

LIBRARY PROGRAM POLICY

PURPOSE

Flathead County Library supports its strategic goals by developing and offering programs that provide opportunities for education, community engagement, and the development of 21st-century skills.

Library programs are an essential part of library services and are designed to:

- Develop and encourage a strong reading habit.
- ~~Expand~~Strengthen the Library's role as a community resource.
- Introduce patrons to Library services and materials.
- ~~Provide~~Support opportunities for lifelong learning.
- Foster connections among individuals and groups.
- ~~Enhance~~ the Library's visibility within the community.

~~Program Philosophy~~ PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

Library programs extend the value of the Library's collections and adhere to the principles outlined in:

- ~~Policy 1001:~~ Fair Treatment Policy
- ~~Policy 5000:~~ Collection Development and Management Policy.

Programs, like Library materials, reflect diverse perspectives, allowing individuals to make informed decisions in a democratic society.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

Flathead County Library serves a broad and diverse population, welcoming people of all ages, backgrounds, and perspectives. Programs are developed using the expertise of Library staff, collections, services, and facilities. Programs may be presented by Library staff or in collaboration with community partners.

Library programs include, but are not limited to:

- Lectures, panel discussions, and community forums.
- Performing and visual arts events.
- Workshops and technology training.
- Storytimes, book clubs, and class visits.
- Interactive exhibits and displays.
- Programs designed for social, cultural, educational, or entertainment purposes.

Programs may be hosted at Library locations, offsite venues, or online.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Library programs are developed and overseen by professional librarians under the guidance of the Library Director. Program topics, speakers, and resources are selected based on the following considerations:

- Community needs and interests.
- Availability of space and resources.
- Suitability for the intended audience.
- Quality and credibility of content.
- Presenter qualifications and expertise.
- Budget and funding availability.
- Educational or historical significance.
- Alignment with other community programs and events.
- Relation to Library collections, resources, exhibits and programs. ~~Relevance to the Library's collections and resources.~~

SALES AND FUNDRAISING

All Library programs must be free and open to the public. However, with the approval of the Library Director, the following activities may be allowed:

- Fundraising efforts that directly benefit the Library, including those sponsored by the Friends of the Library or the Flathead County Library Foundation.
- The sale of books, CDs, or other materials by authors, performers, or presenters as part of a Library program. Presenters are encouraged to donate a copy of their work to the Library for potential inclusion in the collection.

Programs that are primarily commercial in nature—such as those designed to promote a business or solicit future customers—are not permitted.

PROGRAM PRESENTERS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Library ~~strives~~seeks to include a variety of perspectives in its programs and may collaborate with community groups, businesses, and individuals whose work aligns with the Library's mission and goals. Library sponsorship of a program does not constitute an endorsement of the views expressed by presenters.

Presenters are selected based on:

- Demonstrated expertise, qualifications, and reputation.
- Relevance to community interests.
- Budget and resource considerations.

Library staff who present programs do so as part of their professional duties and are not engaged as independent contractors.

ATTENDANCE AND ACCESSIBILITY

- Every effort ~~will be~~is made to accommodate all who wish to attend a program. However, when space, cost, or program format necessitate limits, attendance will be determined on a first-come, first-served basis, either through advance registration or at the door.
- Adults attending programs specifically designed for children must be accompanied by a child. Teen programs are limited to teen participants, except when a teen requires an adult assistant or companion.
- The Library complies with the **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** and all applicable state and local accessibility guidelines. ~~When necessary, reasonable accommodations—such as sign language interpretation or real-time captioning—will be made upon request.~~

MARKETING AND PROMOTION

- Organizations or individuals partnering with the Library on programs must coordinate marketing efforts with the Library's Marketing Department.
- Any external groups hosting events in Library meeting rooms must adhere to the advertising guidelines outlined in the **Library's Meeting Room Policy**.

COMPLAINTS AND CENSORSHIP

Flathead County Library upholds the principles of intellectual freedom and does not engage in censorship. Library programs are designed to support an individual's right to access a variety of perspectives and ideas.

- Parents and guardians may determine their own child's participation in programs, but they may not restrict access for others.
- Individuals who wish to determine whether a program aligns with their interests may inquire with Library staff prior to attending.
- Concerns regarding Library programs should first be addressed with a senior staff member. Further comments and concerns may also be submitted on a "What Do You

Think” form. Requests for review of programs or exhibits will be considered in the same manner as requests for reconsideration of library materials as outlined in the Library Collection Development and Management Policy. Those seeking a formal review may submit a Citizen Comment on Library Materials form. Requests for reconsideration will be evaluated according to the Library’s Collection Development Policy.

Adoption and Revision History

• **Adopted:** 5/29/2019, -

Revised: 5/26/2022, - **Revised:** 2/27/2025

• **David Ingram****Heidi Roedel**, Chair
Library Board of Trustees