**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS monthly regular meeting**

**Date** : Thursday, March 3, 2022

**Time** : 10:00 A.M.

**Place** : Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners Office

 Boston, MA

**Present** : Mary Ann Cluggish, Chair; Debby Conrad, Vice Chair; Deb Abraham, Secretary (Attended Virtually); Les Ball; Vicky Biancolo; Stacy DeBole (Attended Virtually); N. Janeen Resnick; Karen Traub

**Absent** : George Comeau, Esq.

**Staff Present:**

James Lonergan, Director; Liz Babbitt, State Aid Specialist; Celeste Bruno, Communications Director; Andrea Bono-Bunker, Library Building Specialist; Kate Butler, Electronic Services Specialist; Maura Deedy, Library Advisory Specialist; Tracey Dimant, Head of Operations & Budget; Rob Favini, Head of Library Advisory and Development; Paul Kissman, Library Information Systems Specialist; Rachel Masse, Assistant to the Director; Matthew Perry, Communications Specialist; Mary Rose Quinn, Head of State Programs / Government Liaison; Lauren Stara, Library Building Specialist; Lilli Sutton, Administrative Assistant

**Observers Present:**

Mary Anne Antonellis, Library Director, M.N. Spear Memorial Library, Shutesbury; Eileen Chandler, Administrator, Cape Libraries Automated Materials Sharing Network (CLAMS); Ron Gagnon, Executive Director, North of Boston Library Exchange (NOBLE); Mary Kronholm, Former Commissioner, Trustee of the Porter Library, Blandford; Sharon Shaloo, Executive Director, Massachusetts Center for the Book; David Slater, Network Administrator, Old Colony Library Network (OCLN); Sarah Sogigian, Executive Director, Massachusetts Library System (MLS); Angela Veizaga, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Boston Public Library (BPL)

**Meeting called to order by Chair Cluggish**

Chair Cluggish called the meeting to order at 10:08 A.M.

Chair Cluggish stated that she is required to take a roll call of Commissioners to comply with the Open Meeting Law for hybrid meetings.

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| Commissioner Abraham- Present  | Commissioner Cluggish- Present | Commissioner DeBole- Present |
| Commissioner Ball- Present | Commissioner Comeau- Absent | Commissioner Resnick- Present |
| Commissioner Biancolo- Present  | Commissioner Conrad- Present | Commissioner Traub- Present  |

Chair Cluggish explained that she would be making a motion to comply with a consent agenda. A consent agenda is a board meeting practice that groups routine motions into the consent agenda. If there are no objections, the Chair can declare a motion passed, rather than counting votes for each motion separately.

Chair Cluggish moved to adopt a consent agenda for this meeting for Agenda #2- Approval of Minutes, Agenda #7- Consideration of approval of Budget Revision for the Massachusetts Center for the Book; Agenda #8- Consideration of approval to extend the moratorium on the State Aid to Public Libraries Hours Open Requirement through the end of the fiscal year; #14-Adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Conrad seconded.

Chair Cluggish asked for a roll call vote of the Commissioners for this motion.

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| Commissioner Abraham- Yes | Commissioner Cluggish- Yes | Commissioner DeBole- Yes |
| Commissioner Ball- Yes | Commissioner Comeau- Absent | Commissioner Resnick- Yes |
| Commissioner Biancolo- Yes | Commissioner Conrad- Yes | Commissioner Traub- Yes |

**The motion passed.**

**Approval of Minutes from the regular monthly meeting:**

**February 3, 2022**

Chair Cluggish asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 3, 2022 Monthly Meeting.

Commissioner Conrad moved and Commissioner Ball seconded to approve the minutes from the February 3, 2022, Regular Monthly Meeting with minor corrections.

**Hearing no objection, Chair Cluggish declared the motion passed under the consent agenda.**

**Chair’s Report**

Chair Cluggish presented the following report:

In the past month I participated in or observed the following events:

* MLA Legislative Committee virtual meeting, February 10
* Virtual Legislative Breakfast Western Mass, February 11
* Bruins PJ Drive Kickoff, Tufts Public Library Weymouth
* Testified virtually Joint Ways and Means, March 1

Once again, MBLC staff produced a hugely successful event for about 100 small children and their parents, this time the PJ Drive Kickoff at the beautiful new Tufts Library in Weymouth. The choreography of these events such as Summer Reading or the PJ Kickoff is a wonder to behold. It is no surprise that letters of appreciation come in from all over.

