



Programming

Operational

Purpose

This policy outlines Brantford Public Library's principles and guidelines for delivering programming, including the provision of programs by Library staff and through partnership activities.

Definitions

Programs are defined as a scheduled activity offered to the public that staff coordinate, plan and/or present. These are typically delivered in group settings, but are occasionally planned as 1:1 session in cases where greater skill development is expected on the part of the attendee.

Partner programs are those programs which are jointly planned by an external agency and the Library. Facilitators for programs can be a library employee, a library volunteer, a partner agency staff member or volunteer, or a hired resource person.

Principles

An inclusive environment, where diverse backgrounds, identities and perspectives are valued, is the heart of who we are and essential to the role the Brantford Public Library plays in the community. The Library's commitment to building and supporting a welcoming and inclusive space is foundational to program offerings.

Programs are a critical piece of library service, and provide information, invite public discussion, encourage curiosity and creativity, create social connections, and promote literacy and reading. Programs also offer opportunity to directly or indirectly promote the Library's resources and services.

Policy

Brantford Public Library upholds the principle of intellectual freedom as set out by the Canadian Federation of Library Associations' *Statement on Intellectual Freedom in Libraries*. This principle readily applies to programs, in that:

- The Library may deliver programs that present controversial or opposing points of view.
- The views expressed by presenters or participants of a program do not constitute endorsement of said content by the Library.

- Community members are expected to respect the rights and freedoms of others when expressing concern over any specific program.

Programs are designed to be inclusive and safe spaces, providing activities that are innovative and community driven. Customers attending library programs are expected to abide the Library *Rules of Conduct*. The Library will:

- Make available a wide spectrum of opinions and viewpoints
- Select programs based on interest and need of the community
- Use programs to promote interest in reading, lifelong learning, and literacies
- Make programs open to the general public, based on a first come, first served basis
- Create programs for specific demographics and limit participation to those targeted users (for examples, baby programs for 0 – 18 months; English conversation circles for English language learners)
- Make programs available free of charge, with very limited exceptions to offset higher-cost programs
- Make deliberate decisions about the need for registration and attendance capacity limits based on the nature of the program and operational limitations
- Seek and be open to offers of partnership programs, both on-site and in other locations
- Assess the credibility of any partners or facilitators involved with the program, seeking subject-matter-experts with appropriate experience working with the projected program demographic
- Not offer commercially-driven presentations, or require attendees to submit personal information for future solicitation
- Regularly evaluate the planning and delivery of library programs.

The Library may:

- Consider program proposals from community organizations and the general public, within their existing program planning framework
- Refer individuals with unsolicited proposals to consider a room rental to actualize their plans
- Allow presenters to display books or recordings of performances for purchase.

History

Supersedes: Not applicable

Background documents, related policies: Brantford Public Library Intellectual Freedom Policy; Brantford Public Library Children & Youth Services Policy; Brantford Public Library Rules of Conduct and Enforcement Policy; Brantford Public Library Meeting Rooms Policy

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