



Thomas St. Angelo Public Library
of Cumberland
~ A Carnegie Library

PROGRAMMING POLICY

Effective Date: August 13, 2024

Revised Date:

Purpose:

The Thomas St. Angelo Public Library of Cumberland looks to be a dynamic hub for the community. The Library is a gathering place for people. The Library strives to offer quality programs and events which support the Library's mission. These programs are free and open to the public.

Programming is an integral component of the library service that:

- Expands the Library's role as a community resource
- Introduces patrons and non-users to Library resources
- Provides entertainment
- Provides opportunities for lifelong learning
- Expands the visibility of the Library

Programming Philosophy

The Thomas St. Angelo Public Library of Cumberland's philosophy of open access to information and ideas extends to Library programming, and the Library does not knowingly discriminate through its programming. In planning programs, the Library will follow the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, and The Freedom to View statement (Appendices A, B). Library sponsorship of a program does not constitute an endorsement of the content of the program or the view expressed by participants. Program topics, speakers and resources are not excluded from programs because of possible controversy.

The Library's philosophy of equitable access to information applies to Library Programs. Diverse members of our community are recognized and appreciated and the Library strives to represent that diversity in its programming.

Every program may not be a good fit for every person. Performers or presenters shall not be excluded from consideration because of their origin, background, sexuality, gender, religion, ability, or views, or because of possible controversy. The Library does not conduct programming that is commercial, political or religious in nature. Programs may not solicit for businesses and services. The sale of products at a library program is not allowed, with the exception of writers, performers, and artists who may obtain library approval to sell their own works. Activities of the Thomas St. Angelo Public Library of Cumberland, Friends of the Thomas St. Angelo Public Library of Cumberland, and the City of Cumberland are exceptions.

Responsibility for selection:

The ultimate responsibility for selection of library programs rests with the Library Director who operates within the framework of the policies determined by the Thomas St. Angelo Public Library Board of Trustees. This responsibility may be shared with other members of the Library Staff; however, because the director must be available to answer to the library board and the general public for actual selections made, the director has the authority to reject or select any item contrary to the recommendation of the staff.

Criteria for selection:

The following criteria are used in making decisions about program topics, speakers, and accompanying resources:

- Library's mission and strategic plan;
- Community needs and interests;
- Availability of programs space;
- Treatment of content for intended audience;
- Presenter quality;
- Presenter background and qualifications in content area;
- Budget;
- Historical, educational or cultural significance;
- Connection to other community programs, exhibitions, or events;
- Relation to library collection, resources, or exhibits;
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Types of Library programs include, but are not limited to:

- Book discussions
- Storytimes/storytelling
- Family literacy programs
- Author visits/readings
- Artistic and music performances
- Film showings
- Demonstrations and workshops
- Instructional classes/training sessions
- Lectures and presentations
- Exhibits and associated programs
- Community forums
- Library tours and orientations

Attendance:

All Library programs are open to the public regardless of age, race, religion, familial belief, gender or political affiliation. Programs may be held at the Library, off-site, or virtually.

Attendees do not need a library card to participate in a library program.

Registration may be required for planning purposes or when space is limited.

Program attendees must comply with all Library policies.

Some programs may be designed with certain age-limit parameters.

Participants in a Thomas St. Angelo Public Library of Cumberland may be photographed and/or filmed. These photographs may appear without compensation in news publications or productions, on the Web, or in printed or electronic materials related to the role and function of the Thomas St. Angelo Public Library of Cumberland.

The Library welcomes expressions of opinion from patrons concerning programming. If a patron questions a library program, they should first address the concern with the Library Director. Patrons who wish to continue their request to review of library programs may submit a Request for Library Item/Program Review Form. Requests for review of programs will be considered in the same manner as requests for reconsideration of library materials as outline in the Library's Collection Development policy.

Cancellation of programs:

Programs may be cancelled due to illness of a staff member, presenter, or performer. Additionally, programs may be cancelled if weather conditions impacting travel, staffing or in the case of low registration or participation. Cancelled programs are not automatically rescheduled.

Library Bill of Rights

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.

II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.

IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.

V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.

VI. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

Adopted June 18, 1948, by the ALA Council; amended February 2, 1961; amended June 28, 1967; amended January 23, 1980; inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 24, 1996.

Freedom to View Statement

The Freedom to View, along with the freedom to speak, to hear, and to read, is protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. In a free society, there is no place for censorship of any medium of expression. Therefore, these principles are affirmed:

1. To provide the broadest possible access to film, video, and other audiovisual materials because they are a means for the communication of ideas. Liberty of circulation is essential to insure the constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression.
2. To protect the confidentiality of all individuals and institutions using film, video, and other audiovisual materials.
3. To provide film, video, and other audiovisual materials which represent a diversity of views and expression. Selection of a work does not constitute or imply agreement with or approval of the content.
4. To provide a diversity of viewpoints without the constraint of labeling or prejudging film, video and other audiovisual materials on the basis of the moral, religious, or political beliefs of the producer or filmmaker or on the basis of controversial content.
5. To contest vigorously, by all lawful means, every encroachment upon the public's freedom to view.

This statement was originally drafted by the Freedom to View Committee of the American Film and Video Association (formerly the Educational Film Library Association) and was adopted by the AFVA Board of Directors in February 1979. This statement was updated and approved by the AFVA Board of Directors in 1989.

Endorsed January 10, 1990, by the ALA Council.