

2.20 Displays and Exhibits

As an informational, educational, and cultural institution, the New Braunfels Public Library welcomes exhibits and displays of interest, information, and enlightenment to the community. The purpose of this policy is to provide fair and consistent standards for the use of display areas in the Library, thus ensuring appropriate use of these spaces in a manner that is consistent with the Library's other service objectives.

I. Purpose of Displays and Exhibits

Through displays and exhibits, the library makes patrons aware of its programs, services, and resources and helps attract the general public into the library as a means of promoting greater library usage. Interior library walls and service desk countertops will be reserved for materials and projects sponsored by the library, the City of New Braunfels (CONB), The Friends of the New Braunfels Public Library, Inc. (FOL) and the New Braunfels Public Library Foundation, Inc. (FON) and will not be made available for public use. Displays and exhibits by the Library, CONB, FOL and FON will receive priority scheduling.

II. Venues for Public Display

The library offers bulletin board space for the display of promotional or information materials for nonprofit entities. Nonprofit entity means an entity that is a nonprofit corporation, nonprofit association, or other entity that is organized solely for one or more of the purposes specified in Section 2.002 Texas Business Organizations Code. The Library Director may offer temporary use of wall space in the Children's and Youth areas to hang artwork produced by children and may approve other exhibits from nonprofit entities for display within the library.

III. Guidelines for Displays

Nonprofit entities may post materials promoting their services, programs, and events, including fundraisers, as space permits. Materials from for-profit enterprises and individuals will not be posted. The Library Director must approve all postings and may prohibit postings that do not meet library standards. The Library Director has the sole authority to limit the length of time that materials will be displayed, as well as the frequency with which the organization shall sponsor a display. Materials accepted for display will be dated, and displays must be removed promptly upon the mutually agreed date.

Materials accepted for display will convey the issuer's name and contact information. Anonymous items will not be displayed. All displays must meet existing state and federal laws on obscenity, libel, and defamation of character or invasion of privacy. Due to space limitations, the size of an item accepted for display may be restricted.

IV. Liability

The Library will not be responsible for returning or storing materials, and the Library will not be responsible for protecting materials from damage or theft. All items placed in the Library are there at the owner's risk.

Granting permission to display materials does not imply the Library's endorsement of content, the sponsoring organization, or its views; nor will the Library accept responsibility for the accuracy of statements made in such materials.

V. Disputes

If a group or individual objects to the Library's decision regarding the appropriateness of display materials, the resolution procedure is as follows:

1. Staff shall request that the person or representative of the group present the complaint in writing.
2. The Library Director will discuss the issue with the involved parties, review the exhibit and, within a reasonable period, respond in writing to the complainant. The ALA's Library Bill of Rights and "Exhibit Spaces and Bulletin Boards, An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights" are two of the guidelines the Library Director will consider when making a recommendation.
3. Challenged materials shall not be removed until a decision has been reached.
4. If the complainant wishes to pursue the complaint further, he or she may address the Library Advisory Board at its regular meeting.
5. The Library Advisory Board shall review the complaint within a reasonable time and shall issue a decision in writing to the complaining person or representative within ten (10) business days of review. The Library Advisory Board's decision shall be final.



Approved by the New Braunfels Public Library Board, Feb. 21, 2006

Endorsed April 21, 2008; Aug. 17, 2009

Revised March 19, 2012; May 19, 2014; Aug. 17, 2015

Endorsed Oct. 24, 2016

Revised Feb. 21, 2017; March 19, 2018

Endorsed March 18, 2019; March 15, 2021

By: _____
President, Library Advisory Board

Attest: _____
Library Director