James Branch Cabell Library
Event/Exhibit Facility Use Guidelines

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Events Overview

Cabell Library offers three rooms for use for events by VCU units/groups outside VCU Libraries: the Cabell Library Lecture Hall (room 303), the Sisisky Board Room (room 311) and the Cabell Library Multipurpose Room (room 250). Other spaces in the building may also be available, depending on the nature of the event, time of year, etc.

Floor maps showing room locations

All Cabell Library event spaces are intended to be gathering places for the university academic community.

- **Lecture Hall:** Priority use is for marquee or high-profile scholarly events and other functions that have university-wide appeal. Types of events potentially appropriate for the room include lectures, forums, book talks and addresses by university leaders.

- **Board Room:** Priority use is for high-level administrative functions. Types of events potentially appropriate for the room include meetings about interdepartmental collaborations, planning sessions for university-wide initiatives, candidate interviews for dean positions and faculty/staff mini-retreats.

- **Multipurpose Room:** Priority use is for small academic events. Types of events potentially appropriate for the room include small lectures and movie screenings, information or recruitment sessions and planning meetings for academic departments. When not in use for events, the room is open to all library patrons as a study space.

These rooms may not be booked for classes (except library instruction sessions), study sessions, normal recurring meetings, non-library fundraisers, social functions such as birthday parties and weddings or loud events such as musical performances and dances.

- The rooms are generally booked on an academic year (July–June) basis. May 1 is the opening for submissions of requests for the following academic year.
- Annual/major university events, such as the president's State of the University speech or university-wide Welcome Week activities, may be scheduled up to two years in advance.
- Events are not booked on a first-come, first-serve basis. Requests will be considered according to the following priorities: library-organized events, library partnerships or library-sponsored events, community or professional outreach events organized by other VCU units/groups, other events organized by other VCU units/groups.
- Student-organized events that are not library partnerships or library-sponsored events are generally referred to the VCU Student Commons.

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Exhibits Overview

Cabell Library offers one principal area on the first floor for use for exhibits by VCU units/groups. Other spaces in the building may also be available depending on the nature of the exhibit, time of year, etc.

- The space is generally booked on an academic year (July–June) basis. May 1 is the opening for submissions of requests for the following academic year.
- Student-organized exhibits that are not library partnerships or library-sponsored exhibits are generally referred to the VCU Student Commons.
Reservations

**Designated manager:** Every event or exhibit must have a manager, the VCU employee who will be involved in the entirety of the planning process. This person must provide the library events office with the information and schedules necessary for making sure that all is ready for the event or exhibit. For events, the manager must be present at the event from the beginning of setup until the end of breakdown. For exhibits, the manager must be present during installation and takedown. The library events office will provide guidance on deadlines, requirements and best practices.

**Reservations process:** The manager must submit the Cabell Library event/exhibit planning form before their event can be considered. Submitting the form does not constitute a confirmed space reservation. The request will be reviewed by the library events office, and the status of it will be communicated as promptly as possible, generally within five business days. No library space should be publicized as the location of an event or exhibit until the manager has received confirmation of their reservation. Only the library events office can confirm reservations.

**Days and times open for use:** Events may be held in Cabell Library only when the building is open. Weekend, early morning and late night events are usually not permitted because of staffing limitations. Exhibits will be available for viewing during current building hours.
Cabell Library Lecture Hall (Room 303)

Rental Cost

- $300 per reservation lasting to 4 hours — time is measured from arrival of event manager to departure; fee includes setup, breakdown, cleanup and furniture and AV readily available
- $100 per hour for each additional hour

Additional costs may apply:

- No show: full rental cost
- Late cancellation (1 week or less from event date): $100 only
- Late request (1 week or less from event date): $100 on top of other fees
- Costs associated with repairs or special cleaning

Fees are based on ones at comparably sized event venues at VCU and at peer institutions. Fees are intended to help cover the costs of basic cleaning and wear and tear. The library events office will provide the event manager with a quote.

Setup and Space Description

The lecture hall is a flat-floor room containing no fixed furniture. It can be set up with any type of layout. The space may be partitioned into two sections, one larger than the other, using a retractable hanging wall.

