



Purpose: Mesa County Libraries (MCL) offers programs intended to further the Library's mission: To enrich lives and build community through opportunities to learn, discover, create, and connect. This policy guides staff decisions regarding development and selection of library programs to ensure programs that are engaging, relevant, current, and integral to the diverse communities MCL serves. A program is defined as an activity or event in a group setting intended to meet needs or interests of a target audience and build relationships between participants and the library.

Criteria for program continuation, selection and design include:

- Advances library's mission and values (Passion, Respect, Integrity and Kindness)
- Alignment with MCL's strategic roadmap
- Relevance to the needs and interests of the community
- Current demand based on program attendance
- Accuracy and timeliness of program content
- Presentation quality
- Presenter background and qualifications in content area
- Historical, cultural or educational significance
- Availability elsewhere
- Provides a forum for sharing of different perspectives
- Safety and security of patrons and staff
- Continuous evaluation to maintain programming vitality and usefulness to the community
- Cost and budget considerations
- Impact and capacity of library staff and resources

Presenters: MCL draws upon community resources in developing programs and actively works with other community agencies, organizations, educational and cultural institutions, and individuals to develop and present public programs. Additionally, MCL may hire local, regional or national professional talent to share their expertise.

- MCL may require a contract to be executed by program presenters.
- MCL will not exclude performers and presenters from consideration because of their origin, background, or views, or because of possible controversy.
- MCL may permit the sale of books, art or recordings created by the presenters in conjunction with a library-sponsored program. Approval of any plans to sell such items must be granted in advance.
- Community agencies, organizations and individuals may request to partner with MCL by completing the [Request to Partner through Programming with Mesa County Libraries](#) form.

Programming Guidelines

MCL supports free and open access to information and ideas as stated in the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to View policies of the American Library Association

- Library sponsorship of a program does not constitute an endorsement of the agency, organization, business or individual presenter of the program or the views expressed by presenters or participants.
- Select programs may be limited to age-specific audiences (i.e., teen programs). MCL will include age specifications in program publicity efforts.
- The library upholds the right of the individual to access information, even though the content may be controversial, unorthodox or unacceptable to others.





- Responsibility for the exposure of minors to library programs rests with their parents or legal guardians.
- Programs may be canceled due to weather, low registration or absence of the presenter. Canceled programs are not necessarily rescheduled.
- Library programs are free and open to the public.

MCL Does not provide:

- Programs of a purely commercial nature or those designed for the solicitation of business for third parties.
- Programs that specifically support or oppose any political party, candidate or ballot measure.
- Programs that support or oppose a specific religion. Programs may address religious themes to educate or inform, but will not promote or proselytize a particular religious conviction.

Authority: The Director has ultimate responsibility for program offerings, operating within established policies. The Director delegates the design, development and delivery of programs to staff, who operate within the essential principles, criteria and objectives outlined in this policy.

Community members can reserve a meeting room for the purpose of presenting their own programs. All meeting room use must comply with MCL’s Meeting Room Policy. MCL does not sponsor these community programs, nor does MCL provide marketing or promotional assistance for community-hosted programs.

Residents may also share program ideas and suggestions on program evaluations forms or directly with library staff by emailing ask@mcpld.org.

Reconsideration of Library Programs: Mesa County Libraries fully supports and believes in the freedom of information for all. However, community members have the right to challenge MCL to reconsider library programs.

All requests to reconsider a program must be made in writing using MCL’s Request for Reconsideration form, which is available at any MCL location and online. Completed forms go to designated staff who review the request in relation to the Library’s written policies. The completed Request for Reconsideration form is open to review under the Colorado Open Records Act. Individuals may submit up to five Requests for Reconsideration forms per month. Only forms filled out in full by Mesa County residents will be given full consideration and review. A program may only be reviewed once every five years. The Library Director then reviews the request and replies in writing within thirty days of receipt of the request. The Library Board of Trustees will be notified of all Requests for Reconsideration received. Should a resident believe the library’s process was not followed under this policy, they may ask the Board to review the staff’s process. The program in question will not be canceled during the reconsideration process.

REVIEWED AND ADOPTED ON June 27, 2024.

Alice Dow – MCPLD Board President

Mary Watson – MCPLD Board Secretary

