

Programming Policy

Programs are an extension of the services provided by the Rochester Public Library District and are offered for citizens of all ages. Programs are defined as planned activities or events that may be developed and presented by Library staff or may be cosponsored by the Library and other community organizations. Library programs are open to the public without charge unless the presenter provides supplies for participants that require a cost-recovery fee.

Library staff will present early literacy programs for children aged birth through age five on a regular schedule throughout the year. Other programs for children and young adults will be planned, staff time and budget permitting, with special emphasis on summer reading programs. Each year the Library Director will establish a budget for hiring performers and purchasing materials to support children's programming.

Programs for adults may be scheduled throughout the year as interest warrants. Speakers from community groups and businesses may be invited to present programs on topics of general interest or of a timely nature. Presenters may not directly solicit business before, during, or following a program, although cards and brochures may be left on the display table for attendees to pick up. No fees may be charged to attend any Library sponsored or cosponsored program, unless they qualify as cost-recovery for supplies.

PROGRAMMING RESOURCES

- A. The Library draws upon and partners with other community agencies, organizations, educational and cultural institutions, or individuals to develop and present programs.
- B. Professional performers and presenters with specialized expertise may be hired.
- C. Performers and presenters will not be excluded from consideration based on any protected group status as defined by applicable federal, state, or local laws and regulations.
- D. Library staff who present programs will do so as part of their regular job and are not hired as outside contractors for programming

CONTENT

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 from programs because of possible controversy.

Library programs are generally open to anyone wishing to attend. If space restrictions or program requirements limit the number of people who may attend, preference will be given to residents of the district. Persons attending Library-sponsored or co-sponsored programs are expected to adhere to the Library's policies on patron conduct.

By separate action, and reaffirmed herein, the Rochester Public Library District has endorsed the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights and its interpretation, "[Library-Initiated Programs as a Resource.](#)"

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