Maximum occupancy for standard setups:
- Lecture style (rows of chairs only): 300 (whole room), 175/125 (divided)
- Conference style (rows of rectangular tables with chairs): 120 (whole room), 70/50 (partitioned)
- Banquet style (round tables with chairs): 144 (whole room), 80/64 (partitioned)
- Stand-up reception (tables to the sides, no chairs): 400 (whole room), 240/160 (partitioned)

Fixed furniture:
- 2 smart podiums

Movable furniture:
- 1 mobile podium
- 288 lightweight chairs

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- 60 heavier chairs
- 8 rectangular six-foot tables
- 20 round five-foot tables

Any additional furniture needs must be discussed with the library events office, and the furniture must be acquired by the event manager through an appropriate vendor.

**Technology:**
- 2 wide-screen format video walls—The larger, which supports either the whole room when the room is not divided or the larger section when it is divided, is made up of 25 monitors and measures 275” along the diagonal. The smaller, which supports the smaller section of the room when the room is divided, is made up of four monitors and measures 110” along the diagonal.
- 2 Crestron touch panels mounted to the smart podiums for controlling their respective video walls, audio, lighting, etc.
- 2 computers mounted in the smart podiums, each with 2 monitors, a keyboard and a mouse
- 2 podium mics mounted to the smart podiums, 1 mic each
- 4 wall-mounted video cameras
- 2 wireless handheld mics and 2 optional floor stands
- 4 wireless lavalier mics
- 16 wireless table mics

Any additional technology needs must be discussed with the library events office, and the technology must be acquired by the event manager through an appropriate vendor. Given staffing limitations, the library events office provides only basic AV setup and troubleshooting. Complicated projects such as live-streamed video must be contracted through VCU Media Support Services or another vendor.

**Computers:** The lecture hall smart podiums are outfitted with PCs. Users should format their PowerPoint presentations or other materials appropriately. Laptops, whether PC or Apple, can be plugged in, but this is not best practice. The PCs do not allow users to log in with their VCU credentials and access local shared drives. Users should have their materials on Google drive, email, flash drives, etc. The PCs contain CD/DVD players.

**Adjacent spaces:** Three smaller areas are connected to the lecture hall: a welcome/registration vestibule, a catering kitchen and an outdoor terrace. During events, these are reserved for event use only. The catering kitchen features counter space, a sink, a refrigerator with freezer, an ice maker, a microwave and electrical outlets. The glass wall between the lecture hall and the terrace can be retracted either in part or fully so that guests can come and go freely between the spaces.

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Important Warnings

Dividing the lecture hall: The retractable wall cannot be closed or opened during events. It is manually operated, and use of it requires trained, authorized personnel. Dividing the lecture hall must be approved as part of the reservation process. Dividing the room affects the availability of mics and cameras for the different sides.

Opening the glass wall onto the terrace: The glass wall cannot be opened or closed during events. It is manually operated, and use of it requires trained, authorized personnel. Use must be approved as part of the reservation process. Opening the wall turns off the air conditioning or heating inside the lecture hall. Even if the wall is closed, however, guests may still access the terrace through a door located in the left side of the wall.

Noise: The lecture hall is located on the quiet floor of the library. Doors leading into the vestibule must not be propped open during the event. Loud talking, phone conversation, etc. are not allowed in common areas or restrooms. The event manager is expected to remind guests of this during introductory housekeeping remarks and at the end of the event as guests are leaving. Guests wanting to use cell phones during the event should go onto the terrace or down to the first or second floors.

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Location

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Last updated 2/1/2022
Sisisky Board Room (Room 311)

Rental Cost

- $50 per hour — time is measured from arrival of event manager to departure; fee includes setup, breakdown, cleanup and furniture and AV readily available

Additional costs may apply:

- No show: full rental cost
- Costs associated with repairs or special cleaning

Fees are based on ones at comparably sized event venues at VCU and at peer institutions. Fees are intended to help cover the costs of basic cleaning and wear and tear. The library events office will provide the event manager with a quote.

Setup and Space Description

The board room is a flat-floor room containing a fixed U-shaped conference table with 18 executive desk chairs. Side chairs or other furniture can be brought into the room to lightly modify this setup.

Maximum occupancy for standard setups:
- With the existing furniture: 18
- With side chairs: 30
- Stand-up reception: 40

Fixed furniture:
- 1 U-shaped conference table with electrical outlets
- 2 six-foot credenzas

Movable furniture:
- 18 rolling leather chairs
- The board room can also make use of mobile furniture stocked in the lecture hall.

Any additional furniture needs must be discussed with the library events office, and the furniture must be acquired by the event manager through an appropriate vendor.

