

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for the provision of library programs.

PERSONS AFFECTED

Board/ Library employees/public

POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Board to provide library programs that respond to community needs and interests and that support the priorities of the Board's Plan of Service, and reflect the Library's mission, vision and values.

The Library provides programs that:

- Stimulate learning and foster connections among community members;
- Focus on multiple literacies, lifelong learning, reading and diverse cultures;
- Promote the Library's essential role in the community;
- Supplement and extend the information found in the Library's services, collections and staff expertise;
- Offer access to professional, community or subject matter expertise;
- Provide collaborative, experiential and mentorship learning opportunities;
- Promote the Library and use of its resources;
- Reflect and respond to diverse communities and their interests, needs and goals; and
- Enable and encourage participation in Canadian society.

The Library is guided by the Board's policy on Intellectual Freedom (LB17) in the selection and delivery of programs and offers a wide selection of programs inspired by the informational, educational, cultural and recreational needs and interests of the diverse communities it serves.

The Library determines which programs will be offered and retains the responsibility for the content and form of delivery.

The Library may develop or participate in partnered programs where there is mutual benefit to all parties involved, it makes effective use of resources and expertise, or provides opportunities for LPL to engage with the community.

The Library may work with agencies, organizations, institutions, commercial entities, or individuals as part of its effort to address needs in the community. In the delivery of library programs, contracted instructors may disseminate generic information pertaining to their enterprise that may be used in a general manner by the public (e.g. a lawyer speaking on estates). They may display business cards and promotional material but may not sell products without explicit permission of the library.

Library programs are open to everyone regardless of race, ethnic origin, place of origin, citizenship, colour, ancestry, language, creed (religion), age, sex, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, family status, sexual orientation, disability, political affiliation, membership in a union or staff association, receipt of public assistance, financial means, level of literacy or any other similar factor. However, the Library reserves the right to limit attendance based on considerations of the program, such as age or space limitations. Program attendance requires compliance with Library policies, including the Code of Conduct.

The Library does not charge for programs under most circumstances. Exceptions may be made to cover direct costs when the program could not otherwise be offered, or for programs that are developed for specific fundraising purposes.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibility for the development, implementation and evaluation of Library programs rests with the CEO whose mandate it is to ensure the implementation of policies determined by the Board.

The CEO will delegate to staff, authority to interpret and guide the application of the policy in making day-to-day decisions about programs.

This policy does not apply to:

- Library events that are developed only for special purposes such as donor recognition or fundraising;
- Media conferences; or
- Programs or events offered by other organizations or individuals on Library premises where space is rented under the terms and conditions of the Library's Meeting Rooms Policy.

Requests for Reconsideration of Library Programs

The Library welcomes feedback about library services.

The Board adheres to the principles expressed in the Canadian Federation of Library Association's position statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries (LB17 Intellectual Freedom). The Board affirms that libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and facilitate access to constitutionally protected expressions of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinion, including those which some individuals and groups consider unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable. The Library recognizes the right of any individual or group to reject library programs for personal use, but does not accord to any individual or group the right to restrict the freedom of others to attend that same program.

Library customers who object to specific programs may complete a “Request for Reconsideration” form, available at any service desk in the library.

The Library will respond to requests for reconsideration from residents of Lethbridge or Lethbridge Public Library cardholders.

The Library will accept and process one request for reconsideration for one program per patron at a time. A same or similar request for reconsideration for any individual program will be processed no more than once every three years. If the same or similar request for reconsideration is identified by another patron, the results of the first request for reconsideration will be provided to subsequent patrons within that timeframe.

Requests for reconsideration will be considered by library staff and a response communicated to the customer who submitted the request following completion of a staff review. Programs will proceed while the request is being reviewed.

If the customer who submitted the request is not satisfied with the response, they may submit a written appeal within seven days of the response to have the response reviewed by the CEO, whose decision will be final. This may occur after the program has taken place.

DEFINITIONS

Programs: pre-planned, coordinated and evaluated events that meet community needs, are guided by Plan of Service strategies and objectives and are hosted and/or presented by the public library at a set time or place. They involve library resources and promotion.

REFERENCES

- Canadian Federation of Library Association’s *Position Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries*
 - Approval History: ~ CLA: June 27, 1974. Amended November 17, 1983; November 18, 1985; September 27, 2015. CFLA-FCAB: Adopted August 26, 2016; Reviewed April 12, 2019
- Request for Reconsideration Form
- LB17 Intellectual Freedom
- LOP-LO8 Programs Policy
- LOP-LO5 Meeting Rooms

REVISION HISTORY

- June 12, 2024: New Policy