Display Policy

Purpose:

The Cyrenius H. Booth Library maintains display space for the purpose of featuring library materials and programs, providing information about community groups or events, and exhibiting works of artists, artisans, and collectors. 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.

Principles and Criteria: The Cyrenius H. Booth Library recognizes the importance of displays as a resource for voluntary inquiry and the dissemination of information and ideas to promote free expression and free access to ideas by residents. Some library displays are created or curated by librarians and some may be created by members of the public or community. Librarians are professionally trained to curate and develop displays that are provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all residents and represent a wide range of varied and diverging viewpoints. Library displays provide access to content that is relevant to the research, independent interests and educational needs of residents. When not in use to promote library-related activities or services, display spaces may be available to community groups or individuals engaged in educational, cultural, intellectual, or charitable activities. Exhibit areas are available on an equitable basis regardless of the beliefs of affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use. The Library Director has the right to review the materials before the exhibit is installed. The decision not to accept materials for an exhibit may be appealed to the President of the Board of Trustees.

Intellectual Freedom and Censorship:

The library recognizes that some display materials may be controversial or offensive to an individual but maintains that individuals can apply their values only to themselves. The selection of display materials is predicated on the customer’s right of access to information and freedom from censorship. Selections will not be made on the basis of anticipated approval or disapproval, but on the merits of the display itself. No one can exercise censorship to restrict access to library displays by others. It is the parents' or guardians' responsibility to determine which library displays are appropriate for their children. The Cyrenius H. Booth 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.

Display Guidelines:

- Display space must be reserved in advance.
- Owners of a library display must assume the risk of loss or damage to materials

displayed, as no insurance is provided by the library.
• Display owner must assume responsibility for installing the display on the agreed upon date.
• Display owner must remove the display promptly on the agreed upon date. The library reserves the right the right to remove display materials if they aren't picked up by the agreed upon date.

Request for Reconsideration:

The library limits consideration of requests to reconsider displays to individual residents of Newtown, CT. Museum displays developed by the library curator are not subject to these guidelines. Please see our Library Material Review and Reconsideration Policy and/or Request for Reconsideration Form for more information. The form is located on the Cyrenius H. Booth Library website at chboothlibrary.org/about/policies/.

Adopted by the Cyrenius H. Booth Library Board of Trustees, October 14, 2025.