

TO: MAYOR & COUNCILLORS
FROM: CHIEF LIBRARIAN
SUBJECT: **BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY 2023 ANNUAL REPORT**
PURPOSE: To provide a summary of 2023 achievements and highlights from Burnaby Public Library

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report titled “Burnaby Public Library 2023 Annual Report” dated June 10, 2024, be received for information.

1.0 POLICY SECTION

No relevant policies.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Led by the Burnaby Public Library (BPL) Board, BPL creates inclusive spaces where people can gather, learn and play. Each year, BPL creates an annual report which highlights the services provided.

3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

In 2023, BPL board and staff worked to develop and improve services that made positive impacts on the residents of Burnaby.

After a year of extensive construction, we welcomed Burnaby residents to the newly renovated Bob Prittie Metrotown library. We launched the Digital Studio, Burnaby’s first free digital creation space, featuring recording studios, digitizing equipment, and creative software for design, audio and video editing. The renovations include expanded community seating, new washrooms and an automated materials handling system to help library materials get to library members more quickly.

Thanks to funding from Council, we doubled the number of teen librarians in 2023, expanding our connections and services to teenagers across Burnaby. Teen librarians connect with people in the library, and focus their work outside the library on teens who may face barriers to library use, including 2SLGBTQIA+ students and Fraser Park Youth Custody Centre students.

In 2023, BPL significantly increased public programming, delivering 664 programs and events, a 122% increase from 2022. Examples of library programs include:

- Baby Social, which provides a place for new parents to meet and connect with other families, librarians, and community services.
- Adult programs on significant issues, including climate change, food security and the legacy of residential schools.
- Julia’s Studio, a series of programs for teens to explore their creativity through diverse mediums such as drawing, embroidery and zine-making.

In 2023, 1.2 million people visited Burnaby’s libraries, a 28% increase from 2022. And we welcomed more than 30,000 new members last year. These library members borrowed 2.5 million physical items and 420,000 digital ones.

Last year, the BPL Board also planned ahead. The Board developed a new strategic plan for 2024-2027, using a collaborative process that included in-person meetings, online surveys, dialogues with community leaders and activities in libraries and at Burnaby parks. The result is a strategic plan that includes bold commitments to serve communities in their preferred language, increase information literacy and civic engagement and celebrate Burnaby’s diverse communities in BPL spaces. The BPL Annual Report 2023 and the BPL Strategic Plan 2024-2027 are attached to this report for council’s information.

4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The BPL Annual Report is available online at bpl.bc.ca. Print copies are available at library locations. Library Board co-chairs Mandy Yang and Sarah Bartnik will present the report to Council, with assistance from the Chief Librarian.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Davies, Chief Librarian

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – BPL Annual Report 2023

Attachment 2 – BPL Strategic Plan 2024-2027