

Policy 3-2-5. Library-Initiated Displays and Programs

Adopted 7/19/2023

Josephine Community Library District (JCLD) curates displays and provides programs to support the mission of the library by providing users with additional opportunities for accessing lifelong learning, early literacy, technology, as well as information, education, and recreation. Library-initiated programs include, but are not limited to, lectures, physical displays, digital displays, exhibits, community forums, participatory workshops, creative learning programming, wellness programs, storytimes, book clubs, discussion groups, and presentations for social, cultural, educational, or entertainment purposes. Library-initiated programs may take place onsite at the library, off-site at other locations, or online, and may be provided by library staff, volunteers, or partners.

Library-initiated programs and displays utilize library worker expertise of community interests, collections, services, and facilities to provide access to information resources. They introduce patrons and potential patrons to library resources and the library's role as a facilitator of information access. JCLD may participate in cooperative or joint programs with other agencies, organizations, institutions, or individuals to facilitate information access in the community the library serves. JCLD may also choose to promote library programs, services, and resources through physical or digital displays and signs.

Intellectual Freedom

The right to access materials of varying viewpoints is an important part of the intellectual freedom basic to democracy. The principles of intellectual freedom are guaranteed in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and Article I of the Oregon Constitution. In keeping with those principles, JCLD favors no viewpoint and endorses the American Library Association Library Code of Ethics, Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read, Freedom to View, and Free Access for Minors adopted by the JCLD Board of Directors in Appendix A.

JCLD defends the First Amendment rights of speakers and participants to express themselves. Programs will not be canceled because of the ideas or topics of the program, or the views expressed by the participants or speakers, nor will JCLD censor or remove displays because individuals or groups may disagree with the content. Library sponsorship of a program does not constitute an endorsement of the program content, or the views expressed by the participants or speakers. Inclusion of material in a library display does not constitute JCLD endorsement of the material's content or its creator's views.

Authority and Responsibility for Selection

The responsibility for program selection and displays lies with the library director, who may designate other staff to participate in program development. The implementation of

programs and displays lies with branch or department managers, who may designate other staff or volunteers to assist with curating displays. The Board of Directors determines the policies for programs and displays set forth in this document. All staff members and the public are encouraged to recommend programs or displays for consideration as well.

Access

Except where noted elsewhere in this policy, all materials will be freely and easily accessible to the public in accordance with the ALA Free Access to Libraries for Minors statement. Youth are not limited to using materials in the children's or young adult areas. Responsibility for a minor's access to programs and displays rests solely with their parent or guardian.

The library will not limit access to materials featured in displays based on content or authorship, and selection will not be inhibited by the possibility that youth may use such items. Parents and guardians may restrict their own children's access to library programs, but no person or organization can interfere in others' access and participation. A parent or guardian may discuss their child's access to and participation in library programs with their child, but may not impose those decisions on others, including other people's children.

Criteria for Selection

Article I of the Library Bill of Rights states, "Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves." Socially excluded, marginalized, and underrepresented people, not just the mainstream majority, should be able to see themselves reflected in the programs and displays JCLD offers. JCLD actively seeks to include a variety of programs and displays representing diversity of genres, formats, ideas, and expressions with a multitude of viewpoints and cultural perspectives that reflect the diversity in the community and the world.

- Displays in the children's collection are selected to serve youth from birth through age 12.
- Displays in the young adult collection are selected to serve individuals from age 13 to 18 years.
- The library may curate displays in languages commonly spoken at home by Josephine County patrons or potential patrons, including English and Spanish.
- Staff and volunteer recommendations as well as suggestions from patrons are welcomed when curating displays and considered using the standards in this policy.
- JCLD actively seeks to include a variety of programs and displays representing diversity of genres, formats, ideas, and expressions with a multitude of viewpoints

and cultural perspectives that reflect the diversity in the communities served by the library district.

- Materials representative of JCLD's strategic plan or current programs, such as the Summer Reading Program might be selected for inclusion in displays.
- JCLD strives to include materials created by authors representative of diverse populations, also called "own voices," in curating displays and initiating programming, especially in the case of marginalized communities.

