

Ridgefield Library Display Policy

Purpose

The Ridgefield 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, which is: "The Ridgefield Library anticipates and meets the evolving needs of our community. We are an essential partner and the place where people discover, question, learn and connect."

Policy

The Ridgefield 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, Library displays establish responsive connections between the diverse needs of our community and the Library's collections, digital services and engaging programming. A key aspect of the Library's approach is the creation of thoughtfully curated displays, which play an essential role in informing and inspiring individuals of all ages and diverse backgrounds. These displays serve as a tangible expression of the Library's dedication to our community and exemplify our belief that a vibrant library contributes to a strong community. 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.

Scope

This Policy applies to all Library staff created displays of Library materials. The Library provides displays created or curated by Librarians or staff members. The Library generally does not exhibit displays created by members of the public or community groups. Should a public-created display be accepted, that acceptance of a display or exhibit topic by the Library does not constitute an endorsement by the Library of the content of the display or exhibit, or of the views expressed in the materials on display and such a display must meet these policy requirements.

Displays of art in the Library are governed by the [Ridgefield Library Art in the Library Policy](#).

Principles and Criteria

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

- Availability of display space
- Community needs and interest
- Connection to other community or national programs, exhibitions or events

- Historical, cultural or educational significance
- Partnerships. The Library may partner with other community agencies, organizations, educational institutions or individuals to develop and present co-sponsored displays and exhibits.
- Relation to Library collections, resources, exhibits and programs

The Library will strive to include a wide range of opinions and viewpoints in Library displays and exhibits, as well as offer displays and exhibits that appeal to a range of ages, interests and information needs. Library displays and exhibits should not exclude topics, books, media, and other resources solely because they may be considered to be controversial. All Library materials are evaluated and made accessible in accordance with the protections against discrimination set forth in section 46a-64 of the CT General Statutes.

The Library welcomes display suggestions from those who reside in Ridgefield. However, the Library is not obligated to create displays from all public suggestions. All such public suggestions will be considered using the same principles and criteria as listed for display creation. Additional considerations may include timing, staffing and collection resources and planned display schedule as well as other considerations. The Library is not obligated to create displays for all holidays, observances or monthly national recognitions.

Intellectual Freedom and Censorship

The choice of library materials by patrons is an individual matter. The Library maintains that individuals can apply their values only to themselves. The selection of library materials for display 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.

It is the parents' or guardians' responsibility to determine which library materials are appropriate for their children. The Ridgefield Library supports intellectual freedom and endorses the [American Library Association \(ALA\) Freedom to Read Statement](#), the [ALA Freedom to View Statement](#), the [ALA Library Bill of Rights](#) and all relevant interpretations.

Procedures for the Questioning of Library Displays by Patrons

The Library limits consideration of requests to reconsider material, displays or programs to those who reside in Ridgefield. Please see our [Material, Program or Display Review and Reconsideration Policy](#) for further information on this process.

The Ridgefield Library Board of Directors is responsible for establishing policies which govern Library operations and establish rules of conduct to protect the rights and safety of library patrons, volunteers, and staff, and for preserving and protecting the Library's materials, equipment, facilities, and grounds. Policy updated November 17, 2025, Ridgefield Library Board of Directors. To be reviewed at least every five years.