

Library Program Policy

Finney County Public Library

Adopted: 03.28.2022 | Revised: 00.00.0000

The Finney County Public Library (FCPL) recognizes the need to provide high-quality programs to all ages. Programs further the mission and vision of the Library and align with the Strategic Plan. This policy sets guidelines for what is presented at the Library and in the community.

Programs will be developed with consideration for the principles of accessibility, equity and inclusiveness, and will contribute to the Library's safe, supporting and welcoming environment. Reasonable accommodations will be made to ensure that programs are accessible to all who wish to attend and participate.

Library programming should align with the Library Bill of Rights and Library-Initiated Programs as a Resource: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights.

Library selection of a program does not constitute an endorsement of the content of the program or the views expressed by presenters. Decisions to provide programs will not be made on the basis of any anticipated approval or disapproval, but solely on the merits of the program in serving the interests of Library customers.

The Library's philosophy of open access to information and ideas extends to programming. Most Library programs are free and open to the public; however, some programs or classes may require a nominal materials fee. Registration may be required for planning purposes or when space is limited.

Library programs must have a special educational, informational or cultural value to the community. Programs of a purely commercial nature or those designed for the solicitation of business will not be offered by the Library. Examples of programs that would be considered of a commercial nature include, but are not limited to, presentations offered for free but with the intention of soliciting future business.

Programs that support or oppose any political candidate or ballot measure will not be approved or offered by the Library. However, educational programs, such as candidate forums that include invitations to all recognized candidates may be offered.

Programs will not be offered or approved that support or oppose a specific religion. Programs are planned to be inclusive of all cultures and of all religions and no religion. Library programs may address religious themes to educate or inform, but not to promote, observe or proselytize a particular religious conviction. Holiday programs may be offered for the entertainment of Library customers.

The following activities will be permissible at Library-initiated programs or on property governed by Library policy:

- Fundraising to benefit the Library

- The sale of books, music, movies or other items by authors, performers or presenters as part of a Library sponsored program.

Library staff use many criteria when making decisions about program topics, speakers and accompanying resources, including:

- Community needs and interests

- Relation to library collections, resources, services and events

- Connections to other community programs, exhibits or events

- Historical or educational significance

- Treatment of content for intended audience

- Presenter expertise and/or public performance experience

- Popular appeal

- Budget

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.

Unsolicited offers from individuals and organizations to present programs will be evaluated by the same standards used when planning Library programming. Such programming opportunities should further the mission, vision and values of the Library as outlined in this policy.

The Library reserves the right to use video or photographs taken of program participants for internal use, publication, use in Library promotional outlets, and evaluation purposes. Participants may request from staff that their image not be used by the Library.