



GOLETA VALLEY LIBRARY DISPLAY AND EXHIBIT POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Goleta Valley Library's Display & Exhibit Policy is to provide a basis for the display and exhibit of library materials by library staff, inform the public about the principles and criteria upon which these display decisions are made and promote the purposes of the library's mission, which is:

The Goleta Valley Library is a community center that serves our diverse community by leveraging public assets to support the joy of lifelong, multi-generational learning, civil engagement, and the respectful exchange of ideas and information – both within the physical walls of the library and far beyond.

POLICY

The Goleta Valley Library plays a vital role at the heart of the community by promoting full and equal access to information, encouraging the love of reading, enabling life-long learning, and empowering creativity. It will provide a responsive connection between the community's needs, its collections, information technology, and diverse programming, by, in part, providing a variety of displays, both physical and virtual, that inform and enrich the lives of people of all ages and diverse backgrounds.

PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA

The final responsibility for the display and exhibit of library materials is held by the Library Director, but day-to-day responsibility is shared by professional and paraprofessional employees throughout the system. Library staff uses the following criteria in making decisions about display topics, materials, and accompanying resources:

- Community needs and interest
- Availability of display space
- Historical, cultural, or educational significance
- Connection to other community or national programs, exhibitions, or events

- Relation to library collections, resources, exhibits, and programs

In addition, the Library draws upon other community resources in developing displays and exhibits of library books, audiovisual items, and Library of Things Materials, and may partner with other community agencies, organizations, educational institutions, or individuals to develop and present co-sponsored displays and exhibits.

The Library will strive 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 informational needs. Library-initiated displays and exhibits should 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 the Goleta and Santa Ynez Valley Libraries or the City of Goleta of the content of the display or exhibit, or of the views expressed in materials on display.

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM AND CENSORSHIP

The Library preserves the right of citizens to obtain information on all sides of potentially controversial issues so that each individual can decide for themselves the value of opposing ideas. In representing various sides of a question, the Library thus provides citizens with reliable sources of information on which to base intelligent decisions in their daily lives.

The Library has a responsibility to protect the rights of all patrons; displays which may be considered to be frank or offensive to some are permitted if they adhere to the Library's Display Policy and contribute to the furtherance of its mission.

Parents and legal guardians have the right and responsibility to restrict the access of their children to library resources. The display of materials will not be affected by the possibility that particular displays may be seen by children and young adults.

Labels will be provided only as viewpoint-neutral directional aids to facilitate access by making it easier for users to locate materials. The materials are displayed on open shelves and are equally accessible to all users.

The American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read and Freedom to View statements are basic to the above policy. They may be found in their entirety appended to the Goleta Valley Library Collection Development Policy.

PROCEDURES FOR THE STATEMENT OF CONCERN OF LIBRARY DISPLAYS AND EXHIBITS BY PATRONS

In the event a patron has questions or concerns regarding a library display, the following procedures should be used:

1. The patron is referred to a librarian.
 - a. This staff member makes every attempt to satisfy the patron's concern by clarifying the established display policies on an informal, positive, one-to-one basis.
 - b. After the interview, the staff member notifies the Library Director using the Statement of Concern Form as to the date, circumstances, and the result of the patron's concern.
2. A patron who wishes to pursue their question further is referred to the Library Director or their designated alternate as soon as possible. A concern taken to this level constitutes a formalized complaint.
 - a. The patron is given a Statement of Concern Form to fill out.
 - b. The patron must have a Goleta Valley Library card and must have used it at least six months prior to filling out a Statement of Concern Form.
 - c. The Library Director will review the request in relation to the Library Display and Exhibit Policy. Once a decision is made, the individual will be notified of the decision in writing.
 - d. If the Director reviews the display or exhibits and decides to continue displaying it, that display will not be reconsidered for the next five years, except as provided in paragraph three below.
3. A patron who wishes to make their objection known even further can forward their complaint directly to the Chairperson of the Library Advisory Commission (LAC) for consideration at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.
 - a. A copy of the Statement of Concern Form submitted to the Board is forwarded to the Office of the City Manager.
 - b. The LAC sends its recommendation to the Library Director.
 - c. The Library Director then reviews her/his original decision in the context of the LAC recommendation and confirms or sends a revised opinion to the patron in writing, with a copy sent to the Library Advisory Commission and to the Office of the City Manager.

- d. The Library Director's decision on the complaint is final and without further appeal.