Additional considerations for selection criteria reflect JCLD's Collection Development Policy 3-2-1 including but not limited to current and historical significance, contribution of representative viewpoints on controversial issues, community needs and interest, diverse authors and perspectives, and timeliness.

Display Procedures

Materials for JCLD displays are selected to suit the information needs of all patrons or potential patrons JCLD serves. Materials are selected based on various topics of high interest including holidays, celebrations, seasons, or pertinent interests expressed by library users. JCLD appreciates that not every display will be of interest to every library user, but the goal is to represent the diverse communities JCLD serves throughout each year. The library director is ultimately responsible for district wide display themes and individual librarians may opt to create additional displays if there is a noted interest for materials in the respective communities served.

When a theme is identified JCLD utilizes various search methods to identify apt materials for displays. Methods used include but are not limited to; JCLD catalogue searches and search engines that display materials associated with specific themes, authors, or keywords; the Dewey decimal location of materials of certain topics, or online searches.

Materials included in displays include but are not limited to; materials explicitly about the theme, materials created by individuals represented in the theme, or historical accounts. For example, if the theme is Asian American heritage, materials may include items about the history of Asian Americans in the United States, materials about various Asian countries, materials written or directed by Asian American authors or directors, or cookbooks featuring recipes from various countries in Asia. Materials might consist of chapter books, picture books, audiobooks, DVDs, or graphic novels. Every effort is made to include materials in the two languages with a high rate of native speakers in Josephine County, English and Spanish. When applicable to the theme, JCLD strives to include materials representing a wide range of opinions.

The library director and staff may defer selection of materials or curation of displays to volunteers familiar with the selection criteria. Employees or experienced volunteers select

materials from a variety of media according to the above selection criteria. In the case of virtual displays, library staff publish materials based on the above selection criteria, and they may also seek volunteer or community input in making those decisions.

For front facing displays of books within standard library shelves, also known as “face-outs,” materials may be chosen randomly or based on popularity of the item, historical significance, circulation statistics, or current relevance.

Library-Initiated Program Procedures

JCLD implements programs that are standard to libraries across the United States such as the Summer Reading Program and strives to offer additional programs that suit the specific information needs of all communities the library district serves. Community requests and the historical popularity of certain programs are taken into consideration when selecting library-initiated programs. JCLD actively seeks to include a variety of programs and programs representing diversity of genres, formats, ideas, and expressions with a multitude of viewpoints and cultural perspectives that reflect the diversity of the communities the district serves. It is up to each individual if they choose to participate in any specific library-initiated program. JCLD appreciates that not every program will suit the information needs of every patron or potential patron, but the goal is to provide a wide array of programming to suit the information needs of all the diverse communities JCLD serves. If a patron objects to any programming offered by JCLD they are welcome to not participate in that particular program themselves.

When considering a new library-initiated program the first step is for a JCLD staff member to create a program proposal. The program proposal identifies the potential program, the communities it might serve, how it supports the library’s strategic plan or core services, resources involved in implementing the program, and potential staff involvement required at all branches in the district. Other considerations included are funding options, particularly in the form of program specific grants that afford JCLD the opportunity to facilitate certain programs. The program proposal must be approved by the library director and is evaluated by JCLD staff at all four branches to ensure it will suit the information needs at their specific branch. In some cases, library-initiated programming is only implemented at certain branches in which there is a community need. If approved the program is moved on to the implementation stage and ultimately becomes a library-initiated program.

Library-initiated programming does not affect the cost of a library card should a patron or potential patron be in or out of district, library access, or any other regular library activities.

Suggest a Program or Display

JCLD welcomes input from the public regarding potential programs and displays. Patrons wishing to suggest a potential program or display will be considered in accordance with the library-Initiated Displays and Programs Policy. If a patron wishes to object to a current

display, they are welcome to submit an official Request for Reconsideration Form. If a patron attends any library-initiated programming, they are welcome to fill out a feedback evaluation form at the conclusion of the presentation. Responses to Requests for Reconsideration and post program feedback forms will be assessed according to First Amendment rights and the ALA Freedom of Information and Freedom to Read standard library guidelines.