Perhaps you noticed the email from Evan Knight last week with a link for a program happening tomorrow, Friday, March 4, that is a follow-on to the “Climate Resiliency for Cultural Heritage” program executed last fall with COSTEP MA. Tomorrow's program is “Collaborative Climate Action Planning” from the Boston Green Ribbon Commission Climate Action Exchange. The program will offer a peek into the development process, goals, and next steps at the Museum of Science, Esplanade Association, and Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. As Evan said, it is a good opportunity to hear about recent climate action planning efforts from institutions of arts and culture in Boston.

Along that line, I recently participated in a zoom meeting with our two MBLC Construction Specialists and Wellesley Town Officials. The Wellesley Free Library has just had a new roof installed and is planning to install a photovoltaic solar array on the roof. The Town intends to create a micro-grid at the library complete with air source heat pumps so that in case the national grid were to fail, people would be able to come to the library to charge their phones, warm up, get information, etc.

The plan is that the Wellesley Free Library will also commit to becoming a Climate Resilience Hub, which is an educational program introduced in September 2019, as part of Climate Preparedness Week.

During that September, through MLS, Massachusetts libraries offered over 90 programs, workshops, talks, and discussions dedicated to climate preparedness and resilience. Climate Prep Week was coordinated by CREW, a grassroots nonprofit. C-R-E-W stands for “Communities Responding to Extreme Weather”.

The commitment to be a Climate Resilience Hub does not require a Library to have a solar array or be a micro-grid.

Being a Climate Resilience Hub involves the library providing one community event a year dedicated to climate preparedness, to provide climate preparedness information—brochures, flyers, pamphlets—available for patrons to read and take home, and to display a “Climate Resilience Hub” decal in the front window. The materials are provided to libraries by CREW.

I know that many of your libraries, schools or churches are already part of this program, but I mention it in case other libraries might have an interest in helping with the educational portion of this effort to help meet Massachusetts 2030 Climate Goals. You can find more information about Climate Resilience Hubs at this link:

<https://www.masslibsystem.org/blog/2020/01/08/library-climate-resilience-hubs/>

**Commissioner Activities**

**Commissioner Biancolo-** *All meetings were virtual.*

* February 11- Attended WMLA Meeting
* February 14 – MLS Executive Board Meeting
* February 17- Attended CMLA Meeting

**Commissioner Conrad-** *All meetings were virtual.*

* February 8 – We are NOT Okay Library Worker Trauma Before and During COVID-19 and What Happens After (Webinar)
* February 10 – MLA Legislative Committee
* February 11 – Western Massachusetts Virtual Legislative Breakfast
* February 14 – MLS Executive Board Meeting
* February 22 – MBLC Executive Committee Meeting
* February 22 – Leading Organizational Change in a Multicultural World (MLS Seminar)
* March 1 – MBLC Budget Hearing (Joint Ways and Means)

**Commissioner DeBole**

* Attended history of St. Patrick

**Commissioner Resnick**

* February 8 – We are NOT Okay Library Worker Trauma Before and During COVID-19 and What Happens After (Webinar)
* February 11- Attended WMLA Legislative Breakfast

**Commissioner Traub-** *All meetings were virtual.*

* February 11- Attended WMLA Legislative Breakfast
* February 14 – MLS Executive Board Meeting
* February 14 – WMLA Board Meeting

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Director Lonergan presented the following report:

Meetings/activities highlights since the last monthly Board meeting:

* February 3— “Growing Digital Equity through Community Partnerships,” WebJunction webinar
* February 8— “We Are NOT Okay: Library Worker Trauma Before and During COVID-19 and What Happens After” webinar
* February 9—Meeting with Governor’s Office of Boards and Commissions, virtual
* February 9—COSLINE (Council of State Library Agencies in the Northeast) meeting, virtual
* February 10— MLA Legislative Committee meeting, virtual
* February 11—Western Massachusetts Legislative Virtual Breakfast
* February 11— MLA Executive Board meeting, virtual
* February 14— MLS Executive Board Meeting, virtual
* February 16—COSLA/IMLS Q&A Session to review proposed changes to FY2022 Public Library Survey & State Library Administrative Agency Survey
* February 17— COSLA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Engagement Group meeting, virtual
* February 22— “Leading Organizational Change in a Multicultural World” workshop, virtual
* February 23—ALA Training Meeting: Prep for Virtual Congressional Meetings
* February 24— “ALA Connect Live: Sustainability and Climate Action for Libraries and Our Communities”
* February 24—COSLA Member Update
* March 1— Testified with Chair Cluggish during Joint Committee on Ways and Means budget hearing
* March 1 & 2— Met with staff members from Sen. Markey, Rep. McGovern and Rep. Clark’s offices as part of ALA’s targeted outreach efforts

