Programming Policy

In support of the Valley Community Library’s (VCL) mission, library staff uses many criteria in making decisions about program topics, speakers, and accompanying resources, including, but not limited to:

- Community needs and interests
- Relation to Library or community collections, resources, exhibits, and programs
- Educational significance
- Availability of program space
- Presentation quality
- Presenter background/qualifications in content area
- Budget

All Library programs are free and open to the public. A materials fee may be charged if additional materials are required. Registration may be required for planning purposes or when space is limited.

Library programs must be non-commercial. Presenters may not promote or solicit existing or future products or services during presentations or during the presenter’s time in the Library. Presenters are not allowed to require sign-ups or contact information from program attendees. Presenters may provide their contact information so that attendees may voluntarily contact them after the program has concluded. Librarians who present programs do so as part of their regular job and are not hired as outside contractors for programming. VCL will not be held responsible for any presenters’ damaged items or materials.

Unsolicited offers from individuals or organizations to present programs will be evaluated by the same standards used by Library staff when planning Library programming. The Library draws upon other community resources in developing programs and actively partners with other community agencies, organizations, educational and cultural institutions, or individuals to develop and present co-sponsored public programs. The Library may partner with an agency or hire a speaker who is a professional or who has expertise in a particular area.

The Library’s philosophy of open access to information and ideas extends to Library programming, and the Library does not knowingly discriminate through its programming. Library sponsorship of a program does not constitute an endorsement of the content of the program or the views expressed by participants. Program topics, speakers, and resources are not excluded from programs because of possible controversy.

The effectiveness of a Library program will be based on attendance and/or audience satisfaction. Other evaluation criteria include attraction of new patrons to the Library, the promotion of Library goals, and addressing the needs of a specific target audience.

Approved by the Board of Directors 3/22/2021