Technology:
- 3 wide-screen format wall-mounted screens
- 1 wireless Crestron touch panel for controlling the screens, audio, etc.
- 1 computer mounted inside the left credenza, with a wireless keyboard and mouse
- 1 wall-mounted video camera
- 8 wireless table mics for teleconferencing only—Amplification for speakers in the room is not necessary.

Any additional technology needs must be discussed with the library events office, and the technology must be acquired by the event manager through an appropriate vendor. Given staffing limitations, the library events office provides only basic AV setup and troubleshooting. Complicated projects such as live-streamed video must be contracted through VCU Media Support Services or another vendor.

Computers: One of the board room credenzas is outfitted with a PC. Users should format their PowerPoint presentations or other materials appropriately. Laptops, whether PC or Apple, can be plugged in, but this is not best practice. The PC does not allow users to log in with their VCU credentials and access local shared drives. Users should have their event materials on Google drive, email, a flash drive, etc. The PC contains a CD/DVD player.

Adjacent spaces: A catering kitchen is connected to the board room. It features counter space, a sink, a refrigerator and electrical outlets.

Important Warning

Noise: The board room is on the quiet floor of the library. The door leading into the room must not be propped open during the event. **Loud talking, phone conversation, etc. are not allowed in common areas or restrooms.** The event manager is expected to remind event guests of this during introductory housekeeping remarks and at the end of the event, as guests are leaving. Guests wanting to use cell phones during the event should go down to the first or second floors.
Cabell Library Multipurpose Room (Room 250)

Rental Cost

- $50 per hour — time is measured from arrival of event manager to departure; fee includes setup, breakdown, cleanup and furniture and AV readily available

Additional costs may apply:

- No show: full rental cost
- Costs associated with repairs or special cleaning

Fees are based on ones at comparably sized event venues at VCU and at peer institutions. Fees are intended to help cover the costs of basic cleaning and wear and tear. The library events office will provide the event manager with a quote.

Setup and Space Description

The multipurpose room is a flat-floor room containing 10 oblong mobile study tables with four chairs each. Additional chairs or other furniture can be brought into the room to lightly modify this setup.

Maximum occupancy for standard setups:
- With the existing furniture: 40
- With additional chairs: 60
- Stand-up reception: 60

Fixed furniture:
- 1 smart podium

Movable furniture:
- 10 oblong mobile study tables
- 60 chairs with casters
- The multipurpose room can also make use of the 8 rectangular six-foot tables stocked in the lecture hall.

Any additional furniture needs must be discussed with the library events office, and the furniture must be acquired by the event manager through an appropriate vendor.

Technology:
- 1 wide-screen format projector with screen
- 2 wide-screen format wall-mounted screens
- 1 wireless Crestron touch panel for controlling the screens, audio, etc.
- 1 computer mounted in the smart podium, with 2 monitors, a keyboard and a mouse
- 2 wall-mounted video cameras
- 1 podium mic mounted to the smart podium
- Mics in the ceiling for picking up sound from the room
- 1 wireless handheld mic
- 1 wireless lavalier mic
- 2 wall-mounted dry-erase boards

Any additional technology needs must be discussed with the library events office, and the technology must be acquired by the event manager through an appropriate vendor. Given staffing limitations, the library events office provides only basic AV setup and troubleshooting. Complicated projects such as live-streamed video must be contracted through VCU Media Support Services.

**Computers:** The multipurpose room smart podium is outfitted with a PC. Users should format their PowerPoint presentations or other materials appropriately. Laptops, whether PC or Apple, can be plugged in, but this is not best practice. The PC does not allow users to log in with their VCU credentials and access local shared drives. Users should have their materials on Google drive, email, flash drives, etc. The PC contains a CD/DVD player.
Images

Looking in from the main door:

Smart podium:

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Exhibit Space

Rental Cost

Currently the exhibit space is available without a rental cost, but additional costs may apply for repairs or special cleaning associated with the exhibit.

Setup and Space Description

The exhibit space consists of four blank walls in close proximity. The floor in front of the walls may also be used as long as traffic is not impeded.

Electricity:
All four walls have at least one electrical outlet each.

Installation and takedown:
Command strips and other removable hanging implements that are gentle on walls are recommended, because the exhibit manager’s department will be responsible for covering the costs of any repairs necessitated by the exhibit. The exhibit manager is responsible for providing all hanging implements and other installation supplies, for installing the exhibit and for taking the exhibit down at the end of its run. The library events office can advise and supply a ladder.