Commissioner Cluggish and I testified virtually regarding the **FY2023 Legislative Agenda** in front of the **Joint Ways and Means Committee** on Tuesday, March 1 as part of their Economic Development/Housing/Labor hearing. We were not asked any questions but heard supportive comments about our work and the work of the Commonwealth’s libraries from legislators.

Maria McCauley, the Cambridge Public Library director (and a member of the ALA Executive Board and incoming PLA President) and I met with staff from Sen. Markey and Reps. McGovern and Clark’s offices on March 1 and 2 as part of **targeted outreach with members of Congress** organized by ALA’s Public Policy and Advocacy office. ALA’s asks included funding LSTA at $232 million (it was funded at $197 million for FY2021 and hasn’t yet been funded yet for FY2022) and funding the Innovative Approaches to Literacy program at $50 million (funded at $28 million for FY2021). We also requested support for the Build America’s Libraries Act. Celeste and Matt updated the website we prepared for our congressional meetings last year that details how we have been using IMLS & ARPA funds in Massachusetts: (<https://mblclsta.com/2022/>).

While we were told we would most likely hear from the Executive Office of Administration and Finance (A&F) by the end of February as to whether they would be raising the **annual cap for the MPLCP** from $20 to $25 million for FY2023, they have indicated they are still reviewing the entire FY2023 Capital Investment Plan. We should hear from them in a few weeks.

**LSTA Five-Year Evaluation and Five-Year Plan Update:** QualityMetrics forwarded a draft of their independent evaluation of our IMLS LSTA Five-Year Plan 2018-2022 in mid-February and Rob and I suggested edits. They provided the final draft to us last week and we submitted it to IMLS, a month ahead of the March 30 deadline. Once IMLS has reviewed and approved our evaluation we will share it with the Commissioners and post it on our website for sharing with the library community.

We will also be working with QualityMetrics to prepare our new LSTA Five-Year Plan 2023-2027, due June 30. Our kickoff meeting for the process will take place during the first week in April. We will be seeking additional feedback from MBLC stakeholders and staff during the planning process.

February was a busy month for the **Database Procurement Team**. The review committee wrapped up product demonstrations with 8 sessions from several vendors. Also in February, product trials for 50 products from 9 vendors were opened to the Massachusetts library community. Login and other access information to the available trials can be found at the Databases Procurement LibGuide: <https://guides.mblc.state.ma.us/databasesFY23>

Product ratings from the open trial will be reviewed by the MLS/MBLC Database Procurement Team and the Database Advisory Committee.

Consultants from the agency’s Library Advisory and Development Unit and the Construction Specialists are working with an outside vendor to build a custom **grant management software system**. When completed the system will be used to manage grant application processes, awarded grant communications, and reporting. The system will move the agency away from the current siloed paper system to a hosted online platform. This work represents a major improvement in workflow and grant-related information access.

Planning continues for the ARPA-funded **Perkins Access library accessibility training**. In February Lyndsay Forbes, Shelley Quezada and Rob Favini participated in regular meetings with consultants from Perkins Access to plan a series of workshops tentatively scheduled to run from April through May 2022. To help in the planning process we launched a survey to learn more about library needs and current accessibility efforts. The feedback gained from just over 100 responses will help to created content for the sessions.

Shelley Quezada and Rob Favini have begun planning for training sessions to help librarians learn about **accessibility for the deaf and hearing impaired**. We have been working with Jonathan O’Dell from the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to create training sessions that will be launched this spring.

