

POL-PUB.2018.64 Title: *Programs*



Type: Public Usage Policy
Authority: CEO
Resolution No: BMPL 2018-105 on 5-17-18; POL-PUB.2018.64
Associated Documents: POL-SYS.2018.89
Original Approval: 5-17-2018
Amended On: 5-21-2026
Reviewed On: 5-19-2022; 5-21-2026

PUB.2018.64.1 Policy Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish the principles, priorities, and expectations that guide the development and delivery of programs, outreach initiatives, exhibitions, events, and partnerships at the Blue Mountains Public Library (BMPL).

PUB.2018.64.2 Definitions

BMPL Program: A program, event, exhibition, activity, or initiative developed, organized, and delivered by staff of the BMPL in support of BMPL’s mission, strategic priorities, and services.

Partnership Program: A program or initiative jointly developed or delivered by the BMPL and one or more external organizations, agencies, community groups, presenters, or facilitators. Partnership Programs involve shared planning, responsibilities, resources, or promotion and must align with applicable BMPL policies and values.

Third-Party or External Program: A program, meeting, event, or activity led independently by an outside organization or individual using BMPL space through a rental, booking, or community use agreement. These activities are not organized, sponsored, or endorsed by BMPL unless explicitly stated.

Outreach: Programs, services, activities, or community engagement initiatives delivered outside traditional BMPL spaces or designed to connect BMPL services and resources with underserved, underrepresented, rural, seasonal, or otherwise underserved populations. Outreach may include visits to schools, community events, long-term care settings, partner organizations, public spaces, or virtual environments.

Accommodation: Reasonable modifications, support, alternative formats, or adjustments intended to reduce barriers and support equitable participation for individuals living with disabilities or accessibility needs.

PUB.2018.64.3 Program Development and Selection

1. BMPL programs, outreach initiatives, and partnerships support the Board’s mission, strategic priorities, and role as a welcoming public space for learning, discovery, creativity, and community connection.
2. Programs and outreach initiatives may be educational, cultural, informational, recreational, civic, creative, or social in nature, and may serve people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.
3. Programs will be developed with consideration for community interests and needs, strategic priorities, accessibility, available resources, operational capacity, and opportunities for learning, creativity, engagement, and cultural expression. Programs may also respond to emerging issues, cultural trends, educational opportunities, seasonal initiatives, or partnership opportunities.

4. BMPL supports intellectual freedom and the right of individuals to access a broad range of ideas, perspectives, information, and experiences through programs and events. The inclusion of a program topic, speaker, performer, author, exhibit, facilitator, or partner does not constitute BMPL endorsement of the views expressed.
5. BMPL strives to provide programs and services that reflect the diverse interests, experiences, cultures, identities, abilities, and perspectives of the community, and to reduce barriers to participation wherever reasonably possible.
6. BMPL reserves the right to determine program formats, participation requirements, registration limits, age or audience recommendations, and space allocations based on operational, safety, staffing, accessibility, or capacity considerations.
7. Programs, partnerships, and outreach activities must comply with applicable laws, BMPL policies, and health and safety requirements. The CEO or designate may decline, modify, relocate, or cancel activities that:
 - Conflict with applicable laws or BMPL policies;
 - Present significant safety, operational, or accessibility concerns;
 - Promote hatred, discrimination, or unlawful activity; or
 - Misrepresent BMPL’s role, sponsorship, or endorsement.

PUB.2018.64.5

Accessibility and Inclusion

1. BMPL will make reasonable efforts to provide inclusive and accessible programs, services, communications, and spaces. Individuals requiring accommodations are encouraged to contact BMPL in advance whenever possible so appropriate arrangements can be explored.
2. Accessibility considerations may include, but are not limited to:
 - Physical access.
 - Alternative communication formats.
 - Assistive technology.
 - Sensory considerations.
 - Seating or environmental adjustments; and
 - Virtual or hybrid participation options where feasible.
3. BMPL recognizes that accessibility needs and barriers vary between individuals and locations and is committed to continuous improvement in accessibility planning and service delivery.

PUB.2018.64.6

Community Partnerships and External Organizations

1. The BMPL values collaboration with schools, community organizations, agencies, cultural groups, service providers, and other partners whose activities support literacy, learning, creativity, civic engagement, inclusion, or community well-being.
2. External organizations using BMPL facilities or participating in Partnership activities are expected to comply with applicable BMPL policies and procedures.
3. Use of BMPL facilities by External organizations does not imply BMPL sponsorship, endorsement, or agreement with the views or activities of the organization unless explicitly identified as a BMPL Partnership or co-sponsored initiative.
4. External presenters, facilitators, performers, exhibitors, and organizations are responsible for ensuring their activities comply with applicable laws, licensing requirements, and professional obligations.

1. The BMPL recognizes Outreach as an important component of equitable public service delivery and community engagement.
2. Outreach activities may be designed to increase awareness of BMPL services, reduce barriers to participation, support underserved populations, strengthen community relationships, and promote literacy, creativity, lifelong learning, and access to information.
3. Outreach initiatives may be delivered independently by BMPL or in collaboration with community partners, educational institutions, social service agencies, healthcare providers, cultural organizations, or other community groups.