

La Porte County Public Library Programming Policy

La Porte County Public Library's programming policy establishes guidelines for providing and sponsoring high quality programs for all ages in keeping with the library's mission, values and goals. The library champions learning and growth at every stage of life by offering equitable access to opportunities, resources, and services that help everyone be the best versions of themselves. Library programs fuel a love of reading, encourage lifelong learning, and support essential literacies in our community. Programs are a means through which the public can learn through shared experiences, appreciate special interests, and exchange information.

The policy serves three main purposes:

1. To provide guidance for staff engaged in programming and program development.
2. To provide transparency to the public regarding our goals, criteria, and reasons for having the programming we do.
3. To provide common ground for library staff, library administration, and the public. The programming policy is written by library administration and then approved by the Library Board of Trustees. Library staff active in programming and program development will review this policy annually to ensure it is responsive to the changing needs of the library organization and the users it serves.

LPCPL serves all of La Porte County through its established district and reciprocal agreements with the other library districts in La Porte County. Together that combines for service to more than 110,000 people who live in La Porte's cities, small towns, and rural areas. Residents may belong to families that have lived in the county for generations or may be new to the county, state, or country. The county's diversity is evident in the various interests, affiliations, and backgrounds of its residents.

Indiana Public Library Standards require libraries to provide at least 12 programs per year. Standards also require public libraries to offer a children's reading program for a minimum of 6 weeks at each location annually. State standards define a library sponsored program as "a workshop, program, seminar, or outreach program sponsored by the library, in which the library's staff plays a significant role, including, but not limited to, technology, informational literacy, early literacy, children's, cultural programming, and other programming offered for the community".

The Library's staff use the following criteria in making decisions about program topics, speakers, and accompanying resources:

- Community needs and interests
- 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
- 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 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, or because of possible controversy. Library staff who present programs do so as part of their regular job and are not hired as outside contractors for programming.

All Library programs are open to the public. A fee may be charged for certain types of Library programs. The Library's philosophy of open access to information and ideas extends to Library 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 participants, and program topics, speakers and resources are not excluded from programs because of possible controversy.

Registration may be required for planning purposes or when space is limited. Programs may be held on site at any Library agency, or off site. Any sales of products at Library programs must be approved by the Library and benefit the Library. Programs are not used for commercial, religious, or partisan purposes or the solicitation of business.

External organizations or individuals partnering with the Library on programs must coordinate marketing efforts with the Library's Marketing Department.

The Library welcomes expressions of opinion from customers concerning programming. If a customer questions a library program, he/she should first address the concern with a Library staff member. Customers who wish to continue their request for review of Library programs may submit the Request for Reconsideration form. Requests for review of programs will be considered in the same manner as requests for reconsideration of library materials as outlined in the Library's Collection Development Policy.

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