

Peabody Institute Library of Danvers Displays and Exhibits Policy

Displays and exhibits serve to:

- Promote the library's collections, resources, programs, and services.
- Nurture intellectual curiosity and support lifelong learning.
- Celebrate local history, culture, and artistic expression.
- Provide a platform for community groups to share diverse perspectives, educational resources, and local resources.

The final authority for implementing this policy rests with the Library Director or their designated staff member(s).

The Library reserves the right to:

- Schedule and designate all exhibits and displays, including physical placement and duration.
- Determine which public spaces are available for community use versus reserved solely for library staff curation.
- Deny or remove any display, exhibit, or material that violates the standards established in this policy.

Displays curated by library staff are primary tools for collection promotion and community enrichment.

- Library staff will strive to present a broad spectrum of opinions, backgrounds, and viewpoints. We will not exclude topics, books, or media solely because they may be considered controversial.
- Displays are created for different age groups and interest levels. The presence of a display targeting a specific audience (e.g., adults, teens) does not imply that others are restricted from viewing it. Parents and legal guardians hold the sole responsibility for directing what their children view or borrow.

If the library designates specific cases, walls, or bulletin boards for public use, the following rules apply:

- Space is made available on an equitable, first-come, first-served basis regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of those requesting its use.
- Priority is given to Library-related activities, Library partners, and town municipal departments.
- Local non-profits, civic groups, educational institutions, and individual artists/collectors residing in Danvers may apply.
- Artists from outside of the community may apply on a case by case basis.

All public exhibits will be evaluated based on the following content-neutral criteria:

- Connection to the community's history, culture, or local interests.
- Historical, artistic, or educational merit.
- Physical suitability for the designated display area (size, weight, stability, and safety of installation).

Because library display spaces are visible to patrons of all ages, the following are strictly prohibited:

- Displays intended to advertise, promote, or sell goods, products, or commercial services.
- Partisan materials promoting specific political candidates, political parties, or active ballot initiatives.
- Any material that violates federal, state, or local laws (e.g., copyright infringement, defamatory materials).
- Content containing graphic violence, explicit nudity, obscenity, or defamatory targeting of individuals or protected groups.

Public exhibitors approved to use library space must comply with the following operational guidelines:

- The exhibitor is entirely responsible for installing and removing their display on the scheduled dates. Materials not removed on time may be dismantled by staff and stored at the owner's risk; if unclaimed after thirty [30] days, items will be considered abandoned and may be discarded.
- No adhesives, nails, or hardware that could permanently alter or damage library surfaces may be used.
- The Peabody Institute Library of Danvers does not assume responsibility for the security, preservation, or protection of any item placed on display.

The library remains a neutral platform for the exchange of ideas. The display of any public exhibit or community material does not imply endorsement, advocacy, or approval of the content or viewpoints by the Board of Library Trustees, administration, or staff.

Approved by the Board of Library Trustees on September 9, 2026