**Brooklyn Town Library Association’s Library Display Policy**

**Adopted by the Executive Board on:** September 26, 2025

**Purpose**

The Brooklyn Town Library Association’s Library 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 Brooklyn Town Library Association offers the residents of Brooklyn the means to continue to learn throughout their lives, helping patrons find, use and evaluate information in a variety of formats while continuing to be an important part of community life in Brooklyn.”

**Policy**

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

**Principles and Criteria**

The final responsibility for the display of library materials is held by the Library Director. Librarians are professionally trained to curate and develop displays and programs. Library staff uses the following criteria in making decisions about display topics, materials, and accompanying resources:

* Availability of display space
* Community needs and interest
* Historical, cultural, or educational significance
* Connection to other community or national programs, exhibitions, or events
* Relation to library collections, resources, exhibits, and programs

While the Library strives to include a wide spectrum of opinions and viewpoints in library-initiated displays, as well as offer displays that appeal to a range of ages, interests, and informational needs, our “display space” is limited to a couple of 3’ shelves behind our circulation desk where, from June through August, we display our Summer Reading prizes and carefully curated book displays throughout the rest of the year (i.e. banned books, Black History month, etc.); two bulletin boards and the occasional stack of flyers/brochures on our counters when space allows. Therefore, additional criteria include:

* Only information from non-profit organizations will be accepted
* The Library will NOT display or distribute personal, commercial, or profit-making handouts
* The Library reserves the right to reject any materials that are deemed inappropriate by reason of the above criteria

Library-initiated displays should not exclude topics, books, media, or other resources because they may be considered controversial. The Library provides displays created or curated by librarians. **The Library does NOT allow the public to curate displays.**

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 patron’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.

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Selection of materials will not be inhibited by the possibility that materials may inadvertently come into the possession of or be seen by minors. No one can exercise censorship to restrict access to library materials by others. It is the parent’s or guardian’s responsibility to determine which library materials are appropriate for their children. The Brooklyn Town Library Association supports intellectual freedom and endorses the American Library Association’s (ALA) Freedom to Read statement, Freedom to View statement, the Library Bill of Rights, and all relevant interpretations.

**Procedures for the Questioning of Library Displays**

The Library limits consideration of requests to reconsider material, displays or programs to the individual residents of the Town of Brooklyn. Please see our Library Material Review and Reconsideration Policy and Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials Form, both located on our website, for further information on this process.