

Kent County Public Library PROGRAMMING POLICY

Policy: Kent County Public Library provides programming to respond to the information, education, and entertainment needs and interests of the community while supporting the library's mission and expanding its visibility in the community. The wide selection of programming offered is inspired by the community, staff, Maryland library initiatives, and other coordinated themes.

All library-sponsored programs are free and open to the public. Due to space limitations, registration may be required for some programs. The library's philosophy of open access to information extends to library programming. The library does not discriminate against attendees or presenters on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or any other characteristics protected by local, state, and federal law.

Library sponsorship of a program does not constitute an endorsement of the content of the program or the views expressed by participants, nor is it responsible for the factual correctness of the content of a presentation. Program topics, speakers, and resources are not excluded because of possible controversy.

Library patrons have the freedom and responsibility to choose whether or not to attend programs in accordance with their needs, individual preferences, or values, but may not apply their personal choices in ways that restrict or interfere with other library users' freedom to attend programs.

Date: June 24, 2019

Signature:



Definitions: "Library-sponsored program" – Any program or event that has been primarily coordinated, facilitated, and/or arranged by library staff.

"Presenter" – Any person who has entered into an agreement with KCPL to provide educational, informational, cultural, or entertainment content to the public.

Procedures: Authority

While the library welcomes and considers patron suggestions for program topics, final programming decisions are made based on the professional judgment of library staff. The responsibility for library programming lies with the Library Director who delegates the coordination of programming to members of staff in the Public Services and Youth Services departments.

Criteria for Selection

Decisions about programming are made with consideration of the following elements:

1. Relationship to library mission and goals
2. Community needs and interests
3. Presenter background and qualifications
4. Budget and staffing considerations
5. Historical or educational significance
6. Representation of diverse cultural backgrounds, opinions, and viewpoints
7. Appeal to a range of ages, interests, and information needs
8. Connection to other community organizations, programs, exhibits, or events

Library programs are non-commercial in nature. Although a professional expert may present a program, the information presented should be generic in nature and the program may not be used to advertise a business or recruit customers.

The library does not offer programs that support or oppose specific political candidates, parties, or ballot initiatives.

The library does not offer programs that support or oppose specific religious convictions. Programs designed to provide information about religious traditions for the purpose of intellectual enrichment or multicultural education are permitted.

Program Reach

While staffing levels, budget concerns, and other factors impact the number and types of programs offered, the library endeavors to regularly offer programming at all of its official locations.

Library-sponsored programs may also be held off-site, as deemed appropriate, to

expand the library's visibility in the community.

The library may choose to co-sponsor programs with other agencies and organizations. Co-sponsorship and collaboration decisions are made on the basis of shared goals, mutual needs, and equitable benefits between the library and community partners.

Program Attendance

Program attendance may be limited and/or registration required if the safety or success of a program requires it. In these cases, admittance will be granted on a first come, first served basis.

Program attendance may also be limited based on age, especially programs intended for children and teens that are geared to their unique developmental needs and interests.

Sale of Items at Programs

The sale of books, CDs, or other items created by authors, performers, or presenters as part of a library program requires prior approval and arrangement with the library.

Reconsideration of Library Programming

The library welcomes expressions of opinion from library patrons concerning programming. Patrons should address questions and concerns about programming with the library director. Patrons who wish to request a program decision be reevaluated must submit the Request for Reconsideration form. This form will be reviewed and all requests for reconsideration will receive a reply.