

Public Programming Policy

Philosophy and Scope of Programming

Programs at the Altoona Public Library support our strategic initiatives, collection of materials, services, resources, and facilities along with city-wide goals. In addition, programs serve the popular, recreational, informational, and social needs of the general public and reflect equitable outreach and engagement to a diverse community while promoting a culture of inclusion.

Inherent in the program philosophy is an appreciation for each patron of the library. The library provides programs to support each individual's journey and does not place a value on one patron's needs or preferences over another's. While the library upholds the right of the individual to access information (even though the content may be controversial, unorthodox, or unacceptable to others), Hateful Conduct, as defined by the American Library Association, is not permitted. The views and opinions of program presenters do not constitute endorsement by the library.

In an effort to provide equitable, inclusive, and diverse programs, Altoona Public Library staff will:

- Create and maintain an environment of inclusion and respect in all program planning, promotion, and spaces.
- Work with diverse communities to develop inclusive consultation and engagement processes.
- Work with diverse communities to determine appropriate ways to design, deliver, and evaluate programming.
- Reduce or eliminate barriers in accessing programs.

Criteria for Selection of Library-Initiated Programs

The Altoona Public Library initiates programs and may also co-sponsor programs with community groups. Selection of library-initiated and co-sponsored programs must be flexible and broad.

In no particular order, the following criteria are used in making decisions about library-initiated program topics, speakers, and accompanying resources:

- Altoona Public Library's mission, vision, and strategic plan
- Community needs and interests
- Availability elsewhere in the community
- Treatment of content for intended audience
- Presentation quality
- Budget availability
- Accuracy and timeliness of program content
- Impact and capacity of internal, tangential partners within the library.

Policy on Public Programming approved by the Altoona Public Library Board of Trustees on September 19th, 2023.