Spring **Friends Coffee Hours** began with a session on March 1. The first coffee hour was attended by 21 people. Future Friends Coffee Hours are listed along with the registration link:

* Tuesday, April 12, 2022 from 6pm to 7 pm: [https://mblc.libcal.com/event/8900570](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/mblc.libcal.com/event/8900570__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!yGgs8J4tEDkpIq5TNitzwquJ3bD25ZFFdOylaltkpyEe6ZlqtV_M-5bjwRgSIlbCSUDIHQ$)
* Thursday, May 12, 2022 from 2pm to 3pm: [https://mblc.libcal.com/event/8900595](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/mblc.libcal.com/event/8900595__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!yGgs8J4tEDkpIq5TNitzwquJ3bD25ZFFdOylaltkpyEe6ZlqtV_M-5bjwRgSIlYIF_OdTQ$)
* Tuesday, June 7, 2022 from 10 am to 11 am: [https://mblc.libcal.com/event/8900644](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/mblc.libcal.com/event/8900644__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!yGgs8J4tEDkpIq5TNitzwquJ3bD25ZFFdOylaltkpyEe6ZlqtV_M-5bjwRgSIlaOv74L_A$)

The spring **Trustee Deep Dive** season will begin on Wednesday March 16 at 9:30 am with a special focus on library foundations and will feature Heather Calvin, Library Trustee at the Robbins Library (Arlington). Heather’s presentation will draw on her experience in nonprofit leadership, knowledge of best practices, and findings from interviews with 12 library foundations and funds in Massachusetts to highlight common themes and areas of opportunity for libraries seeking to grow philanthropic support. There will be time for discussion afterwards. This session is for library stakeholders interested in library foundations at any level, from getting started to established organizations. This session will not cover the mechanics of starting a foundation. For more information and registrations visit: [https://mblc.libcal.com/event/8901185](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/mblc.libcal.com/event/8901185__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!0YI3v227p9ee0r4T2v26x2XLiN_XxjkylP2uR3yisSqjTbPoNm4N4WBPxaA17KJ5seinQw$)

Lyndsay Forbes completed a 2 CFR 200 (Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards to non-Federal Entities) training class in February. This multi-session program concentrated on federal regulations related to grants management for federal funds. With this training Lyndsay will bring a greater level of expertise to the management and reporting on the agency’s annual Institute of Museum and Library Services funding.

Evan Knight moderated ***Conversations on the Commons: Working with the Digital Commonwealth***in February. This event was sponsored by the Mass History Alliance. 46 attendees joined the conversation with Jake Sadow of the Boston Public Library to learn what it takes to get collections up on the Digital Commonwealth. Topics included obstacles and challenges, preparation, staff training, content access rights, and costs involved.

Evan also managed the first round of **LSTA Preservation Assessment grants**. These grants are designed to give libraries an initial evaluation of collections and materials in need of preservation and archival management. With this assessment libraries are then able to apply for more advanced grants to meet specific needs. Grants went to libraries in the following communities: Clinton, Lancaster, Peabody, Pittsfield, and Wakefield.

The Communications Team helped launch the **15th Annual Boston Bruins PJ Drive** to benefit Cradles to Crayons and DCF/Wonderfund with a family-fun event at the Tufts Library in Weymouth. The event featured First Lady Lauren Baker and Bruins Mascot Blades. Several hundred people attended including State Representative Jamie Murphy and State Senator Patrick O’Connor who took their turns playing goalie. Weymouth Mayor Robert Hedlund also attended. Special guests Sergeant Sandy and therapy dog Oliver were popular.

According to Director Rob MacLean, the event boosted the number of people coming to the library: “Our door counters counted 1,246 people who entered Tufts Library on Wednesday. On the Wednesday during February vacation week last year, 355 people entered Tufts and our average Wednesday number for January and February 2022 was 631. Thank you for letting us host and introduce our new library to so many people.”

MBLC Chair Mary Ann Cluggish welcomed the crowd and recognized VIPs. MBLC staffers Mary Rose Quinn, Andrea Bunker, and Lyndsay Forbes were in charge of activity stations along with Weymouth library staff and teen volunteers. Rachel Masse was point person for the day and kept the event running smoothly.

Director MacLean shared his appreciation in a thank you email: “Our patrons had a wonderful time. Part of that was, of course, Blades and Mrs. Baker, but, also, part of it was how seamless everything flowed because you all have running such huge events down to a science. Most importantly, you've re-energized us and our patrons to collect as many pajamas as we have ever done before. Again, thank you for coming to Weymouth and making this a fantastic February vacation week for our library.”

