Temple Public Library
Policy: Programming
Revision Date: 4/26/2022

Application of Programming Policy

This Programming Policy applies to programming: (1) developed and sponsored by the Temple Public Library (TPL or Library); and (2) developed by individuals and other agencies, organizations, and businesses and co-sponsored by TPL.

This Programming Policy does not apply to:

- Community-hosted programs; or
    - Community members can reserve a meeting room for the purpose of presenting their own programs (see Meeting Room Policy).
- Programs offered by other individuals or agencies, organizations, or businesses in spaces rented from the City of Temple.

TPL does not sponsor these types of programs, nor does TPL provide marketing or promotional assistance for these programs.

Programming Policy

In order to fulfill the mission and vision of the Temple Public Library, various divisions of the TPL provide programming to encourage community engagement, provide experiential education, connect community members with services and information, and to inspire life-long learning and enrichment. Library programming is provided through a combination of funds from the City of Temple and the Friends of the Temple Public Library.

Programs are a means through which the public can share experiences, appreciate special interests, and exchange information. Temple Public Library opens all programs to the general public; however, Library staff will provide information on the age for which the program is intended.

Programs are offered free of charge to all customers regardless of age, race, religion, familial beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, or political affiliation. Temple Public Library's philosophy of open access to information and ideas extends to Library programming. TPL does not discriminate through its programming.

Programming is an extension of the Library's ideals to promote the free and open exchange of ideas. Program topics, speakers, and resources are not excluded from programs because of possible controversy. TPL's participation in or sponsorship or co-sponsorship of a program does not constitute or imply an endorsement of the content of the program or the views or beliefs expressed by participants or speakers.

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As with the Library's collection, programs for children and teenagers are intended to broaden their vision, support recreational reading, encourage and facilitate reading skills, supplement their educational needs, stimulate and widen their interests, lead to recognition and appreciation of literature, and reflect the diversity of the community. Parents and guardians have the right and the responsibility to guide their own children's use of the Library and its resources and services. The Temple Public Library does not assume the role of a parent or intrude on the private relationship between a child and their parent or guardian.

Temple Public Library uses the following criteria in making decisions about program topics, speakers, and accompanying resources:

- Relation to Library mission, vision, collections, resources, and exhibits
- Community needs and interest
- Availability of program space
- Treatment of content for intended audience
- Presentation quality as determined from references and/or experiences
- Presenter background/qualifications in content area
- Budget
- Relevance to community interests and issues
- Historical or educational significance
- Connection to other community programs, exhibitions, or events
- Intended experiences for targeted audiences
- Intent to foster creativity, ingenuity, and entrepreneurship
- Staffing resources
- Diversity of current offerings
- National observances and commemorative months
- National or state initiatives (i.e., American Library Association, Texas Library Association, etc.)

TPL Co-Sponsored Programs

The Temple Public Library may co-sponsor programs with individuals and other agencies, organizations, and businesses provided the programs are compatible with TPL's mission and vision. Professional performers and presenters who offer specialized or unique expertise may be hired for Library programs.

Programming Policy Guidelines

- TPL will make every attempt to accommodate all who wish to attend a program. However, when safety or the success of a program requires it, TPL may limit attendance or determine attendance on a first-come, first-served basis, either with advanced registration or at the door.
- TPL draws upon other community resources in developing programs and actively works with other community agencies, organizations, educational and cultural institutions, and individuals to develop and present co-sponsored public programs.
- TPL will not exclude performers and presenters from consideration because of their origin, background, or views, or because of possible controversy.
- TPL may permit the sale of books written by speakers or recordings by performers in conjunction with a Library-sponsored program. TPL staff, who are responsible for a program, must approve any plans to sell such items in advance.

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- The Library does not offer programs that support or oppose any political candidate or ballot measure. However, election information, such as candidates' forums that include invitations to all recognized candidates, may be offered.
- The Library does not offer programs that support or oppose a specific religious conviction. The Library will endeavor to provide programs that reflect the community's diversity.
- When TPL holds grant-sponsored programs, then TPL staff will adhere to the dictates and rules of the grant.
- TPL staff may require program attendees to sign a waiver form to participate in programs.
- TPL handles concerns, questions, or complaints about Library-initiated programs according to the same written policies and procedures that govern reconsiderations of other TPL resources.
- Those individuals, agencies, organizations, or businesses wishing to have a program sponsored by TPL must complete the Program Presenter Application. TPL programming staff will review and either approve or disapprove any presenter proposals based on the criteria listed above.
- In-house programming will require the applicable staff member's completion of the Temple Public Library Program Planning Form and approval from the staff member's supervisor.
- All program attendees, speakers, and presenters must follow TPL's Customer Conduct Policy.