy, and it subscribes to the Library Bill of Rights and to the Freedom to Read Statement adopted by the American Library Association. The Library recognizes the attached interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights as guidance for carrying out the Bill of Rights.
- 1.3. In order to meet this mission, we will intentionally develop displays that recognize, reflect, and value the diverse experiences and multiple identities within our community. These identities and experiences include, but are not limited to; race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, culture, language, socioeconomic status, level of education, religion, age and size. By purposefully developing diverse, equitable, and inclusive displays the uniqueness of the Library experience is supported for each individual.

2. Display Composition Criteria:

- 2.1. The Library does not sanction particular beliefs or views, nor is the selection of any given item to include in a display equivalent to an endorsement of the author's or creator's viewpoint.
- 2.2. The Library's collection of materials is the primary source for resources to be used in Library displays and materials are subject to the Library's collection

development policy referenced above. Other resources may be included at the discretion of the librarians.

- 2.3. In addition, the Library draws upon other community resources in developing displays and exhibits, and may partner with other community agencies, organizations, education institutions, or individuals to develop and present co-sponsored displays and exhibits.
- 2.4. Display topics, materials, and accompanying resources are entirely at the discretion of the Library staff members, who will take the following factors into consideration:
 - 2.4.1. Community needs and interest
 - 2.4.2. Alignment to the Library's vision and mission statement (4.3)
 - 2.4.3. Historical, cultural, or educational significance
 - 2.4.4. Relation to Library collections, resources, exhibits, and programs
 - 2.4.5. Connection to other community or national programs, exhibitions, or events
 - 2.4.6. Availability of display space
 - 2.4.7. Appeal to a range of ages, interests, and needs.

3. Statements of Concern:

- 3.1. There may be occasions when a member of the community may be concerned about a particular display at the Library or a particular item in a display that is not covered by the Library's Collection Development Policy. If a patron wishes to express concern about a display or part of a display at the Library or created by the Library at an off-site location, a form is available online on the Library's website. This form must be completed in its entirety and returned to a Library staff member or to the Director. Once the form is received, the Director will review the request, using the criteria outlined in this and other applicable Library policies. The Director will then provide a written response to the patron.
- 3.2. If the patron indicates to the Library Director they are not satisfied at this level, the Library Board of Trustees will convene a review committee including the Director, at least two Board members, and [at the Board's discretion] an outside party with expertise in the field. The Library Board review committee's decision is final, and the patron will be notified of the decision. The municipal commission does not make operational decisions for the Library, nor does it make decisions about materials in the Library's collection.

4. Appendices:

- 4.1. *Library Bill of Rights and Interpretations*
<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/Librarybill>
- 4.2. *Mt. Lebanon Public Library Statement of Concern Form*
<https://mtlebanonlibrary.org/DocumentCenter/View/4058>
- 4.3 *Mt. Lebanon Public Library Vision and Mission Statement*
<https://mtlebanonlibrary.org/186/Vision-Mission-and-Strategic-Plan>
- 4.4 *Freedom to Read Statement*
<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomreadstatement>