

Mesa County Public Library District

Display Policy

A. Statement of Purpose

The Mesa County Public Library District is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for all people in Mesa County by providing outstanding and personalized library service, resources, and programming for everyday living. The District supports *The First Amendment of the United States Constitution* and *The Library Bill of Rights*, and the principles of free expression and free access to ideas embodied in those documents.

The primary purpose of exhibits and displays in the Library is to highlight library services, collections, and programs. It is the intention of the Library to provide high quality displays and exhibits about books and other materials and programs and projects of the Library for the education, cultural enrichment, entertainment, and awareness of Mesa County residents. Displays and exhibits are intended to: reflect diverse themes, materials, and media; complement current Library collections and services; and reflect the interests, character, history, and people of the Mesa County community.

In addition, the Mesa County Public Library District provides public bulletin board space for limited public use. This additional use is outlined in Section C, "Library Bulletin Boards for Public Use." By posting materials submitted by members of the community, the Library does not indicate Library endorsement of the ideas, issues, or events promoted by these materials.

The Library reserves the right to use any or all Library display spaces for Library staff use. The Library District's display and exhibit areas and bulletin board for limited public use are not intended for any of the following uses:

1. To support or oppose a candidate for political office;
2. For commercial use, or as a sales gallery, except in the instance of Library-sponsored sales for items such as book bags, mugs, and similar fundraising items;
3. To display any items containing child pornography, obscenity, defamatory statements, "true threats," "fighting words," or speech that is both intended and likely to incite immediate lawless action, all as defined by applicable state and federal law.

B. Display Committee

The Library Director shall convene a Display Committee comprised of administrative and public services staff. The Display Committee shall review all materials submitted for posting on the public bulletin boards, as provided in Section C below, to ensure compliance with Library policies, and to ensure uniform quality of displays and promotional materials across all departments of the Library. In addition, the Director may convene the Display Committee to discuss patron concerns about any display at the Library. Section D "Display Reconsideration Procedure" shall govern patron or staff concerns about appropriateness of displays in the Library.

The Display Committee may consult with the Library District's attorney, as needed, for guidance on applicable law that may affect the decision to allow or not allow a particular exhibit, display or bulletin board posting.

C. Library Bulletin Boards for Public Use

The Library makes limited, designated bulletin board space available to Mesa County non-profit organizations, agencies, and individuals engaged in intellectual, charitable, civic, cultural, educational, or recreational activities in Mesa County.

1. Bulletins may not exceed 11"x17" in size, and bulletins that are 8-1/2"x14" or smaller are preferred.
2. The purpose of the designated public bulletin boards is to make space available to display dated or seasonal information about events and initiatives sponsored by or benefiting these organizations and agencies, or to express ideas for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the Library serves. The Library strives to provide a venue for postings on an equitable basis for all members of the Mesa County community. Materials shall not be excluded because of the origin, background, affiliation, or views of those contributing to their creation.
3. As stated in Section A, Statement of Purpose, above, posting by the Library of community materials on the public bulletin boards does not indicate Library endorsement of the promoters, sponsors, content, ideas, issues, or events promoted by these materials. Library staff shall prominently display disclaimers to this effect at the designated public bulletin boards. Except as provided in the Statement of Purpose, the Library makes no effort to censor or amend the content of any posting, nor does it assume responsibility to ensure that all points of view are represented. The Library is not responsible for determining the veracity or accuracy of any statements or citations included in any postings.
4. Space for community postings is provided on a first-come/first-served basis. All postings must be submitted to Library staff for review by the Display Committee. Library staff will then post all bulletins approved by the Display Committee. Postings not related to a specific event or series of events may be removed after two weeks to ensure that bulletin board space is available to as many library patrons as possible. Only one posting per group, individual, or event is permitted on any one public bulletin board at any one time (the same posting may appear in more than one Library facility at the same time).
5. The Library assumes no responsibility for the preservation or protection of materials and materials may be disposed of by the Library staff as needed.
6. Each posting must clearly show the name of the group or individual responsible for the posting, on the face of the posting. Additionally, the back of the posting must clearly state the responsible person's name and contact information. The Display Committee will not authorize posting of any bulletin that lacks this contact information.
7. In branch libraries where there are not separate bulletin boards for community postings, preference is given to Library displays and exhibits.
8. Postings may not be publicized in a manner which suggests Library sponsorship, endorsement, or affiliation.
9. If the Display Committee does not approve a bulletin submitted for posting, the Library Director or designee shall notify the applicant of the reasons for denying approval by letter or phone. The Library Director or designee may work with the applicant to resolve the problem. If the parties do not reach a resolution, the applicant may request that the Library District's Board of Trustees review the Display Committee's decision at its next regular board meeting. The applicant must submit a written request for consideration by the Board of Trustees within 30 days after the letter or phone call denying the posting. All decisions of the Library Board regarding the application shall be final.

D. Reconsideration Procedure

Library patrons, as individuals, or Library Staff members may request reconsideration of any display, exhibit, or bulletin by filing a Display Reconsideration Form with the Library Director or her designee. Library Staff will make the Display Reconsideration Form available at Library public service desks to anyone who believes that an exhibit does not comply with this Policy.

1. Within three business days of receipt of a completed and signed Display Reconsideration Form, the Display Committee shall schedule a meeting to examine the Reconsideration request. Further information or input may be solicited from the patron filing the Reconsideration request and from the party responsible for the posting. If the decision of the Committee regarding the request is not satisfactory to the patron filing the request or the party responsible for the posting, either of them may then request that the Library District's Board of Trustees consider the request at their next regularly scheduled public meeting. Library Staff shall notify the patron who filed the Display Reconsideration Form and the party responsible for the display of the meeting date, time, and place.
2. If the Library District's Board finds that an exhibit or posting on the public bulletin board does not comply with this Policy, it may order the removal of those items which do not comply. All decisions of the Library District's Board at any meeting designated to review the display in question shall be final.
3. Material under reconsideration shall remain on display during the review period and until the Library District's Board makes a final decision.

E. Amendment

The Board of Trustees reserves the right to amend this Policy at any time. This policy supersedes the following historic policies of the Mesa County Public Library District:

1. *Exhibit and Display Policy* (adopted circa 1996)
2. *Bulletin Board Policy* (adopted in August, 2007)

The Mesa County Public Library's Board of Trustees adopted this Display Policy on November 29, 2007.

Mesa County Public Library District

By: _____
Bob Delavan, President
Board of Trustees