

Trumbull Library Board of Trustees: Statement regarding diversity in collection development, displays and programs

The Trumbull Library policy regarding programs and displays align with that of the American Library Association's (ALA) stated policy.¹ Specifically, "Libraries should actively seek to include a variety of programming options representing diversity of genres, formats, ideas, and expressions with a multitude of viewpoints and cultural perspectives that reflect the diversity in our communities." As stated by the ALA, programs include not only performances and visual arts, but also displays of collections and related materials. Library workers should not censor or remove displays because someone may disagree with the content. Furthermore, library sponsorship of programs or curation of displays does not constitute endorsement of the material's content or the creator's views.

Additionally, "a well-balanced collection does not require a one-to-one equivalence for each viewpoint but should strive for equity in content and ideas that takes both structural inequalities and the availability of timely, accurate materials into account."² Programs and displays are featured to coincide with seasonality, timely observances, and newsworthy subjects, and the library addresses wider viewpoints in the entirety of its collections. Removal or relocation of age-appropriate children's collection materials is considered censorship by the ALA. That said, parents and guardians may restrict their own children's access to library programs, but no person or organization can interfere in others' access and participation. A parent or guardian may discuss their child's access to and participation in library programs with their child, but may not impose those decisions on others, including other people's children.

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¹ <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/programsdisplays>

² <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/diversecollections>