**Missoula Public Library Exhibit Space Policy**

**Purpose** – The Missoula Public Library display spaces are provided to support exhibits and displays of diverse subject matter for children, adults, and families in line with the library’s mission, vision, and values.

Exhibits/displays shall be associated with:

* Library programming/resources/services
* Special events, holidays, months/days of recognition
* Local/regional history or culture
* Current events
* American Library Association celebrations

They shall also be used to highlight parts of the library’s collection.

Exhibit/displays address one or more of the following educational, recreational, or civic needs:

* To provide opportunity to widen horizons, stimulate imagination and reflection, and enlarge experiences
* To promote literacy, reading, and lifelong learning
* To increase library use by underserved populations (for example, Indigenous community members, teens, refugees/immigrants, and people with disabilities)
* To educate and inform on a variety of topics

**Intellectual Freedom** - The Missoula Public Library is dedicated to the concept of intellectual freedom and endorses the [Library Bill of Rights](https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill) of the American Library Association. The Missoula Public Library also accepts the Association’s [Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights](https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/exhibitsdisplaysbulletinboards) on Exhibit Spaces and Bulletin Boards. These documents were developed to affirm the commitment of libraries to the rights of freedom of speech and expression under the United States Constitution.

The library preserves the right of citizens to obtain information on all sides of potentially controversial issues so that each individual can decide for themselves the value of opposing ideas. In representing various sides of a question, the library thus provides citizens with reliable sources of information on which to base intelligent decisions in their daily lives.

The library has a responsibility to protect the rights of all patrons; displays which may be considered frank or offensive to some are permitted if they adhere to the Library’s Display Policy and contribute to the furtherance of its mission.

Only parents and legal guardians have the right and responsibility to restrict the access of their children to library resources. The display of materials is not inhibited by the possibility that particular works may inadvertently be seen by or come into the possession of children and young adults.

Approved on: