



Statement of Welcome and Respect

Mission Statement: Lancaster Public Library inspires, empowers, and strengthens our community by connecting people with information, ideas, and enriching experiences.

In support of our Mission, Lancaster Public Library is dedicated to creating an environment where everyone feels welcomed, valued, respected, represented, and safe. We are committed to promoting intellectual freedom, protecting the rights and privacy of all patrons, and celebrating the diverse cultures, experiences, and perspectives within our community. This commitment is reflected in our spaces, collections, programs, and services.

Lancaster Public Library believes that a diverse and pluralistic society is central to our community's identity. We recognize our responsibility to contribute to a culture that celebrates diversity and fosters social inclusion. Therefore, we are committed to removing barriers to library spaces, materials, programs, and services. By doing so, we emphatically affirm the dignity of those we serve, including but not limited to, welcoming everyone regardless of age, beliefs, citizenship, color, education, gender, gender expression, gender identity, heritage, national origin, physical or mental capabilities, race, religion, socio-economic or housing status, and sexual orientation.

We respectfully acknowledge the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Susquehannock and Lenni-Lenape, on whose land we live, work, and play.

Lancaster Public Library understands that accepting differences can sometimes lead to conflicts between individual and collective values. We are committed to fostering an environment of understanding and respect to ensure that everyone can enjoy the Library without any attempts by others to impose their values, customs, or beliefs.

This guiding principle will inform all our work within the organization, including staffing, collection development, services, and organizational changes.