Maintenance:
The exhibit manager is responsible for periodically checking on the exhibit during its run to dust, adjust crooked pictures, etc.

Security:
The exhibit space is accessible to the public during all building hours and is not constantly monitored by library employees or security guards. VCU Libraries is not responsible for any damaged or stolen exhibit materials.

Amplified sound:
Although the exhibit space is located on a non-quiet/silent floor of the building, amplified sound is not permitted. Exhibits with sound components such as listening stations should provide headphones.

Opening receptions:
Small opening receptions may be held in the area of the exhibit space, depending on the time of year, etc. Larger receptions may be held in the lecture hall or other library event space. Details must be discussed and confirmed with the library events office.
Images

Adjacent walls closest to elevators, with exhibit:

Long wall leading to suite 121 entrance, with poster display:

Long wall in study area, showing fresh repairs from previous exhibit:
Additional Charges

**Security:** For events that involve alcoholic beverages, state law requires that at least one police officer be on site. The library events office can make arrangements with VCU Police, and the bill will be directed to the event manager’s unit/group.

**Tech support:** The library events office provides only basic AV setup and troubleshooting and will not stay in the room during the event to manage PowerPoint slides, microphones, etc. but will train someone on the event manager’s team to serve this role. Complicated projects such as live-streamed video must be contracted through VCU Media Support Services or another vendor.

**Damages:** The event/exhibit manager is responsible for any repairs or special cleaning necessitated by their event/exhibit. After the event/after the exhibit has been taken down, the library events office will assess the space and contact the event/exhibit manager about costs, if any.
Public Relations and Communications

The library PR and communications office oversees all posters, e-invitations, web pages and other materials posted in the building or circulated broadly about library events and exhibits. Any PR and communications materials produced by the event/exhibit manager’s team must be reviewed by the office before circulation. Materials must follow university brand standards. For library partnerships or library-sponsored events, library identity marks and other PR practices will be required.

The library PR and communications office would be happy to coordinate directly with the event/exhibit manager’s PR office.

Posters and signage:

- Except when approved for exhibits, posters and signage must not be attached to any library property, including walls, doors, windows and furniture. Any such items will be immediately removed.
- The library provides only basic signage alerting library patrons to room locations, potential noise, etc. The event/exhibit manager must provide all other posters and signage.
- Event posters and signage provided by the event manager must either be: 1) freestanding, 2) rigid-backed so that it can rest on library easels or 3) printed on paper that fits library poster/signage holders.
- Library poster/signage holders available:
  - 8.5”x11” vertical/horizontal tabletop lucite holders
  - 11”x17” vertical/horizontal tabletop lucite holders
  - 11”x17” vertical stands
  - 24”x36” vertical stands
- Event paper posters or signage that fails to fit neatly in these holders may not be displayed. Event posters and signage taped to the holders or stands will be immediately removed.
- Posters and signage may not be placed in the library as advertising prior to the event/exhibit unless the event is a library partnership or is library sponsored. The library PR and communications office will coordinate all such posters and signage with the event/exhibit manager.

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Facility Use

General guidelines:

● Violation of library facility use guidelines may be grounds for prohibiting the event/exhibit manager’s unit/group from using library spaces in the future.
● The event/exhibit manager and their teams must obey general library facilities guidelines and not cause undue disruption of normal library operations.
● The event/exhibit manager and their team should familiarize themselves with VCU fire safety regulations. Smoking and vaping are prohibited in and around the library, including the terrace. If the event/exhibit manager or members of their team see an event/exhibit attendee smoking or vaping, they must ask them to stop.

First-time users: If the event/exhibit manager is using a particular library space for the first time, they are required to arrange a walkthrough with the library events office.

Event setup and breakdown: The library generally provides setup and breakdown of furniture in stock, but the library events office may require help from the event manager and their team, depending on the nature of the event, etc. Setup and breakdown of rental furniture and décor must be managed by the event manager and their team or contracted out through an appropriate vendor. The event manager is responsible for seeing that any items left behind by event attendees are taken to the Information Services desk on the first floor. Generally, setup and breakdown must happen on the same day as the event. Setup the day before or breakdown the day after may be possible, but this must be approved by the library events office.

Deliveries and pickups: Pre-event/exhibit delivery and post-event/exhibit pickup of event items such as catering rentals must be coordinated by the event/exhibit manager with the library events office, and the event/exhibit manager must be present to supervise. The loading dock, located behind the library, off Linden Street, may be used for deliveries and pickups if scheduled by the event/exhibit manager with the library events office.

