

<b>Boston Public Library</b>  <i>Exhibitions Policy</i>	<b>Operations Policy</b>
	<b>Date Approved: 11-19-09</b>

The mission of the Boston Public Library is to preserve and provide access to the historical record of our society and to serve the cultural, educational and informational needs of the people of the City of Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In support of this mission, the Library administers an exhibition program, the primary focus of which is to promote interest in the Library and to increase the public's awareness of the Library's collections.

All exhibitions are governed by the Library's Exhibition Policy and directed by the Exhibition Procedures. The Library retains authority over evaluation, selection and scheduling of exhibitions. Library-sponsored exhibitions have priority.

Exhibition proposals will be evaluated by the Library based on (but not limited to) the following criteria:

- Relevance of subject matter to the Library's mission, collections, and resources
- Historical and educational significance, particularly as it relates to the cultural heritage of the City of Boston
- Popular appeal to wide audiences and diverse community interests
- Professional treatment of exhibition content
- Quality of exhibition design, implementation, artistic merit, and originality
- Suitability to and availability of Library exhibition spaces
- Inclusion of additional related public programming such as book discussions, films, gallery talks, lectures, children's programs, and/or workshops
- Connection to other exhibitions or programs in the community presented at or about the same time

Exhibitions must be free of charge and open to the public. All related costs will be the responsibility of the exhibitor. Library exhibition spaces may not be used for commercial or political purposes, for the solicitation of business, for profit, or for fundraising, other than fundraising that supports the Library.

All organizations or groups shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Boston Public Library and the City of Boston, its officers, agents and employees from and against any and all claims, suits, actions of any kind, arising and resulting and accruing from any negligent act, omission or error of the organization or group resulting in or relating to personal injuries, property damage, or any other claim arising from the organization/group's exhibit or use of the Library's exhibition spaces.

Companion Documents:            Boston Public Library, Central Library Exhibition Procedures  
   Boston Public Library, Exhibition Proposal Form

Policy Reviewed by Boston City Hall, Legal Department 11/13/09