

# **AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD PROGRAMMING POLICY**

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

Programming is a library service and as such is included in the Library Bill of Rights adopted by the Austin Public Library Board on September 9, 1996.

Austin Public Library programs are the presentation of events sponsored by the Austin Public Library. They are designed to meet the informational, educational and/or recreational needs of those attending the program, and to provide a positive library experience for individuals.

The purpose of this policy is to guide librarians in the selection and presentation of library sponsored programs. The Library Director will evaluate the effectiveness of the programs provided by gathering and analyzing data from the event. A formal statement of objectives will assist librarians in meeting the programming needs of this community.

## **OBJECTIVES**

1. To provide informational, educational and recreational programs to supplement those of other community agencies and/or to provide informational, educational and recreational opportunities not available elsewhere in the community.
2. To provide information on a variety of subjects that can best be communicated in a program format.
3. To promote community awareness of library materials, resources and services.
4. To respond to the interests and requests of the people within the community.
5. To produce a positive library experience for individuals.
6. To establish positive relationships between the libraries in the community and the city and county served.

## **PRESENTATION OF LIBRARY PROGRAMS**

The selection of any program does not constitute an endorsement of the views expressed. The Library recognizes that some programs may be controversial and that any given program may offend some library users. Decisions to provide programs will not be made on the basis of any anticipated approval or disapproval, but solely on the merits of the program in serving the interests of library users.

The Library will attempt to match programs with age groups and this will be stated in the publicity, but the responsibility for child attendance rests with the parents.

The Library Board will reconsider presenting any program upon written request by a user.

## **REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

The Library Director responds to initial requests for reconsideration of library programs. The Library Board will review appeals on requests for reconsideration. Program appeals require careful review for compliance with the established Austin Public Library Programming Policy. Therefore, appeals must be presented in writing to the Library Board ten days in advance of the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board. The Request for Reconsideration of Library Program form may be used in place of a letter. In the event that the notice is received less than ten days prior to the next meeting, the appeal will be scheduled for the following regularly scheduled Board meeting.

## **REVISION**

This policy will be reviewed by the Library Board at least every two (2) years.

**CITIZEN'S REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY PROGRAM**

(Please note that anonymous requests are not accepted, nor are requests made by organizations or groups.)

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ REQUESTED BY (name) \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

REQUESTOR REPRESENTS: \_\_\_ SELF \_\_\_ OTHER (name/organization) \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF PROGRAM \_\_\_\_\_

PRESENTER/PERFORMER \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF PROGRAM \_\_\_\_\_

1) To what content in the program do you object? Please be specific (cite details of program).

2) What do you feel might be the result of viewing/listening to this program?

3) For what age group would you recommend this material or program?

4) Is there anything positive about this program?

5) What direct knowledge do you have of the content of this program?

\_\_\_\_\_  
Requestor's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Received by (Name of Austin Public Library Staff Person):

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_