

Trumbull Library Display Policy

Purpose:

It is the policy of the Trumbull Library (TL) to support its mission of promoting knowledge, ideas, literacy, and cultural enrichment through the curation of collection displays. TL 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. Library displays should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all residents. In addition, library displays should represent a wide range of varied and diverging viewpoints.

Principles and Criteria

Final responsibility for library displays rests with the Library Director, though the day-to-day work is handled by librarians that are professionally trained to curate and develop displays and programs. When creating displays, staff members consider the following criteria for topics, materials, and resources:

- **Community relevance:** They connect with the interests and needs of the community.
- **Educational value:** They provide access to content that is relevant to the research, independent interests and educational needs of residents.
- **Library connection:** They relate to existing library collections, resources, or programs.
- **Current events:** They link to broader community or national events and programs.
- **Space availability:** There is adequate space to properly showcase the display.
- **Partnerships:** Displays may be co-sponsored with other local organizations, institutions, or individuals.

The Trumbull Library aims to include a wide range of opinions and viewpoints in its displays, ensuring they appeal to various ages, interests, and needs. Displays will not exclude topics, books, or media simply because they may be considered controversial.

The library offers exhibit space for community members and groups to exhibit content that may be of interest to Trumbull residents. Community member or groups are not professionally trained librarians and, therefore, acceptance of an exhibit does not mean the Trumbull Library approves of its design, endorses its content or the views expressed by its creator, or takes any responsibility or liability from potential harm caused by such an exhibit. For more information about public exhibits, please consult the Lobby Display Case Exhibit Policy.

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 Trumbull Library affirms a patron's right to choose their own library materials for research and enjoyment. TL recognizes that some content may be considered controversial or offensive, but maintains individuals have the right to apply their personal values to their own choices, not those of others. Our selection decisions are based on the merits of the materials themselves, upholding every patron's right of access to information and freedom from censorship.

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Selections shall not be inhibited by the possibility that resources may come into the hands of children. Only parents and guardians have the right and responsibility to guide and direct the reading, listening and viewing choices of their own children. No one can exercise censorship to restrict access to library materials by others. The Trumbull 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.

Procedures for the Questioning of Library Displays by Patrons:

TL library limits consideration of requests to reconsider displays or programs to individual residents of Trumbull. Please see our Materials Review and Reconsideration Policy and Request for Reconsideration Form for further information on this process.

Adopted by the Trumbull Library Board of Trustees on November 12, 2025