

Library Program Policy

La Crosse County Library supports its mission to inspire, enrich, educate, and serve by developing and presenting programs ("programs" includes programs, displays, and exhibits) that provide additional opportunities for learning and entertainment.

The Library strives to offer a variety of programs that reflect the interests of our evolving population. Programs are provided as a means through which the public of all ages, cultures, backgrounds, and interest groups in our La Crosse County community can share experiences, appreciate special interests, and exchange information. *Use of Library meeting rooms by outside organizations will fall under the Library Meeting Room Policies.*

Adopted by the La Crosse County Library Board 11-10-2025

Programming is an integral Library service that:

- Expands our role as a community resource
- Connects our community members to information and each other
- Strengthens partnerships within the community
- Provides entertainment and cultural experiences
- Provides opportunities for lifelong learning
- Increases the visibility of the Library and its resources

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

- Relation to the Library's mission, collections, resources, exhibits, and programs
- Relevance to community needs, interests, and issues
- Connection to other community programs, exhibitions, or events
- Presenter background/qualifications in content area
- Presentation quality
- Historical or educational significance
- Availability of space
- Budget and staffing considerations

In addition, the Library draws upon other community resources in development programs and actively partners with other government and community agencies, organizations, educational and cultural institutions, and 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. Library staff who present programs do so as part of their regular job and are not hired as outside contractors for programming.

The Library, as recommended by the American Library Association, defends the First Amendment right of speakers and participants to express themselves. To be clear, the First Amendment does not protect behavior that crosses the line into targeted harassment or threats or that creates a pervasively hostile environment. But merely offensive or bigoted speech does not rise to that level, and determining when conduct crosses that line is a legal question that requires examination on a case-by-case basis. The Library's philosophy of open access to information and ideas extends to Library programming, and the Library does not knowingly discriminate on the basis of disability, 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. The Library and its employees will not be liable for the content of any program presented by a third party. Program topics, speakers, and resources are not excluded from programs because of possible controversy.

Library-sponsored events shall generally be voluntary, free, and open to the public. If donations are accepted at a Library program, they must be conducted “at will” and without solicitation (e.g. donation jar placed at program entrance). Access to Library programs will not be denied on the basis of fines owed. Whenever possible, collection and retention of participants’ personal information should be on an opt-in basis only.

Programs may be held on site at any Library location or at other locations and must be non-commercial in nature. Any sales of products at Library programs, whether on- or off-site, must be approved by the Library prior to the event and are handled by the guest presenter, not Library staff. No individual or organization shall use a program at the Library to advertise or recruit members or customers. Materials asking Library visitors to sign a petition or letter are not permitted at Library programs. Programs are not used for commercial, religious, or partisan purposes or for the solicitation of business.

Registration may be required for planning purposes, due to limited space or safety concerns, or as a result of the nature of or conditions required for success of a program. Every attempt will be made to accommodate all who wish to attend a program. When attendance is limited, it will be determined on a first-come, first-served basis, whether by advance registration or at the door. In some cases, the safety, nature, and success of a program may require age-based restrictions, particularly for programs intended for children and teens which are geared to their interests and developmental needs. In no case will attendance be limited by age because the topic has been deemed controversial or inappropriate.

Large groups are encouraged to contact the Library prior to program attendance. Registration for all programs will be handled by the Library unless other arrangements with co-sponsoring organizations are made.

External organizations or individuals partnering with the Library for programs and displays must coordinate marketing efforts with the Library.

Programs and events planned and hosted by the Friends of the Library (at any of our locations) will continue to support the mission of the Library but will not be restricted by Library policy where prohibitive.

Request for Reconsideration

The Library welcomes expressions of opinion from patrons concerning programming. Patrons who wish to request a review of Library programs may submit the Request for Reconsideration form below. Requests for review of programs will be considered following the same policy and procedure as requests for reconsideration of Library materials.

Request for Reconsideration

The Trustees of La Crosse County Library have established this procedure for gathering input about particular library resources. Completion of this form is the first step in that procedure. If you wish to request reconsideration of a resource, please return the completed form to the Library Director

La Crosse County Library
121 W Legion St
Holmen, WI 54636

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State/Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Do you represent self? _____ Or an organization? _____
Name of Organization _____

1. Resource on which you are commenting:
____ Book (e-book) ____ Movie ____ Magazine ____ Audio Recording
____ Digital Resource ____ Game ____ Newspaper ____ Program ____ Display ____ Other

Title _____
Author/Producer/Location _____

2. What brought this resource to your attention?

3. Have you examined the entire resource? If not, what sections did you review?

4. What concerns you about the resource?

5. What other resource(s) would you suggest of equal or better quality which could convey a valuable picture or perspective of this subject matter?

6. What action are you requesting the committee consider?

Date _____ Signature _____

Reconsideration of Resources

Requests for Reconsideration forms will be made available at all County Library facilities. The procedure for reconsideration of action, whether it is for removal or for the addition of resources, will begin with the Library Director reviewing the completed reconsideration form. The form may then be designated to the appropriate librarian. Anonymous submissions will not be considered valid requests for reconsideration.

Decisions will be based upon:

- La Crosse County Library's current policies
- Supporting materials (including reviews, publication notices, collection and display needs)
- Programming goals.

If the designated staff maintains that the original action was appropriate, a response will be issued in writing to the complainant. At that time the Library Board will be given notice of the complaint and a copy of the response.

This policy includes (but is not limited to) requests about the following resources:

- Item placement into the collection
- A decision not to purchase an item
- Display creation
- Library programs

Should the complainant wish to pursue the issue with the Library Board, they will be invited to speak publicly at the next calendar Library Board Meeting in defense of their complaint. The Library Board reserves the right to postpone action for further consideration for 30 days. The formal action taken by the Library Board will be final.