

PROGRAM POLICY

The Independence Public Library supports its mission to be essential, providing relevant services and engaging people community-wide by offering programs that do one or more of the following: fill a need, are timely, meaningful, encourage discovery, personal growth, and/or collaborative development.

Library staff utilize their expertise, collections, services and facilities in developing and delivering programming. Library staff use the following criteria in making decisions about program topics, speakers, format, and accompanying resources:

- Community needs and interests
- Popular appeal
- Availability of program space
- Treatment of content for intended audience
- Presentation quality
- Presenter background/qualifications in content area
- Budget
- Relevance to community interests and issues
- Historical or educational significance
- Safety for presenters and participants
- Connection to other community programs, exhibitions or events
- Relation to Library collections, resources, exhibits and programs

In addition, the Library draws upon other community resources in developing programs and actively partners with other community agencies, organizations, educational and cultural institutions, or individuals to develop and present **programs or** co-sponsored public programs. Professional performers and presenters that reflect specialized or unique expertise may be hired for Library programs; performers and presenters will not be excluded from consideration because of their origin, background, or views. Library staff who present programs do so as part of their regular job and are not hired as outside contractors for programming.

All Library sponsored programs, with the exception of honoring donors or volunteers, are open to the public. The Library's philosophy of open access to information and ideas extends to programming, and the Library does not knowingly discriminate through its programming. Library sponsorship of a program does not constitute an endorsement of the content of the program or the views expressed by presenters or participants.

Due to space limitations and/or the nature of the program, attendance at programs may be limited to a certain number and/or age group. Registration may be required for planning purposes or when attendance must be limited. When limits must be established, attendance will be determined on the requirements of the program first, then on a first-come, first-serve basis...either via registration or at the door.

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Performers or authors may sell books or CDs as part of a library program. Sale of any other products at library programs is not permitted unless authorized by the Library Director. Authors are encouraged to donate a copy of their work to the Library for possible inclusion in the Library collection.

Persons attending library programs or public meetings may be videotaped or photographed as an audience member. These images may be used for library programming or promotion, including the library website, and social media sites, newspaper, and other media.

Programs may be cancelled for a number of reasons, chiefly: severe weather, closure of the Library, absence of the presenter, or low registration. Cancelled programs are not automatically rescheduled.