

# Middlebury Public Library

## Display Policy

### Purpose and Scope

Library displays should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all residents and should represent a wide range of varied and diverging viewpoints. They are an important resource for voluntary inquiry and the dissemination of information and ideas to promote free expression and free access to ideas by residents. Displays provide access to content that is relevant to the research, independent interests, and educational needs of residents. This policy applies to all library displays.

### 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 and programs. Librarians use 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
- Partnerships with other community agencies, organizations, educational institutions, or individuals for co-sponsored displays and exhibits

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.

The library provides displays created or curated by librarians and allows displays created by members of the public or community groups to be exhibited in the public library. Library displays and programs that are created or curated by librarians are different, and have different policies and standards, than displays created by members of the public or community. Acceptance of a display or exhibit topic by the library does not constitute an endorsement by the Middlebury 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. 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 consumer'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 Middlebury 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.

## **Procedure for Display Review and Reconsideration**

Library displays will not exclude topics, books, media, and other resources solely because they may be considered controversial. If a Town of Middlebury resident objects to a display developed by the library, the resident has a right to submit a formal complaint. The library limits consideration of requests to reconsider material, displays or programs to individual residents of Middlebury. Please see our Material Review and Reconsideration Policy and our Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials form for further information on this process. Reconsideration requests are not confidential patron records under 11-25 of the general statutes.

Please note: this Display Policy refers to displays developed by the Middlebury Public Library.

REVIEWED AND ADOPTED:

This policy is subject to continuous review.

Reviewed by the **CT State Library** on September 8, 2025

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