

WESTERLY LIBRARY AND WILCOX PARK Request for Reconsideration

Westerly Library and Wilcox Park subscribes to the American Library Association's Bill of Rights and its interpretations. Our collections, displays, and private use of meeting space are developed, maintained, and provided on equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use. We do not advocate for or endorse the viewpoints expressed in materials we collect or subject matter to be discussed or the ideas for which the group advocates at a private Event. We have policies in place that guide us in the materials we select for our collections, displays and public events.

The choice of library materials by patrons is an individual matter. The library recognizes that some materials may be controversial or offensive to an individual, but maintains that individuals can apply their values only to themselves. Parents and legal guardians have the responsibility and right to guide the values of their children. As such, parents and legal guardians are responsible for the materials that their children borrow and should make decisions accordingly. No one can exercise censorship to restrict access to library materials by others.

Westerly Library and Wilcox Park supports intellectual freedom and endorses the American Library Association (ALA) Freedom to Read Statement (opens in a new tab), Freedom to View Statement (opens in a new tab), the Library Bill of Rights (opens in a new tab) and all relevant interpretations (opens in a new tab). Area residents requesting reconsideration of library materials, Events, or displays must complete the Request for Reconsideration form (below) in its entirety. Only signed forms will be considered. The Executive Director will acknowledge receipt of the form within two weeks.

Relevant library staff will review all pertinent data to ascertain whether the material, Event, or display meets the standards set forth in all policies, and will make a written recommendation to the Executive Director as to the validity of the request. During this process the material, programs, or displays in question will remain as is.

The Executive Director, after reviewing the recommendation, will render a decision as to whether the library material remains on the shelf or is removed from the collection and will notify the patron of said decision. A final appeal may be made to the Library Board of Trustees.

Decisions regarding materials or programs that are part of a series may be applied to the entire series.

A copy of the request form without identifying patron information will be sent to the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom. The request form in its entirety may be made publically available per RIGL 38-2.

“Display” is defined as a selection of items (either physical or virtual) with little to no accompanying text or provided interpretation. Displays may be ancillary to an Event or stand on their own. The purpose of a library display is to communicate meaning through a collection of items (bibliographic, physical, or digital).

“Group” is defined as any association, organization, corporation, or gathering of individuals or, singularly, an individual however denominated.

“Event” is defined as any meeting, program, gathering, or performance.

“Participant” is defined as anyone attending or planning to attend the Event.

“Fundraising Event” is any Association Initiated Event that is developed to raise funds for Library and Park expenses.

“Material” refers to books, videos, magazines, audiobooks, digital content, and any other media or items purchased by the Library for use by the public.

“Meeting Room” includes the Auditorium, Terrace Room, Roberts Room and the Hoxie Gallery.

“Co-hosted Event” is defined as an Event designed and organized by the Library in conjunction with an outside Group. The Library typically provides staff, facilities and equipment in conducting the Event as well as promotional support.

“Co-sponsored Event” is defined as an Event designed and organized exclusively by an outside Group in which the Library supports or participates to a limited degree by providing staff, facilities or digital assistance.

This Request for Reconsideration Policy and Form were Revised and Approved by the Memorial and Library Association Board of Trustees February 21, 2023

Request for Reconsideration

Please complete this form in its entirety and return to a staff member.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Do you represent yourself or a group? myself group

Name of Group: _____

Have you read our Collection Development Policy? yes no

Have you read our Private Meeting Room Rental Policy? yes no

Have you read our Public Programs and Displays Policy? yes no

What Material/Event/Display are you commenting on? _____

If commenting on a Material, please complete the following:

Type of material (book, magazine, newspaper, CD, DVD, etc) _____

Author/Editor _____

Title _____

Publisher/Producer _____

If commenting on a Program or Event, what is the Program/Event title and the date held?

If commenting on a Display, where is the Display and when did you see it?

Did you read, watch, or listen to the entire work, watch the entire Event, or view the entire Display? If not, which portion? (Please be specific; cite pages, excerpts, scenes, examples.)

Other comments:

Patron's signature _____ Date _____

Received by staff member _____

Thank you for your comments. The Executive Director will contact you regarding your concerns. A copy of the request form without identifying patron information will be sent to the American Library Association Office of Intellectual Freedom. Please use the back of this page for further comments if necessary.