



POLICY: Library Programs

Purpose

To guide the selection and implementation of library programs.

Statement of Policy

Library staff plan and develop programs using a number of criteria, including but not limited to:

- relevance to community needs and interests
- fulfillment of library mission to foster public dialogue, build community, and enrich lives
- presentation quality
- presenter background and qualifications
- availability of program space
- budget and staffing considerations.

Requests from individuals for library programs are considered using the above criteria. Decisions on which programs to offer are made by the Library Director.

All library programs and library sponsored programs must be open to the public and offered free of charge, with the exception of fund-raising programs to benefit the library and outreach programs at locations that preclude general attendance (for example, Storytimes held at local elementary schools). Patrons who owe the library for overdue fines or other fees shall not be denied access to library program or library-sponsored programs. No items may be sold at library programs or library sponsored programs with the exception of books and recordings by presenting authors and musicians and the sale of items at the Friends of the Library monthly book sale. Sale of such items must be coordinated by the artist/presenter or associates of the artist/presenter, not by library staff.

Professional performers and presenters who offer specialized or unique expertise may be paid for library programs. Such presenters are chosen for their proven expertise and public performance experience.

Programs may be held at the library or offsite. Programs may require registration. In the event that registration is limited waiting lists are taken.

Programs may be canceled for a number of reasons, including but not limited to:

- weather
- absence of the presenter



- low registration
- school closure

Canceled programs are not automatically rescheduled. Programs are not canceled because of the ideas or topics of the program or the views expressed by the participants or speakers.

The library does not advocate or endorse the content and viewpoints of presenters and programs.

Input and feedback on library programs are welcome and should be addressed to the library director.

Definitions

A “library program” is one that is planned and implemented by library staff.

A “library sponsored program” is one that is not planned or implemented by library staff, but is in alignment with the library’s mission and receives support from the library in any of the following forms: library spaces beyond what is provided for in the Meeting Room Use Policy; staff support in planning and/or promoting the program; financial support.

A “non-library program” is one that is not planned or implemented by library staff and does not receive support from the library, but is held in library facilities as per the Meeting Room Use Policy. This policy does not apply to non-library programs. Issues relating to non-library programs are addressed in the Meeting Room Use Policy.

“Ilsley,” “the library,” and all similar terms include Ilsley Public Library in Middlebury and Sarah Partridge Library in East Middlebury as well as any programs either offers outside their buildings.

Sources

"Library-Initiated Programs and Displays as a Resource: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights", American Library Association, July 26, 2006.

<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/programsdisplays>

"Equity, Diversity, Inclusion: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights", American Library Association, July 5, 2017.

<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/EDI>

Adopted by the Ilsley Public Library Board of Trustees on September 3, 2019