Howard Whittemore Memorial Library

Display Policy

Purpose: Howard Whittemore Memorial Library, in keeping with its mission to enrich the community by connecting people to the world of ideas, information and imagination, develops and presents library displays to support this mission. Our display policy provides a basis for the display of materials made by staff, informs the public about the criteria upon which these decisions are made, and promotes the library's mission. Howard Whittemore Memorial 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. 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 the 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 library employees throughout the library that 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 interests
- Historical, cultural or educational significance
- Connection to other community or national programs, exhibitions or events
- Relation to library collections, resources and programs
- Availability of display space

The Library may partner with other community organizations, agencies, educational institutions or individuals to develop and present co-sponsored displays and exhibits. Acceptance of a display, or exhibit topic, by the Library does not constitute an endorsement of the content by Howard Whittemore Library, or of the views expressed in the materials on display.

Intellectual Freedom and Censorship: The Library will strive to create library-initiated displays that appeal to a wide range of ages, interests, and information needs, and that

include diverse opinions and viewpoints. Library displays and exhibits will not exclude topics, books, media, and other resources solely because they may be considered controversial. The Library recognizes that some materials may be offensive to an individual but maintains that individuals can apply their values only to themselves. The selection of library materials is predicated on the individual's right of access to information and freedom from censorship. The library adheres to the principles of intellectual freedom adopted by the American Library Association as expressed in its Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read, and Freedom to View statements. No library material, display or program shall be removed, or programs be cancelled, because of origin, background or viewpoints expressed in such material, display or program or because of the origin, background or viewpoints of the creator of such material, display or program. 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.

Reconsideration: The Library welcomes expressions of opinion concerning materials, programs or displays, however all requests for reconsideration of materials, programs and displays are limited to the individual residents of Naugatuck. Library users may request reconsideration of a display by completing our Request for Reconsideration form. The Library Director will review the request in relation to the Library's mission and display criteria, and will make a determination within 60 days of receipt of request. This determination can be appealed, in writing, to the Library Board of Trustees. Reconsideration requests are not confidential patron records under section 11-25 of the general statutes. All materials, programs and displays being challenged are required to remain available in the library until a final decision is made by the library director.