



BCLA (Public Library Interest Group) Terms of Reference

Approved by the BCLA Board: 08/04/2021

Mandate

The mandate of the Public Library Interest Group (PLIG) is to provide connection, information, and advocacy for BC's public library community.

The BCLA Public Libraries Interest Group holds the same core values of BCLA:

1. Access and Inclusion
2. Intellectual Freedom
3. Innovation and Creativity
4. Diversity
5. Literacy and Lifelong Learning
6. Accountability

Responsibilities/Objectives

1. To engage the public library community by
 - being a platform for discussing and sharing issues, ideas and inspiration concerning public libraries
 - providing opportunities for community and relationship building
2. To provide opportunities for professional development
3. To increase group capacity by
 - growing active participation in events and meetings
 - ensuring inclusion across the province and across all public library staff positions

Deliverables

In support of these objectives, the PLIG will:

1. Provide opportunities to connect and collaborate through meetings, journal clubs, etc.
2. Provide virtual training, meetings, and discussions for maximized opportunity and access.
3. Focus on free events.



Composition

PLIG members belong to the BC Library Association and will be drawn from the public library community at large, based on interest. Members will have identified their desire to become members of PLIG by joining the Group using the MyBCLA dashboard.

All members of the BC library community are welcome to attend and participate in PLIG. No BCLA membership is required. If a participant wants to run for and/or hold office in PLIG, they must be a member in good standing of BCLA.

Resources and Budget

The Executive may charge fees at its discretion to fund events aligned with its objectives (e.g. room rentals, catering), with funds being managed by the Chair-Elect and/or Chair.

Timelines and Tools

PLIG as a whole is an ongoing Group of BCLA, with members of the Executive being elected or appointed on a yearly basis at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), which is scheduled to coordinate with the BCLA AGM when possible. Notice of the PLIG AGM shall be given no less than one month in advance of the meeting date.

The Executive shall meet on a quarterly basis, with the schedule to be determined by the Executive and with agendas to be prepared and distributed by the Chair no less than a week in advance of each meeting. Minutes will be taken by the Recording Secretary, approved at a subsequent meeting, and posted on the PLIG website once approved.

Wherever possible, the Executive will use a consensus-based framework for decisions that involve the Executive as a whole. Reaching consensus helps ensure that all voices are heard and that the outcome is acceptable to all parties involved. If a consensus cannot be reached and action is required, the Executive may use a majority-based framework instead, subject to a majority vote of seventy-five percent (75%) or more of the Executive.

Quorum requires that at least 8 general members of PLIG and all current Executives are present.

Term of Appointment



The PLIG Executive operates in terms of one year, beginning and concluding with the AGM in each year, ideally having staggered teams. The Executive for each term shall consist of 1 Chairperson, 1 Chair-Elect, 1 Recording Secretary, 1 Communications Officer, and 2-3 Student Representatives (representing Langara College, UBC iSchool, and University of the Fraser Valley respectively) . The Chairperson shall serve a one-year term with this year occurring in the year following a term as Chair-Elect. The Chair-Elect shall serve a one-year term preceding a term to be served as Chairperson. The Recording Secretary shall serve a one-year term of office and may hold office for up to three consecutive terms. The Communications Officer shall serve two year terms of office and may each hold office for up to three consecutive terms. The Student Representatives shall serve one-year terms and may hold office for up to three consecutive terms as long as they maintain student status for the majority of the term. The Officers shall hold office until the end of the Annual General Meeting, or until such time as their successors are elected or appointed, whichever is the lesser date.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI):

PLIG recognizes, acknowledges, and strives to actively reconcile the current and historical role that public libraries have played in a system that oppresses 2SLGBTQIA+, IBPOC, and other marginalized folks. We also recognize and acknowledge that the PLIG executive and subsequent membership live and work on Indigenous lands throughout what is also known as British Columbia.

We commit to continuously educating ourselves about our complicity in the unjust, oppressive, and racist systems that define our professional spaces and to actively disrupt and dismantle these systems and support and enable the work of others who aim to disrupt and dismantle them specifically within the context of BC public libraries.

We will support the BCLA and PLIG membership to develop understandings, knowledge, and practices focused on EDI, explicitly positioning anti-racist, anti-ableist, decolonial Indigenous, and 2SLGBTQIA+ projects and supports at the forefront of meeting our objectives and deliverables.