Before the event, Director MacLean gave the First Lady a tour of the state-of-the-art library, which she mentioned in a thank you to the PJ team: “The new building is amazing! I really enjoyed the tour and getting to see so many of the spaces in action!  Your whole team just exudes positivity and enthusiasm that really gives your new library a special energy.  Thanks for your hospitality and for encouraging Weymouth to get behind the PJ Drive! Bruins team and Blades and Rachel and Celeste, Rob is right, you guys have this down to a science!  What a great event. Thank you so much for pulling it all together!”

Communications Specialist Matt Perry did a special workshop for the Minuteman Library Network. The focus was how to maximize social media. There were 40 participants and the session was recorded for those who were unable to attend.

During the month of February, the team also worked with Buyer to create the new federal funding website <https://mblclsta.com/2022/> Director Lonergan used the site as part of the federal library legislative meetings. The site pulls all the federal funding, LSTA, ARPA and CARES Act into searches by district, municipality, or statewide programs and includes concise descriptions of how each community is using the funds. MBLC staff members Lyndsay Forbes and Tracey

Dimant were instrumental in providing grant and funding information. With all the information together on the site, it’s easy to share with legislators or anyone interested in how the MBLC is using federal funds. The Communications Team will update the site as funds are expended.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Mary Rose Quinn, Head of State Programs/Government Liaison presented the following report:

Total tax collections for the mid-month-to-date period were $886, million, down $142 million or 13.8% versus the same period in February 2021. Income taxes, which include withholding, totaled $683 million, down $143 million or 17.3% versus the same period in February 2021. Sales & Use Taxes were $106 million, down $4 million or 3.8% versus the same period in February 2021. Corporate & Business Taxes were $39 million, up $8 million or 24.8% versus the same period in February 2021. Other Taxes totaled $57 million, down $3 million or 4.2% versus the same period in February 2021. This report from the Department of Revenue (DOR) follows the very positive January figures with preliminary revenue collections totaling $4.026 billion, which is $679 million or 20.3% more than actual collections in January 2021, and $856 million or 27.0% more than benchmark. FY2022 year-to-date collections totaled approximately $21.872 billion, which is $4.219 billion or 23.9% more than collections in the same period of FY2021, and $1.450 billion or 7.1% more than year-to-date benchmark.

Board Chair Mary Ann Cluggish and Director James Lonergan testified before the Joint Committee on Ways and Means on Tuesday, March 1. The testimony presented by Chair Cluggish and Director Lonergan was well received by committee members, two of whom commented on how important libraries have been throughout the pandemic.

Representative Ruth Balser met with a small group of MLA Legislative Committee members and e-book stakeholders to discuss the proposed re-draft of H.4120, An Act modernizing library access to electronic books and digital audiobooks. The bill remains in the Committee on Tourism, Arts, and Cultural Development. Representative Balser requested and received an extension until June 2 from the Committee to amend, redraft, or keep the language in the bill.

The original deadline was February 2. Representative Balser also suggested during the meeting that she would request the Attorney General review the bill’s language for comment and guidance.

An update from the lawsuit in Maryland which was filed by the publishers’ groups: A judge ruled in favor of a preliminary injunction requested by the publishers against the Maryland legislation. The bill in Rhode Island has been sent to committee for further review for the remainder of the current legislative session.

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| Worcester breakfast | March 11, 2022 7:30am | Worcester Public Library |
| Littleton breakfast | March 18, 2022  | Reuben Hoar Library |
| SAILS breakfast | March 25, 2022  | Virtual details to follow |

**Consideration of approval of Budget Revision for the Massachusetts Center for the Book**

Sharon Shaloo, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Center for the Book presented to the Board a revised budget.

In the documentation regarding agenda item 7 there is a revised budget plan for the current fiscal year, reflecting the line-item funding of $300,000.

There are no dramatic changes in activity, but the MCB has shifted funds to accommodate the expenses of opening the new office in Northampton and an initiative that they are excited to grow from that space.

MCB will be presenting their FY2023 Plan of Service and Program and Budget at the April Board meeting with a vote at the May meeting.

