



THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF BROOKLINE

Where stories begin.

Policy: Library Facility and Grounds Policy – Staff Initiated Programs and Displays

Purpose

The Public Library of Brookline's collections, programs, and services support a broad range of interests that reflect our diverse community. As a public space, PLB works to ensure that the library is safe and welcoming place for all.

Statement of Policy

Staff-initiated programs and displays are designed to further the mission of the Library which is to promote discovery, connection, and opportunity for all residents. Through the PLB's diverse resources and innovative programs, we aim to enrich the lives of citizens through free access to information in many different media and formats. The PLB library locations are a cultural destination and a site for learning and recreation, as well as a place where people come together to exchange ideas. The PLB strives to be both a cornerstone of the community and a gateway to explorations of a wider world.

The Library itself operates in a neutral manner, independent of all organizations, political parties, or religions with the exception of applicable local, state, and federal laws. It does not participate in or endorse any activity that furthers the interest of any one group, or any political or religious organization. To the extent that PLB programs or displays spotlights a particular topic or event it is to raise awareness and learning not to make an endorsement or statement.

Ultimate responsibility for staff-initiated programming and displays in or on our buildings or grounds rests with the Library Director, under the authority of the Board of Trustees. The Library Director also has responsibility for displays of flags and signs on the exterior of the Library buildings and on library grounds by making recommendations to the Library Board of Trustees. The Board may approve these recommendations by a simple majority vote. Any signs, banners, or flags that do not directly promote the PLB, its programs, collections, and services or the Trustees, Brookline Library Foundation, and Friends of the Brookline Library shall not be recommended to the Board. The only exception is the implicit approval to display the American flag.

Effective date: May 9, 2023