

USER- INITIATED EXHIBITS, DISPLAYS, AND BULLETIN BOARDS POLICY

Beloit Public Library maintains spaces for exhibits, displays, and bulletin boards as a benefit to the community. These spaces are open to organizations engaged in educational, cultural, intellectual, or charitable activities. The library endorses the attached American Library Association interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights* regarding these spaces and their use.

Bulletin Boards

Notices and announcements are posted as space allows, with priorities given to: 1.) Library events; 2.) Events in geographical priority of Beloit, Stateline Area, Rock County, and Wisconsin; 3.) Events by non-profit organizations; and 4.) Other events as space allows. Due to space limitations, campaign and for-profit literature will not be posted. Large posters may be rejected; the preferred size is 8.5" x 11" vertical.

Literature

The Community Room hallway is the library's sole designated area for the distribution of free promotional material, which is vetted and maintained by the Marketing and Communications Coordinator. Literature placed without prior library approval will be discarded. This space is made available for the distribution of non-profit literature by clubs, organizations, and institutions with the primary focus on library, educational, governmental, and community materials. Materials are displayed on a first-come, first-serve basis as space allows. Campaign and for-profit literature will not be posted.

Displays

Library staff periodically feature special topic displays, which may include related free literature. These displays and the selection of materials are made solely at the discretion of the library staff. Limited display areas are available for use by members of the community to promote educational, cultural, intellectual, or charitable activities. Interested persons must complete an application and make a reservation for use through the Head of Programming and Community Engagement.

The library does not assume responsibility for materials damaged or stolen, nor does it return posters or unused literature without prior arrangement. The spaces described above are made available as a service for the public, and materials displayed there are not necessarily reflective of the viewpoints of the library or its staff members.

History: Adopted May 20, 2020

USER- INITIATED EXHIBITS, DISPLAYS, AND BULLETIN BOARDS POLICY

An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights from ALA

Libraries may offer spaces for exhibits, displays, and bulletin boards in physical or digital formats as a benefit for their communities. The use of these spaces should conform to the American Library Association's *Library Bill of Rights*, which states:

- "Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation." (Article I)
- "Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval." (Article II)
- "Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use." (Article VI)

Libraries are not required to make space available to community groups or individuals for exhibits, public displays, notices, pamphlets, or flyers. However, if they do, they should post a permanent notice stating that these spaces are available as a service for the public and are not necessarily reflective of the library's viewpoint.

Libraries should have written policies that are content-neutral (do not pertain to the content of the display or to the identity, beliefs, or affiliations of the sponsors), clearly defined, and applied equally, and that address any time, place, and manner restrictions. Policies should be inclusive rather than exclusive. For example, a policy that the library's space is "open to organizations engaged in educational, cultural, intellectual, or charitable activities" is an inclusive statement about the limited uses of the space.

Those who object to the content should be able to request a reconsideration, similar to challenging any library resource. Library workers should not censor or remove materials from exhibits, displays, or areas designated for the distribution of information because someone may disagree with the content or with the identity, beliefs, or affiliations of the sponsors.

Adopted July 2, 1991, by the ALA Council; amended June 30, 2004, July 1, 2014, and June 25, 2019.