Event/exhibit materials: Event/exhibit materials must be removed immediately after the event/exhibit unless prior arrangements have been made with the library events office. Otherwise, anything left behind will be discarded.

Parking: The event/exhibit manager must make all parking arrangements. At evening events, parking inside the loading dock garage may be available for one or possibly two catering vehicles if scheduled with the library events office by the event manager. Any vehicle parked outside the garage will be subject to ticketing by the City of Richmond after 30 minutes.

Wayfinding and greeting: The library has minimal wayfinding signage pointing to event/exhibit spaces. There is a library map next to the main passenger elevator on the first through the fourth floors. Best practice is for the event/exhibit manager 1) to alert attendees to the
event/exhibit location prior to the event/exhibit, linking to the online library map, and 2), in the case of events, to recruit at least two volunteers to greet guests and provide directions on the day of the event, one stationed in the first-floor lobby and one stationed outside the event location.

**Sticky notes and flip chart sheets:** Self-adhesive materials must not be attached to any library property, including walls, doors, windows and furniture, apart from dry-erase boards. Any such items will be immediately removed.

**Décor:** Décor must not be attached to any library property, including walls, doors, windows and furniture. Any such items will be immediately removed. Glitter, confetti and lit candles, including votives, are not allowed, even on the terrace.

**Tablecloths:** All tables, apart from the fixed table in the board room and the mobile tables in the multipurpose room, must be covered with table coverings, whether cloth or recyclable/disposable.

**Music:** Music, whether live or recorded, is generally not allowed, but exceptions may be made depending on the nature of the event and the time of year.

**Copyrighted materials:** Screening a movie or playing music should comply with copyright and intellectual property laws. The event manager may be required to demonstrate compliance before an event involving media.

**Fundraising, sales and soliciting:** Events/exhibits organized by units/groups outside VCU Libraries must not charge admission or be used for fundraising, sales or soliciting.

**Damaged, stolen or lost materials:** VCU Libraries is not responsible for any damaged, stolen or lost materials belonging to guests or others at events/exhibits.

**Exceptions:** Library administration reserves the right to make exceptions to these guidelines when deemed appropriate.

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Catering

Food and beverages are allowed inside the lecture hall, board room, multipurpose room and most other library spaces. These must be obtained through a caterer, restaurant, store or other licensed kitchen. To ensure food safety, university policy prohibits personally prepared refreshments. Catering details must be approved by the library events office. The event manager may use any of the suggested caterers below, who are already familiar with the library, or other caterers may be used if they are brought in for a walk-through and approved by the library events office prior to the event. The caterer’s arrival and departure at the event must be scheduled in advance, and the event manager must be present to supervise.

Suggested caterers:
- Apple Spice Junction
- Branch & Vine
- Groovin’ Gourmets
- Mosaic
- Olio
- A Sharper Palate
- VCU Catering
- White House Catering

Alcohol: Alcohol is permitted at events; but the server is responsible for holding an ABC vending license; and at least one VCU police officer, not a security guard, must be present throughout the event. The library events office can make arrangements for police coverage, and the event manager’s unit/group will be billed.

Guidelines for caterers:
- Cooking is not allowed on the library premises. Use of hot plates and other cooking devices will set off fire alarms. Limited warming of food is permitted in chafing dishes, microwaves, warming ovens and electric coffee urns.
- Hot dishes may not be set directly on tables or other furniture surfaces.
- After events, trash must be placed in appropriate receptacles, and library spaces must be left as they were found. Catering materials and rentals must be removed immediately unless prior arrangements have been made with the library events office. Otherwise, anything left unauthorized will be discarded.

Liability: Failure to adhere to the above guidelines may result in the caterer’s not being allowed to cater further events in library spaces. Any repairs or special cleaning necessitated by the caterer will be charged to the event manager’s unit/group.
For Questions

Please contact the library events office:

Ryan Pander
Events Manager
James Branch Cabell Library, Room 314-S
rbpander@vcu.edu
Office: (804) 828-0593
Work cell: (804) 393-2951

If you are contacting the office about a new event space request or a future event possibility, please allow five business days for a response. If your need is urgent, you may also contact Sue Robinson, director of communications and public relations, at srobinson26@vcu.edu. If you need assistance with public relations for your event, please contact Sue Robinson.