

# Application for Use of Mobile Public Library Meeting Rooms

## Policy and Rules for Use of Mobile Public Library Meeting Rooms

**POLICY:** The library welcomes the use of its meeting rooms by community businesses, groups, and organizations. As an institution for education and free speech and in accordance with Article 6 of the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, the library makes its meeting rooms available on equal terms to all groups regardless of the beliefs and affiliations of their members. Permission to use a library meeting room does not constitute library endorsement of any group's policies, objectives, goals, or beliefs.

**EXCLUSIONS:** (1) Meetings for commercial purposes such as soliciting business or selling or promoting a product or service are not allowed. (2) Meetings for personal celebrations or ceremonies such as birthday and anniversary parties, weddings, or funerals are not allowed. (3) Meetings which may interfere with the function of the library because of noise or any other factor are not allowed.

**RULES:** Every organization using Mobile Public Library Meeting Rooms must agree to the following rules. Misrepresentation of information supplied on the application form or failure to comply with meeting room policy and rules, Mobile Public Library rules, health and safety regulations, or posted room capacity may result in immediate termination of a meeting and prohibition from future use of the library's meeting rooms.

1. All meetings will be open to the public.
2. Applications must be completed in full. Include the name of the sponsoring organization, its official address, and the name of its responsible party. Include a clear statement of the group's mission or purpose as well as the purpose of the proposed meeting. Describe the activities to take place at the meeting and provide an estimate of how many people will attend. The person making the application will be considered the group's contact for all arrangements. All first-time users must make application in person.
3. No organization or group may use the library as its official address.
4. Meeting room reservations are taken on a first come, first served basis, with the exception that priority will be given to organizations that have not been frequent users. Groups may book up to fifteen meetings per year. Groups may book meeting rooms up to 6 months in advance.
5. No group may reassign to another.
6. Library sponsored programs and events take precedence over meeting room use by outside organizations. If cancellation of a group's confirmed reservation is necessary, not less than two weeks' notice will be given.
7. Groups may not charge admission fees unless they have library approval and have been granted tax-exempt status under section 501(c) (1-25) of the Internal Revenue Code. Presentation of an IRS determination letter to prove tax-exempt status may be required.
8. Any advertising, publicity, or other announcement regarding meetings to be held on library premises must clearly identify the sponsoring group and have library approval prior to issue. Such pieces shall show that the library is only the venue for the meeting and must not imply that the group's program is sponsored or endorsed by the library.
9. Youth groups (under the age of 18) must be supervised by an adequate number of adult sponsors.
10. There is no charge for using a library meeting room during regular library hours when all meeting activity concludes at least 15 minutes before library closing time. The Main Library and the West Regional Branch meeting rooms are available for use outside of library hours. Charges for meeting room use after library hours may be found on Form 49A for West Regional and Form 49B for Ben May Main Library.
11. Fees for serving food and beverages are detailed on Form 49A, "Application for Use of Mobile Public Library Meeting Rooms" and Form 49 B, "Application for Use of Ben May Main Library Meeting Room and Bernheim Hall". There is no charge when refreshments are limited to coffee, cookies, or cake. There will be a charge if your event is catered or you serve a plated meal or heavy hors d'oeuvres. No alcoholic beverages or red beverages are allowed.
12. Meeting room tables, chairs, and podiums are available for use free of charge. A group may bring in additional equipment with prior approval by the library manager, however the library will assume no responsibility for such equipment, and the equipment must be removed at the end of the scheduled event.
13. Meeting rooms will be set up by staff according to application details. Rooms must be left in good condition including free of all litter and decorative materials. In scheduling your meeting, allow enough time for this activity so the group will be finished 15 minutes before library closing time. The applicant is responsible for any damage to the room or its contents.
14. The Main Library's Bernheim Hall is a fixed seat theater that is suitable for musical and theatrical performances. A grand piano sits on the small stage. The Hall rental fee includes one rehearsal, not lasting more than 3 hours and pre-scheduled between the hours of 9 am and 5 pm, Monday through Friday. Use of the piano is also included in the rental fee. The library has the piano tuned once per year. When requested, the library will schedule an additional tuning by a library-approved tuner and the applicant will be charged.