

HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Policy 210 **Freedom to View (ALA)**

Purpose: To adopt the American Library Association's ("the ALA") position on library patrons' freedom to view

General Policy

The ALA's positions are guidelines for the Highland Park Public Library's ("the Library") development of policies, regulations, and procedures.

Freedom to View

The Freedom to View, along with the freedom to speak, to hear, and to read, is protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. In a free society, there is no place for censorship of any medium of expression. Therefore, these principles are affirmed.

1. To provide the broadest possible access to film, video, and other audiovisual materials because they are a means for the communication of ideas. Liberty of circulation is essential to insure the constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression.
2. To protect the confidentiality of all individuals and institutions using film, video, and other audiovisual materials.
3. To provide film, video, and other audiovisual materials which represent a diversity of views and expression. Selection of a work does not constitute or imply agreement with or approval of content.
4. To provide a diversity of viewpoints without the constraint of labeling or prejudging film, video, and other audiovisual materials on the basis or the moral, religious, or political beliefs of the producer or filmmaker or on the basis of controversial content.
5. To contest vigorously, by all lawful means, every encroachment upon the public's freedom to view.

Adopted by the American Film and Video Association ("the AFVA") Board of Directors in February 1979. Updated and approved by the AFVA Board of Directors in 1989. Endorsed January 10, 1990, by the ALA Council.

Endorsed April 14, 1998 by the Board of Trustees, to the extent that the Freedom to View tenets do not conflict with any approved policy of the Library.

Reviewed November 8, 2022

Reviewed and revised July 15, 2025