



To: Library Board Policy Committee

Fr: Abby Bussen

April 15, 2026

Re: Proposed 3D Printing Policy

In October 2025, the WPL Foundation and Library Leadership Team collaborated to encourage philanthropist Thomas Reich to fund a technology donation to the Children’s Library which allowed for the addition of two Bambu Labs 3D printers to our space. Welcoming this new technology necessitates the introduction of a 3D printing policy — we can’t simply tweak our existing computer use policy to include a line about “3D printing too!” As such, the attached policy has been developed so we can allow the public to explore this technology with WPL staff guidance. We have specified: who is eligible to use the 3D printers; rules and guidelines pertaining to training and access; that WPL’s 3D printers may not be used for illegal activities; and all additional WPL policies that pertain to patrons while using the 3D printers.

I created this policy after consulting the American Library Association’s best practices for creating a 3D printing policy — https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/3d_printer_policy — as well as the policies of multiple libraries around the country. I also consulted with Library Board Trustee Christine Lindstrom and Wauwatosha City Attorney Jennifer Tate to ensure that all legal language was above board.

It is my hope that the Policy Committee recommends this policy to the full Board for approval at their May meeting.