File #: BIR-27-023, **Version:** 1

TAMRMS#: B05

BUDGET INFORMATION REQUEST (BIR) - Library Events: Attendance and Engagement for 2026

Requested by: Councillor Biermanski
Date of Request: October 24, 2026
Date Response Due: October 30, 2026
Confidential: No

QUESTION

Of the total 49 Library events in 2026, what percentage are outside engagement vs. classes or public events, and which of the three has contributed most to the 575 growths in attendance?

RESPONSE

The St. Albert Public Library operates a public service funded partially by the City of St. Albert, through outside agency funding, governed under the authority of the Alberta Libraries Act. See attached response from St. Albert Public Library to BIR-27-023.

Report Date: October 29, 2026
Author(s): Laura Winton
Department: Community Services
Department Director: Elizabeth Budd
Managing Director: Dinu Alex
Chief Administrative Officer: William Fletcher

St. Albert Public Library

MEMO

BUDGET 2027 BIR RESPONSES

Date: October 28, 2026

To: City Council through City of St. Albert Administration

From: Laura Winton, CEO

BIR-27-009

"Does the library look into partnership funding for special or cultural events?"

Requested by Councillor Biermanski

Response:

Yes. St. Albert Public Library actively seeks grant funding, contributions from partners, and sponsorships to support special and cultural events as well as services. In 2026, the following programs were supported by grant, sponsorship or partner funding: Summer Reading Game, Roonyi and Punyi Children's programming, St. Albert Reader's Festival, Tea and Bannock Programs, Job Supports, One Seed, One Library program.

BIR-27-014

"With regard to the planned Bill 28 guidelines have any books in our COSA public library been previously reviewed for pornographic content at time of purchase?

Requested by Councillor Biermanski

Response:

Library materials are selected by professional librarians guided by the Library's Materials Selection Policy and supported by professional reviews, tools, and industry resources. This selection framework excludes pornography without requiring a separate review of each item at the time of purchase. St. Albert Public Library does not purchase or lend pornography.

Our collection serves all ages and includes materials with sexual content, such as adult fiction and DVDs, health and sexuality resources, and age-appropriate materials for teens. The Library does

not exclude material solely because it contains sexual content. In keeping with our core value of intellectual freedom, we select materials that respond to community needs and interests across the full spectrum of ages and perspectives represented in our community.

BIR-27-022

"What dollar amount from Library Budget is typically transferred to Library reserve each year?"

Requested by Councillor Biermanski

Response:

The Library began including transfers to reserves in its operating budget in 2026 following a period without budgeted contributions dating back to 2017. In 2026 the budgeted transfer was $60,000. In 2027 the budgeted transfer is $100,000.

BIR-27-023

"Of the 49 Library events in 2026 what percentage are outside engagement vs classes or public events, and which of the three has contributed most to the 575 growth in attendance?"

Requested by Councillor Biermanski

Response:

The 49 events represent additional Outreach programs (programs offered outside the library, in the community) between March and September 2026 compared with the same period in 2025. These included multigenerational literacy programs, park-based programs, and an increased presence at community events such as Love St. Albert and Clean and Green River Fest.

Total Outreach attendance increased by 575. Multigenerational programs had the largest percentage increase in attendance (137%), followed by adult programs (75%), special events (73%), and children's programs (13%). These percentages describe growth within each outreach program category; they do not identify which contributed the largest number of additional attendees. Growth reflects both additional programs and changes in attendance at programs offered in both years.