



Library Display Policy

Durham Public Library provides displays in the Library in multiple forms to highlight the collection and inform the public. The Library embraces opportunities to celebrate art, culture, diversity and inclusion.

Selection of Displays

Library displays are planned, organized, and/or implemented by library staff using the following criteria in making decisions about display topics, materials, and accompanying resources:

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

The Library may partner with other Town departments, libraries, community agencies, organizations, educational institutions, or individuals to develop and present co-sponsored displays and exhibits.

The Library is dedicated to the free and open distribution of ideas and the principles of intellectual freedom as set forth in the [American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights](#). The Library strives to include a wide spectrum of opinions and viewpoints in Library-initiated displays and exhibits, as well as offer displays and exhibits that appeal to a range of ages, interests, and information needs. Partisan political, religious, and commercial materials are strictly avoided in Library displays, but Library-initiated displays will not exclude topics, books, media, and other resources solely because they may be considered to be controversial.

Acceptance of a display or exhibit topic by the Library does not constitute an endorsement by Durham Public Library of the content of the display or exhibit, or of the views expressed in materials on display.

Responsibility

Using the selection criteria stated above, library staff develop and implement library displays. The Library accepts suggestions for display topics, but topics and materials selection are arranged by library staff and are at the sole discretion of the Library Director.

Bulletin Board Displays

Within the Library, and Library property, only library and Town of Durham-related signs, posters, or notices will be posted. In the cafe, a bulletin board is provided for posting non-profit activities and events of interest to the community. Please see the [Durham Public Library Bulletin Board Policy](#).

Art Exhibits in the Library

The Durham Public Library is pleased to offer artists the opportunity to display their work to the community. Exhibits are arranged by Library Staff and given final approval by the Library Director. Please see the Library Art and Exhibit Policy for details.

Objections to Library Displays

The Library will review, consider and respond to all comments and questions about library displays, although greater weight may be given to the requests of eligible cardholders who are the Library's constituents. Any individual who wishes to provide comments or questions about Library displays should complete a "REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF A LIBRARY RESOURCE FORM". Please see the [Durham Public Library Collection Development Policy](#) to access the form and details about the reconsideration process.

Objections to Library Resources

The Library will review, consider and respond to all comments and questions about library materials, services, programming, and policy although greater weight may be given to the requests of eligible cardholders, who are the Library's constituents. Any individual who wishes to provide comments or questions about any item(s) in the collection or the services and programs the Library provides to the community should complete a [REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF A LIBRARY RESOURCE FORM](#). Requests for reconsideration will be reviewed by the Director who will respond to the requesting individual in writing within thirty days with a decision on the request.

If dissatisfied with the Director's decision, the individual may appeal the Director's decision to the Library Board of Trustees. The appeal must be in writing and filed within 7 days of the Director's written decision by delivery to the Library Director. The Board of Trustees will review the individual's written appeal request, the original Request for Reconsideration of a Library Resource Form and the Director's decision at the next available regular meeting. This may not be the next scheduled meeting if the agenda has already been published or if there is a full agenda already established. The individual will receive a letter with the Board's decision on the appeal within thirty days of the meeting at which the appeal is considered. The Board's decision is final and will remain in effect for a term of five years during which a challenged resource will not be subject to further challenge absent recommendation from the Director.