

Blackstone Public Library Exhibit Policy

Library exhibit space is used primarily to highlight and promote library services, events, and collections. It is also used to provide community information and give groups and individuals the opportunity to exhibit their arts, crafts, and personal collections. This policy adheres to the American Library Association guidelines, which state: “exhibit spaces available to the public should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.” The views of groups and individuals presenting exhibits are not necessarily the views of the library.

About the Exhibit Space

- There are two display cases available in the foyer. The display cases can support objects weighing up to 25 pounds.
- The Meeting Room is available for exhibits. See the “Meeting Room Policy” for more information about the meeting room.
- A community bulletin board is available in the Friends area of the library for non-profit organizations (approval by Library Director required).

Eligibility

- Town committees and non-profit organizations affiliated with Blackstone are eligible to use the exhibit space.
- Local, state, and federal agencies and committees are eligible.
- Groups or individuals wishing to use the exhibit space must submit a signed Exhibit Space Form to the Library Director. This form includes contact information, a description of the exhibit, purpose of the exhibit, monetary value of the exhibit, requested dates, and a description of any publicity. Completing the Exhibit Space Form does not guarantee approval to use the display space.
- The Blackstone Public Library reserves the right to review exhibits before they are installed.
- Once an Exhibit Space Form has been approved, any changes to the exhibit must be submitted in writing to the Library Director at least one week before the scheduled exhibit date.
- An Exhibit Space Form is required for each exhibit.
- If an exhibit is cancelled, the Blackstone Public Library must be notified promptly.
- The Library Board of Trustees and/or Library Director reserves the right to preempt or cancel the use of the exhibit space.

Reservations

- Reservations for exhibit space may be made up to three months in advance of the exhibit.
- Exhibit space is available on a first come, first served basis. Priority will be given to local exhibitors who have not previously presented an exhibit.

Restrictions

- Exhibits must not be commercial in nature.
- Exhibits cannot contain materials that are for sale.
- Exhibits cannot endorse political candidates or be used for the personal gain of groups or individuals.
- Exhibits must not be defaming or obscene as defined by the United States Supreme Court.
- Exhibits are scheduled for one month.
- Exhibits cannot interfere with library operations.
- Modifications to exhibit cases or walls are prohibited.

Exhibit Guidelines

- Exhibitors are responsible for setting up and dismantling exhibits. If an exhibit is not dismantled as scheduled, the library may dismantle the exhibit. The library is not responsible for any damage that might occur to exhibits as a result of having to dismantle it.
- Labels cannot be affixed to the glass or walls. The individual or group name presenting the exhibit should be posted. The exhibitor's phone number may be included with the exhibit.

Liability

- Exhibitors assume full responsibility for transporting exhibits to and from the library.
- Exhibitors are responsible for any damage caused by an exhibit.
- The Blackstone Public Library is not responsible for any theft or damage to exhibits.
- The Blackstone Public Library's insurance policy does not cover exhibits.
- Exhibitors must agree to and sign the "Blackstone Public Library Insurance Waiver & Release" form.

Fees

- There is no charge for the use of exhibit space.

Bulletin Board

The bulletin board is located near the Friends area of the Blackstone Public Library and is used to announce events, programs, or educational opportunities. The following guidelines apply:

- Commercial and personal announcements are prohibited.
- Materials must be neat and cannot be larger than 11 inches by 17 inches (exceptions can be made by the Library Director).
- Advanced approval from the Library Director is necessary prior to posting on the bulletin board.
- No fee can be charged to view exhibits.

Request for Reconsideration

Objections to exhibits can be made by submitting a written complaint to the Library Director/Library Board of Trustees. The Library Director will review the exhibit according to library policies.