



BLOUNT COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY
Bound Together

Approved Date: 6/17/2025

Date of Creation: 9/18/2012

Signed: _____

Hugh C. Brakebill

Programming Policy

Programming at Blount County Public Library (BCPL) is essential to our mission: empowering residents to think, act, and aspire by providing opportunities to connect to our community, participate in lifelong learning, and explore the world at large. The Blount County Public Library Board of Trustees (BoT) has entrusted the staff of BCPL, who will use this policy as guidance, with the development and presentation needed for programming.

BCPL endorses principles of intellectual freedom and supports the rights of individuals to read, speak, view, and exchange points of view. In order to provide access to varying perspectives, BCPL presents a variety of programs. Programming offers opportunities to focus on collections, promote resources, and provide information. They are powerful tools for outreach, allowing us to form partnerships with external groups and emphasizing BCPL's role in the community. Programming supports BCPL's role as a civic, central destination and appeals to all ages, cultures, and backgrounds. Programs may target a general audience or be designed for an age-specific audience.

Types of Library programs include, but are not limited to:

- Book discussions
- Storytimes/storytelling
- Family literacy programs
- Artistic and musical performances
- Film showings
- Instructional classes/training sessions
- Lectures and presentations
- Exhibits and associated programs
- Community forums
- Library tours and orientations

Program selection and development are subject to the following guidelines:

- The content of the program is appropriate for group presentation.
- Space and physical arrangement are safe and useful for the effective delivery of the program.

- Programs are open to all, including non-Blount County residents and cardholders. Pre-registration may be required; some programs may be limited to age-specific audiences.
- Admission to all Library programs is free.
- Programs are non-commercial; presenters may have a business affiliation, but solicitation or promotion for business purposes will be prohibited.
- Sale of books/CDs by authors/performers is allowed as part of a Library program when arranged/discussed in advance.
- BCPL may co-sponsor programs with groups whose mission and goals are parallel.
- Suggestions from the public and/or unsolicited offers from individuals or organizations will be evaluated using the same standards used to select Library programs.
- Programs are held at the BCPL. Alternate locations will be considered when the Library is not equipped to handle an event (e.g., capacity).
- All programming attendance is mandated by the occupancy capacity of the space where the program is being conducted.

The Library Director delegates program development, decisions, and management to appropriate departmental staff. The Library Director must approve program sites outside the BCPL campus. Individuals with disabilities who contact the BCPL will be accommodated to the best of the Library's ability.

BCPL responds to rising community interests in addition to established programming. Expanding areas of knowledge, technological advances, and new cultural trends require BCPL staff to keep up with emerging developments.

Follow this link, [Library-Initiated Programs as a Resource: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights](https://www.kpl.gov/uploadedFiles/Policies/ALA-Library-Initiated-Programs-as-Resource.pdf) (American Library Association), or by copying the following into your internet browser: <https://www.kpl.gov/uploadedFiles/Policies/ALA-Library-Initiated-Programs-as-Resource.pdf>