

LIBRARY-INITIATED EXHIBITS AND DISPLAYS POLICY

Basic Policy Statement

The Smithtown Library provides exhibits and displays in order to highlight the Library's collection. The exhibits and displays are to be planned, organized and implemented by professional Library staff. Displays are considered a collective effort by all professional staff members.

The purpose of this policy is to educate and celebrate diverse interests and to set reasonable standards. All exhibits and displays must be consistent with the Library's Mission Statement which states, "The Smithtown Library is dedicated to providing access to diverse information, lifelong learning and entertainment resources through outstanding service for all residents of the Library district." Items on display must be legally compliant with state and federal laws pertaining to protected classes of persons and individuals.

Guidelines for Displays

Library staff are to utilize the following criteria in making decisions regarding topics of exhibits and displays:

- Current needs of community members
- Popularity of items within the collection
- Age appropriateness of displays (determined by one or all of the following: academic journals which have been peer reviewed, National Library Associations, trade publications, and the Library's Material Selection Policy 300-10)
- Availability and location of display space
- Select materials for display in accordance with Library's Materials Selection Policy
- Historical or educational significance of content
- Support community and national recognitions, exhibitions and events
- Relationship to current Library trends
- Align with the Library's mission statement

The Library may draw upon community resources in developing displays, and may partner with other community agencies, organizations and educational institutions in displaying exhibits fostering the initiatives of such other entities. Other such entities must have goals concurrent with the Library's mission.

The Library will strive to include a wide spectrum of interests in Library- initiated exhibits and displays that appeal to a wide range of ages, interests and information needs.

Library-initiated displays should not exclude topics, book, media, realia and other resources solely because they may be considered to be controversial. The presence of an exhibit or display in the Library is not to constitute an endorsement by the Library of the content of the

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display, or the views expressed in the materials on display. The Library must, and will, adopt a viewpoint neutral stance with regard to all exhibits and displays within its facilities. The Library seeks to avoid displaying materials that are considered to promote discrimination toward protected groups of people, as per state and federal laws.

Items on display are to be considered individually. A request for reevaluation of materials can be made in accordance with the Materials Selection Policy 300-10 and 300-10a.

Topics and material selection is at the discretion of professional Library staff, as to be overseen by the Director. Any and all protocols pertaining to exhibits and displays are to be reviewed by the office of the Director.

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