

Purpose

The Weston Public Library's mission is to provide a broad range of informational, educational, technological, social, and recreational resources to serve the diverse needs of the community. This policy provides Library staff, Friends of the Weston Public Library, Weston Town Hall departments, and other groups and agencies working with the Library with the necessary guidelines to assist them with the development of Library programs and displays. It also informs the public about the principles and criteria for which programs and displays are selected.

Intellectual Freedom and Censorship

The Weston Public Library is dedicated to the protection of the free expression of ideas and the private reading, listening, and viewing rights of individuals. The Weston Public Library has adopted the American Library Association's guidelines for public access to information set forth in the [Library Bill of Rights](#), [Freedom to Read](#), and [Freedom to View](#).

Principles and Criteria

The Weston Public Library recognizes that Library displays and programs are provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all residents. Library displays and programs provide access to content that is relevant to the research, independent interests, and educational needs of residents. The Library recognizes the importance of displays and programs as a resource for voluntary inquiry and the dissemination of information and ideas and to promote free expression and free access to ideas by residents.

Programming and displays are an integral component of library service that:

- Expand the Library's role as a community resource
- Provide opportunities for lifelong learning
- Introduce people to Library resources
- Provide entertainment
- Expand the visibility of the Library
- Encourage participation in civic life
- Create community connections
- Offer equitable access to music, art, and culture

All Library materials, displays, and programs are evaluated and made accessible in accordance with the protections against discrimination set forth in section 46a-64 of the general statutes.

Roles and Responsibilities

The ultimate responsibility for programming and displays at the Library rests with the Library Director, who administers under the authority of the Board of Trustees. The Library Director, in turn, delegates the authority for program management and displays to designated Library staff. Librarians are professionally trained to curate and develop displays and programs. Library displays and programs that are created or curated by librarians or staff members of the Weston Public Library are different than those displays and programs created by members of the public or community groups and exhibited in the Weston Public Library.

When not in use to promote Library-related activities or services, display and program spaces may be available to others engaged in educational, cultural, intellectual, or charitable activities. The Library regularly partners with other community agencies, organizations, educational and cultural institutions, or individuals to develop and present co-sponsored public programs and displays. Library sponsorship of a program or display does not constitute an endorsement of the content or the views expressed by participants.

Programs and displays are not used for commercial, religious, or partisan purposes or the solicitation of business.

Programs

Key Definition: A Library program is a free event, virtual or in-person, planned by the Library staff for the benefit of those members of the public who opt to attend. It may involve outside presenters, facilitators or performers and may be presented in cooperation with other entities. Note: Use of a public meeting room by an organization or individual to hold a public event is not a Library program. Please see our [Policy on Use of Community and Conference Rooms](#) for more info.

Procedures:

1. **Program Selection:** The Library strives to present programs that are educational, informational, cultural or recreational and avoids programs that do not meet these standards. Topics, content and timing of Library programs are developed with consideration of available resources and keeping community needs and interests in mind. Program selection is based upon the suitability of topic, format and intended audience. In addition:
 - a. A program will not be excluded because its topic may be regarded by some as controversial.
 - b. Library sponsorship of a program does not constitute or imply an endorsement of the content or of the presenter of the program.
 - c. Library programs must have an educational, informational, cultural or recreational value to the community.
 - d. Programs of a purely commercial nature will not be offered by the Library.
 - e. Programs that support or oppose any political candidate or ballot measure will not be approved or offered by the Library. However, educational programs, such as candidate forums that include invitations to all recognized candidates, may be offered.
 - f. Programs that support or oppose a specific religion will not be approved or offered. Programs are planned to be inclusive of all cultures and of all religions and no religion. Library programs may address religious themes to educate or inform, but not to promote, observe or proselytize a particular religious conviction.
 - g. Holiday programs may be offered for the entertainment of Library patrons.
2. **Program Development, Coordination and Supervision:** Library programs may originate from professionally trained Library staff, partnering institutions or members of the public. In the event of a co-sponsored program, supervision of the program may be delegated to the co-sponsoring organization depending upon the timing and venue of the program. All programs sponsored or co-sponsored by the Library, however, must abide by this policy regardless of where they are hosted.
3. **Program Access:** Library programs are free and open to the public on a first-come first-serve basis. Registration may be in advance online or at the door. For programs targeted to a specific audience, e.g. children or teens, and promoted as such, preferential admission may be offered to those groups on a first-come first-serve basis, limited to those individuals as the Library deems appropriate. Any individual requiring accommodation to participate in a Library program should contact the Library two weeks prior to the program.
4. **Virtual Programs:** In an effort to reach the greatest volume of patrons, the Library may also offer virtual programs from time to time. These programs will utilize library approved virtual meeting platform(s) that patrons may use to access virtual programs from their own devices and may include programs that are simultaneously run at library facilities along with programs that are solely offered virtually. All library virtual programs will be hosted via the library's virtual meeting account(s). A designated library staff member will act as "host." Patrons attending virtual programs are expected to adhere to the Behavior Policy while in attendance, and failure to do so during a virtual program may result in immediate removal.
5. **Program Materials:** Books, CDs, DVDs or other ancillary materials related to the content of a program may be offered for sale at a Library program as a convenience to attendees.

6. **Program Evaluation:** Program evaluation forms may be distributed to the participants of select programs so that staff may know what has been successful and receive ideas for new programs from patrons. Recurring programs such as storytimes, book discussions, and regularly scheduled programs with repeat attendees may receive a program evaluation annually. Forms will be anonymous and kept confidential.

Displays

Key Definition: Library displays are defined as displays initiated, planned, organized, or co-sponsored by Library staff. They are provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all residents and represent a wide range of varied and diverging viewpoints.

Staff use the following criteria to make decisions about display topics and items:

- Community needs and interests
- Availability of display space
- Focus on timely and sometimes thought-provoking topics
- Promote community resources and cultural institutions
- Connect to other community or national programs, exhibitions, or events
- Relate to Library collections, resources, and programs.

Library Material Review and Reconsideration

The Weston Public Library Board of Trustees recognizes the importance of hearing from the public regarding material, display, and program selection. The Library Staff seriously consider suggestions made by Weston residents and taxpayers. The completion of the Request for Reconsideration form does not guarantee either accession to the collection or removal from the collection but does ensure the attention of Library Staff to user opinion, interests, and concerns. The Library limits consideration of requests to reconsider materials, displays, or programs to residents of Weston. Please see our Library [Material Review and Reconsideration Policy and Request for Reconsideration](#) form for further information on this process.

Adopted November 17, 2025.