

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS PUBLIC LIBRARY
MEETING ROOM USE POLICY

PURPOSE

Providing space for community meetings and to groups or individuals furthers the Columbia Heights Public Library's role in the community as a resource accessible to all residents and the public in general. This policy guides the reservations and use of the Library's study rooms, conference room, craft room, history room, and community room.

PRINCIPLES

As a community service, and a connector of ideas and people, the Library makes available a variety of spaces to accommodate differing needs and groups. The Library encourages use of its facilities within the policies established by the Library Board and City Council.

DEFINITIONS

Study Rooms: Study rooms are available for individual use or one-on-one discussions. Study rooms are intended for quiet study or consultation by students and other community users. The Library provides three Study Rooms (Rooms 133, 134, and 135) with a capacity of one to three persons per room. Sign-up is required at the time of use; advance reservations are not permitted. Study rooms are not intended for commercial purposes.

Meeting Rooms: Meeting Rooms are intended for groups of four or more people. Meeting rooms include the History Room, Conference Room, Craft Room, and Community Room. These rooms are available for public use when not being used by the library.

History Room: The History Room is located in the main area of the library, has a fixed table and chair setup, has a capacity of 12 persons, and is available on a reservation basis.

Conference Room: The Conference Room is located in the main area of the library, has a fixed table and chair setup, has a capacity of 6 persons, and is available on a reservation basis.

Craft Room: The Craft Room is located in the main area of the library, has moveable tables and chairs and a sink, has a capacity of 8 persons, and is available on a reservation basis.

Community Room: The Community Room is located across the vestibule from the main library space. The Community Room is a flexible use space with tables, chairs, a whiteboard, and limited AV equipment, including a ceiling mounted projector, and screen. Presenters must bring their own laptops. Library staff does not provide technical support for audio-visual equipment.

The Community Room has a capacity of 100 people, and is available on a reservation basis for \$25 per hour. The Community Room may be reserved between the hours of 7 am and 9 pm Monday through Saturday.

NON-ENDORSEMENT

Permission to reserve and use a space does not constitute an endorsement by the Library of the group, program, or point of view expressed. The name of the Library may not be used in any publicity for non-library sponsored or co-sponsored meetings except to designate the meeting location. The Library may not be identified as a co-sponsor of a meeting without prior approval of the Library Board, Library Director, or the City Manager in the Library Director's absence.

RESERVATIONS AND USE LIMITATIONS

Rooms that can be reserved are as follow: Craft Room, Conference Room, History Room, and Community Room. Priority for reserving all rooms will be given in the following order:

1. Library sponsored and co-sponsored programs and activities
2. City of Columbia Heights departments
3. General Public

Rooms may be reserved by any person or group that is open to the general public and appropriate to the facility.

1. Appropriate use would not include activities that might damage the facilities, and those which may interfere with the regular use of the library.
2. Because of implied endorsement of the library's institutional standing and potential liability to the library, health screening activities will not be a permitted use of meeting rooms except for outreach programs provided by Anoka County, by local hospitals, or by recognized non-profit health organizations.
3. The rooms may not be used for commercial or fundraising purposes or functions.
 - a. No fees or admission may be charged to individuals attending meetings or programs.
 - b. No commercial transactions may occur, including the provision of fee-based services.
 - c. No fundraising may occur as either a primary or incidental use of the rooms.
 - d. Exceptions may be made for library-related activities.
4. Reservations will not be accepted more than sixty (60) days in advance of meetings. Rooms are available on a first-come, first-served basis. No provisions will be made to reserve rooms on a constant or recurring basis – rooms will be booked for each meeting as appropriate. The Library may limit the number of confirmed reservations for any individual or group to no more than once per month.
5. Reservation form and all fees due are to be submitted at least three days prior to the reservation. Access will not be granted to the facility until all fees are paid and the completed reservation form is submitted. Proof of identification is required to be provided at the time the reservation form is submitted.
6. No alcoholic beverages are allowed.
7. Covered beverages are allowed in all rooms. Light refreshments may be served in the Community Room. No cooking, refrigeration, or electrical appliances are available or may be used. The refrigerator in the Community Room is not to be used by any persons or groups reserving the room without prior approval by the Library Director.

- a. Persons or groups are required to provide all supplies and are responsible for cleaning up all food and beverage waste.
 - b. Exceptions to this policy are possible for library or City sponsored events.
8. Storage of equipment or supplies for groups using the rooms is not permitted.
9. Nothing may be affixed to library walls or windows (e.g. tape, tacks, putty, temporary hangers, etc.).
10. Furniture must remain in the space and put away when done.
11. Rooms must be picked up and cleaned before the person or group leave. Chairs and tables must be returned to their original places. The room must be vacant by the hour specified on the application or 15 minutes before the library closing time for the Conference Room, Craft Room, History Room, and Study Rooms. User will be responsible for any damage to room, furniture, or equipment.
12. Smoking, including the use of e-cigarettes, is not allowed in any of the rooms of the library building.
13. No keys will be issued for the library facilities.
14. The library reserves the right to revoke a reservation to use any room if the room is needed for library purposes at the specified time. All attempts will be made to provide a minimum two-week notice of the cancellation.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Patrons shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws. Entrance onto Library property and use of its facilities indicates acceptance of and willingness to abide by all applicable policies and procedures. Future reservations may be denied if an individual or group is out of compliance.
2. The Library retains the right to monitor all meetings, programs, and events conducted on the premises to ensure Library policies are followed. Library staff shall have free access to any meeting or event at all times.
3. The person or group reserving the room is responsible for leaving the room in good condition. If the room requires additional tear down or cleaning after a meeting, the contact person for the group will be charged a fee of \$100. In addition, the person or group may be denied future reservations of the Library rooms.
4. All clean-up must be completed within the time specified on the application and no later than 15 minutes prior to closing for all rooms except the Community Room.

CANCELLATIONS

1. Persons or groups reserving the rooms should notify the Library as soon as possible if it is necessary to cancel a reservation.
2. Repeated cancellations or failure to show may affect the ability to reserve meeting rooms in the future.
3. If meeting room users are 10 or more minutes late for their booked time, library staff may allow other patrons to book the room.

INDEMNIFICATION

The person or group reserving the room shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the City of Columbia Heights, its officers, agents, and employees from and against any and all claims, suits, actions of any kind, arising and resulting and accruing from a negligent act, omission, or error of the person or group resulting in or relating to personal injuries or property damage arising from the person or groups' use of the library.

PARKING

To ensure adequate parking for Library patrons, persons or groups renting the Community Room that anticipate attendance to exceed 15 people should direct their attendees to park at the municipal parking ramp located at 4025 Van Buren Avenue NE or the municipal parking lot located on the south side of 40th Avenue between Central Avenue and Van Buren Avenue. If the Library experiences parking capacity issues during a large group reservation the Library may deny future room reservations to that group.

Adopted: 12/7/1993

Revised: 1/9/1996; 9/7/1999; 6/3/2003; 5/8/2007; 7/13/2016; 6/13/2018; 3/9/2020; 7/26/2021