

General Guidelines

Is Boise Centre a public or private entity?

Boise Centre is a public building and is an operating entity of the Greater Boise Auditorium District, which is a governmental organization. As a public entity, the District seeks to make its facilities available in a manner consistent with all applicable laws and rules regarding use of public facilities.

What is a Limited Public Forum?

Public property where the government entity who owns it provides access to it intentionally for certain groups or classes of speech.

Why is Boise Centre a limited public forum?

The District owns Boise Centre and provides access to it for events.

Does Boise Centre have the right to turn away a group?

The District respects the first amendment rights of all of our guests. We do not make decisions about the use of our public facilities based upon the content of a topic or program. If a group is willing to agree to the terms and conditions in our use permit or contract, provide event insurance, and make proper payment, we will accommodate their event, unless the event would violate federal, state, or local laws or regulations.

What use restrictions are in place at Boise Centre?

The first amendment does allow public entities to place reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions on use of its facilities which we seek to do through our use permit or contract.

Content-neutral use restrictions, such as time, place, and manner regulations, are lawful as long as they apply to everyone, are reasonable, and do not exist to silence a specific viewpoint.

Are there topics or types of events not allowed at Boise Centre?

The District does not restrict access to Boise Centre based on the content of a topic or event and does not target anyone's expression of ideas or messages. However, access may be restricted based on the venue's booking schedule or other content-neutral considerations.

If a group is willing to agree to the terms and conditions in our use permit or contract, provide event insurance, and make proper payment, we will accommodate their event, unless the event would violate federal, state, or local laws or regulations.

Content-based restrictions may be lawful if such restrictions are narrowly tailored to serve a compelling government interest. Courts call this the "strict scrutiny" test and have rarely found content-based restrictions lawful under it.

Boise Centre serves as a public forum for events and does not have to open itself to be used for purposes other than events.