

Belleville Public Library and John M. Parrott Art Gallery



2026 Library Board

Operating Budget Request to Council

Outline

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Library and Gallery service highlights and usage statistics

With the cost-of-living skyrocketing, the Library and Gallery is essential to the community. We offer free services and crucial internet and computer access.

Our core services:

- A rich and diverse borrowing collection including physical and digital resources.
- Programs, events and educational workshops for all ages.
- Art exhibitions and the sale of works by regional artists.
- Providing space for study and work, with charging stations, public computers, internet and wi-fi.

Service highlights

- **Class visits:** In 2025, we offered tours, literacy skill instruction and programming for **2,675 elementary school students** visiting the Library, an increase of 5% over 2024, and for **1,498 students visiting the Gallery**, an increase of 34% over 2024.
- **Programs:** In 2025, we offered 711 programs and events for all ages, with a **total attendance of 16,001 people**, a decline of 3% in total attendance over 2024.
- **Art Gallery receptions:** In 2025, we had **1,156 people attend opening receptions** for art exhibitions, an increase of 40% over 2024.
- **Patron visits:** In 2025, **141,243 patrons entered the building**, representing a decrease in visits of 1% over 2024.

Borrowing collection highlights

- Between 2015 and 2024, the library circulated **3,639,580 items**, representing an increase of 23% over that time.
- In 2025, patrons borrowed **427,499 items**, representing an increase of 0% over 2024.
- Our circulation consisted of **76% physical items** like books and DVDs, and **24% digital items** like eBooks and movies.
- A technical problem experienced by a digital vendor reduced our circulation of eBooks over several months, but we circulated **101,183 digital items** in 2025, an increase of 1% over 2024.
- **The most popular genre with our patrons** in 2025 was literary fiction, followed by picture books, mysteries and romance novels.

Looking to the future

- The Library Board is working to provide more **self-serve and convenience options**, like book vending machines and return bins, and mobile services, such as a **Bookmobile**, to provide library and technology services to all communities across Belleville and Tyendinaga.
- This will involve fundraising campaigns and may also include pursuing sponsorship revenue.
- This will provide services that are efficient, responsive, and flexible, and will better serve under-resourced areas.



2026 Municipal Grant request overview

- The Library Board is requesting an increase to our Municipal Operating Grant of **\$69,500** over the 2025 grant amount, or **2.5%**, for a total Municipal Grant of **\$2,845,500.**
- The total 2026 budget for borrowing collections is **\$242,000**, an increase of 2.11% over 2025.
- In 2025, the Library and Gallery generated more than **\$280,846** in revenue in addition to our municipal funding, including approximately **\$42,700** in donations.

Any questions?



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