

# The centre of neighbourhood life

Reykjavík City Library Policy and Action Plan

2025–2028



An essential place within the city,  
a space truly open to all



**“The centre of neighbourhood life”**  
is the slogan of the Reykjavík City Library Policy  
2025 – 2028.

Reykjavík City Library operates eight libraries  
in the capital area: in Árbær, Gerðuberg, Grófin,  
Kléberg, Kringlan, Spöngin, Sólheimar and  
Úlfarsárdalur.

We put users’ needs first and are a leader in  
developing services using digital solutions,  
innovation in information-sharing, and  
better facilities for users.

This policy was shaped in collaboration  
with staff, library users, and stakeholders.  
Participants took into account the City  
of Reykjavík culture and services policy  
and consulted ambitious policies of larger  
libraries around the world.

**A neutral refuge  
in the city  
landscape and a  
sanctuary for  
humanity.**

*Participant in the Future Festival*





# Our values

Our values reflect what we stand for as an organisational whole. They serve as inspiration to our staff and a guiding light in frontline jobs and information-sharing. They are the cornerstones in building bridges with the knowledge and ideas of both staff and users.



Professionalism



Respect



Culture



Accessibility



There's always someone you know who welcomes you with a smile.

A regular at Family Mornings in Gerðuberg







# Our vision

Imagine a place where everyone is welcome and that costs nothing to visit. A place where you can be who you are and find refuge from the daily grind. In conversation with others, people whom you wouldn't have met otherwise, ideas are born and you discover something new. In this place, you can share what you have – ideas, experience and skills. You walk out with new knowledge, a new perspective, and a deeper connection to your community. The Reykjavík City Library can be this place; a community space and a gateway for participation, where we share stories, culture and experiences.



**A society that can and will build a cultural and public palace like this is a society to which I want to and am proud to belong.**

Feedback from guest at exhibition on Grófarhús at Design March





***A place for families. Where you can do something that shakes up your routine without spending money.***

*A parent in a library services poll*

***I'd really like to own the library!***

*A student at  
Klébergsskóli*

# Our role

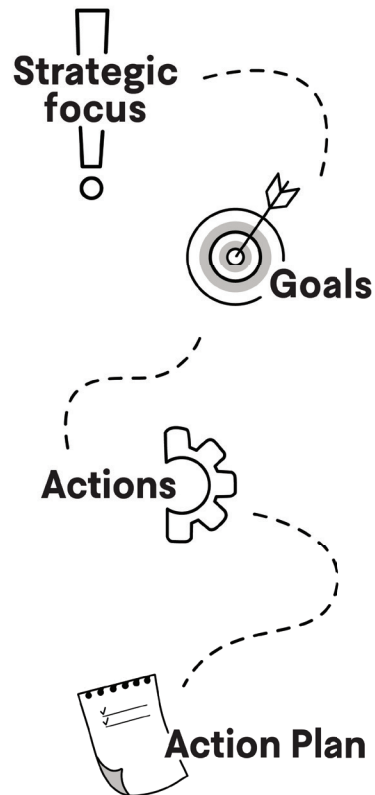
The Reykjavík City Library began operations on April 19, 1923. The library is a comprehensive informational and cultural institution and its primary role is to equalise access to culture and knowledge. The Reykjavík City Library is under the jurisdiction of the City of Reykjavík Department of Culture and Sport and operates in accordance with applicable laws on libraries as well as other laws, regulations and statutes pertaining to them. The library prioritises professionalism in its work, as it plays a leadership role among public libraries in Iceland, and it models itself on the world's leading libraries.

The Reykjavík City Library's operations promote democracy and strengthen open-mindedness by being open to all regardless of age, gender, race, political beliefs, nationality or social status. The library prioritises good access to services, innovation in education and the broadest possible diversity in cultural events. In this way, the Reykjavík City Library aims to be a place where everyone is treated with respect regardless of class or social standing, a neutral refuge in the city landscape and a sanctuary for humanity.



# Strategic focus

The following strategic focuses and goals are accompanied by an action plan with a set timeline. This plan is updated as projects are completed and others begin, to reflect the policy over time. The action plan is therefore a living document.



# 1

Lead discussion, development, growth and innovation

# 2

Strengthen reading, literacy, information-sharing, connection

# 3

Share knowledge, information, space and things

# 4

Equalise facilities, accessibility, opportunity and participation



## Strategic focus



### Lead discussion, development, growth and innovation

#### Goal:

The Reykjavík City Library shall lead the development of public libraries across Iceland, strengthen their operations, foster continuing education for staff and be a leader in innovation.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION  
& INFRASTRUCTURE





**Strategic focus**

2

**Strengthen reading, literacy,  
information-sharing,  
connection and collaboration**

**Goal:**

**Strengthen reading in its broadest form by  
developing new participatory projects in teaching  
Icelandic, reading for pleasure and promoting  
and discussing literature.**

**4** QUALITY  
EDUCATION



**10** REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES





**Strategic focus**

3

**Share knowledge, information,  
space and things**

**Goal:**

**Put sustainability at the forefront of all operations,  
foster environmentally friendly projects and events  
and show initiative in green solutions.**



**Strategic focus**

4

**Equalise facilities, accessibility,  
opportunities, and participation**

**Goal:**

The Reykjavík City Library shall be an open space for all, where diverse community groups come together for creative activities and inclusion is a guiding principle at all levels.

**10** REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



**16** PEACE, JUSTICE  
& STRONG INSTITUTIONS







# Policy implementation

The Culture and Sports Council approves the Reykjavík City Library policy.

The City Librarian bears overall responsibility for the policy and that its objectives are met. They are thus responsible for financing and implementing actions, for evaluating projects and for implementing the action plan over the next three years.

Department heads and project managers are responsible for the projects in their purview and their implementation. Staff work toward objectives through participation in projects.