

PHOTOGRAPHY & RECORDING POLICY

The library has adopted the following policy regarding the taking of photographs or videos (including videos of a “live streaming” nature) inside the library building. Permission is not required for taking photographs or videos in public areas of the library building for personal, noncommercial use if no tripods, lights, or other specialized equipment is used. However, there may be library locations and/or exhibition areas where the taking of photographs or videos is restricted or prohibited (i.e., restrooms, rooms reserved for nursing, childcare areas, museum artifacts, and archival materials). Taking photographs or videos of, or in, areas reserved for staff use only is also prohibited. If tripods, lights, or other specialized equipment is to be used, requests must be made at least 24 hours in advance. Persons taking photographs and videos shall not (i) compromise a patron or staff member’s right to privacy, (ii) harass, intimidate, or threaten a patron or staff member, or (iii) block library aisles, walkways, stairwells, doors, or exits. Individuals who photograph or videotape inside the Library should honor requests from patrons and staff who do not want to be included in photos or film.

EXTERIOR PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOS

Taking photographs and videos outside of the library building and/or of the library grounds does not require permission. However, the activity may not impede the ingress or egress of patrons or staff to or from the library building.

COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOS

The library may permit use of its facilities for the taking of commercial photographs or videos if the project does not interfere with the mission of the library and is in accordance with the rest of this policy. The library may charge a fee to offset costs incurred by the library to provide access to the facility and prior permission must be sought at least two weeks in advance.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOS OF MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

The library permits the taking of photographs and videos of its publicly available collections. However, patrons are solely responsible for obtaining consent or other permission when taking photographs or videos of copyrighted materials.

LIBRARY PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEOS, AND RECORDING

The library may take photos, videos, and audio recordings at the library and during library events to use in its publicity materials and on its website and social media sites. The library reserves the right to document its services and the public’s use of the library building and grounds (including on any library website or social media site). Any individual that does not wish the library to use a photograph or video of them or their child should inform a library staff member prior to or while such photographs or videos are being taken.

PERFORMER PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEOS, AND RECORDING

Any performer that wishes to bring in professional recording equipment to record their performance must request so in writing at least one week prior to the performance. The library reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to deny use of recording equipment, and will determine where any permitted recording equipment is allowed in the space. Additionally, the library will not assume any liability for the damage/destruction of any equipment brought in by performers or audio/video engineers. A certificate of liability insurance listing the Library as an additional insured is required for any recordings that are permitted by the Library.

LIBRARY BOARD MEETINGS

Pursuant to Section 120/2.05 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/1 et seq.), any person may record the proceedings of the Board of Trustees and other meetings required by the Act to be open to the public, via audio, video, or other means, pursuant to the following limitations:

- (a) The recording shall not interfere with the overall decorum and proceedings of the meeting (i.e., the machine and/or operator must be quiet and unobtrusive), and shall not create a safety hazard;
- (b) The machine and/or operator shall not interfere with the auditory rights of the other citizens; and
- (c) No taping or filming will be allowed as set forth under 735 ILCS 5/8-701. That statute provides that “no witness shall be compelled to testify in any proceeding conducted by a court, commission, administrative agency or other tribunal in this State if any portion of his or her testimony is to be broadcast or televised or if motion pictures are to be taken of him or her while he or she is testifying.” In this regard, Section 2.05 of the Open Meetings Act provides that, “[i]f a witness at any meeting required to be open by this Act which is conducted by a commission, administrative agency or other tribunal refuses to testify on the grounds that he may not be compelled to testify if any portion of his testimony is to be broadcast or televised or if motion pictures are to be taken of him while he is testifying, refuses to testify, the authority holding the meetings shall prohibit such recording during the testimony of the witness.” (5 ILCS 120/2.05)

The Library will make reasonable accommodations for those wishing to record the meeting and request they stay in the area designated for the public.

LIABILITY

Persons involved in taking photographs or videos are solely liable for any injuries to persons or property that result from their activities on library property. They also have sole responsibility for obtaining all necessary releases and permissions required by law from persons who can be identified in any photograph or video or for copyrighted materials. The library undertakes no responsibility for obtaining these releases or permissions.

RIGHT SUBJECT TO COMPLIANCE WITH POLICY

The library reserves the right to ask any individual or group violating this policy to cease the taking of photographs or videos.

APPEAL AND REVIEW

The Board of Trustees of the library will review this policy periodically and reserves the right to amend it at any time. The Board authorizes the Library Director to waive regulations under appropriate circumstances. The Library Director is the chief person empowered to make decisions regarding photography and filming within the library.

Any appeals for changes to, or exceptions to, any portion of this policy will be considered. An individual wishing to file an appeal shall submit it to the Library Director in writing. The Library Director will respond in writing.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees: June 11, 2024