



Public Programs Policy

Adopted May 9, 2023

Mission Statement

Westhampton Public Library will be a center for community gathering and lifelong learning. We will create opportunities for learning and enjoyment for all library users.

Service Population

Westhampton is a town located in Hampshire County in the Hilltowns of Western Massachusetts. Its location is close enough to neighboring cities and the Five Colleges area that restaurants, shopping, and entertainment are within reach.

Westhampton is a small, rural community and is home to several locally run farms, sugar shacks and other small businesses. Westhampton's residents settled in the area around 1762. Originally, the town was part of Northampton known as the "Long Division." In 1778, residents petitioned to have Westhampton become its own town. Westhampton is a geographically dynamic area with hills, woods, wetlands and trails. It is home to conservation land including Greenberg Family Conservation Area managed by Kestrel Land Trust and Lynes Woods Wildlife Sanctuary managed by Mass Audubon. White Reservoir and Pine Island Lake, a summer destination, are both man-made.

According to a local census, the population of Westhampton as of 2020 was 1,645. In 2020 there were 1,312 registered voters and approximately 548 households. According to the 2020 U.S. Census the racial demographics of Westhampton were as follows: 1,516 residents identified as White, 3 residents identified as Black, 1 resident identified as American Indian & Alaska Native, 6 residents identified as Asian, 2 residents identified as Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander, 9 residents identified as Some other race, and 85 residents identified as 2 or more races. Also, according to the 2020 U.S. Census, the median age of residents was 46.3 years of age. There were 94.4 males for every 100 females living in Westhampton. Data by age group was as follows: 21.5% under 20, 11.3% in their 20s, 9% in their 30s, 11.7% in their 40s, 19.1% in their 50s, 15.1% in their 60s, and 12.3% were over 70 years of age.

Public Programs Goals

Public Programs goals include:

- To provide our patrons with a wide variety of free public programs for entertainment, inspiration and lifelong learning.
- To provide diverse programs, reflecting many points of view for patrons of all ages.

Selection Criteria:

Factors used to make programming decisions include:

- Local interest
- Community engagement and entertainment
- Current interest and usefulness of topic
- Relevance to library's mission and service roles
- Equity, diversity and inclusion

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement

At Westhampton Public Library, we value the importance of library users of all ages seeing themselves as well as people with different experiences reflected in public programs. Our library seeks to promote social justice, equity, inclusiveness and free access to respectful, accurate public presentations by and about people of various backgrounds and experiences. We seek to actively highlight and elevate presentations by or about marginalized communities and include everyone regardless of race, gender, gender identity, class, religion, sexual orientation, neurodiversity or any other aspect of their identity.

Public Programs for Children and Young Adults

Programs are carefully selected for children and young adults based on popular interests, educational value and enjoyment. Target age groups are recommended by library staff. However, the responsibility to determine the appropriateness of a public program for a juvenile rests with their parents or guardians.

The Board of Trustees recognizes the right of individuals to question public programs offered by the library. Whenever a patron has a concern about the presence or absence of any library program, the patron will be given hearing and consideration as follows:

- All concerns will be referred to the Library Director, who will discuss the matter with the patron and clarify the Public Programs Policy. If not satisfied with the Library Director's explanation or actions, the patron may submit a "Statement Of Concern About Library Public Program" Form. The completed form will be shared with the Board of Trustees at their monthly meeting. The evaluation of any library program of concern will consider the program as a whole, not just individual parts of the program. A decision will be made regarding whether or not to add or cancel a program within a reasonable amount of time, with written reasons for the decision conveyed to the patron.
- Programs subject to reconsideration shall not be canceled pending final action.
- A copy of the request form, without identifying patron information, will be mailed to the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee.

Statement of Concern About Library Public Program

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Do you represent:

_____ **Yourself**

_____ **An organization (name)** _____

_____ **Other group (name)** _____

1. Public Program you are concerned with:

Title: _____

**Date of
Event:** _____

2. How was this public program brought to your attention?

3. Did you read the entire program description?

4. Did you attend the program?

4. Why do you object?

5. What, specifically, do you object to? Cite parts of the program description or the presentation of the program.

6. Have you heard or read any reviews of the program by someone who has attended it? If so, what?

7. What action would you like the library to take about this public program?

Additional comments:

Patron's Signature _____ **Date** _____

Library Director's Signature _____

Date Received _____