Commissioner Ball moved and Commissioner Resnick seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approves the budget revision filed on February 23, 2022 for the Center for the Book for the current fiscal year, reflecting the line item funding of $300,000, as detailed in the agenda item 7.

**Hearing no objection, Chair Cluggish declared the motion passed under the consent agenda.**

**Consideration of approval to extend the moratorium on the State Aid to Public Libraries Hours Open Requirement through the end of the fiscal year**

Mary Rose Quinn, Head of State Programs presented to the Board the moratorium on the State Aid to Public Libraries hours open requirement through the end of the fiscal year.

The Commissioners approved the suspension of the Hours Open Requirement for State Aid at their January Board meeting from December 20, 2021, to April 4, 2022, to support libraries struggling with maintaining hours and services through the COVID Delta and Omicron surges. Although the COVID data reflects significant improvement with the increased vaccination numbers and the decrease in COVID cases, the State Aid Unit is recommending that Commissioners extend the moratorium through the remainder of the fiscal year to allow libraries to return to full scheduling at their own pace this spring and adjust, as necessary, if a new surge or variant emerges. The compliance period when libraries must meet the full hours requirement for FY 2022, therefore, will be reduced to 15 weeks from 38 and be based on the weeks from Labor Day to December 20, 2021.

Commissioner Resnick moved and Commissioner Ball seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners extends the moratorium to the State Aid to Public Libraries Hours Open Requirement through the end of the fiscal year.

**Hearing no objection, Chair Cluggish declared the motion passed under the consent agenda.**

**Report from Massachusetts library system (MLS)**

Sarah Sogigian, Executive Director of MLS presented the following report:

**FY2023 Legislative Agenda**

The MA Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) released their FY2023 Legislative Agenda:

“No matter where you live or where you’re from, how much you earn, what your ability or age, how you identify, or who you love, Massachusetts libraries are in your corner. Effective and efficient, we’re leveraged pandemic-related funding to tackle some of the challenges facing the Commonwealth, and we’re not done yet. Increased funding to State Aid to Public Libraries (7000-9501) and State Aid to Regional Libraries (7000-9401) will help us keep going.”

View the full budget request and affiliate info sheets, including the MA Library System’s info sheet on the MBLC’s Legislative Agenda website: [https://mblclegislativeagenda.com](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001zoldbh-QG7CSEI0ldaRqQILpdWz5ZdIg0ET3w6aSrHypUqdg2K-jLYUQLePgLd5eAxmOGsOiRRP1YZdf24DYHOFRoa_kvByzDuR0aLuMaX74MfqgiPXJKRTwRZUIxHqYuaoaI7auJFa4ygiKtXTMqQMNNoDhqvWt&c=eZo2forCm24WYWVx7O2Vfxfm106BsvShfICNoO3d6_GsgSkHkYVPzw==&ch=fZmm_oBganime2axKdi-8gweyhFtLoH6d2WC_cQUfKvSnrC3BMDkyw==__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!wK9woBhXmq7-VEN0SiC61jh-O0_SmUrd4owh7wnTOXvD8cAhDYnviNLMaCyuMTtz3axH$)

**Sarah and Rob on the road**

Sarah Sogigian (MLS) and Rob Favini (MBLC) have been on the road visiting libraries. They’ve had a blast on these road trips, visiting with our member libraries and learning more about their work during the pandemic. They are booking their calendars for more visits; let them know if you’d like them to stop by. They would love to hear and to see all that you are doing to support your communities.

They will work with you to find a mutually appropriate date and time and will adhere to all safety guidelines. They are also available for virtual visits!

Contact:

Sarah Sogigian – sarah@masslibsystem.org

Rob Favini – Robert.favini@state.ma.us

**Commonwealth eBook Collection**

The Commonwealth eBook Collections (CEC) OverDrive K-12 Shared Sora Collection program finished 2021 with a huge milestone. For the first time, the program reached and exceeded 1 million checkouts for the year! The OverDrive K-12 Shared Sora Collection ranks #1 in New England, and 3rd in both the US and World for OverDrive school shared collections.

Thanks to additional state and federal funding, participating schools can also now request extra copies of curriculum titles here:

[https://masslibsystem.libwizard.com/f/ceccurr](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001zoldbh-QG7CSEI0ldaRqQILpdWz5ZdIg0ET3w6aSrHypUqdg2K-jLYV-iIs8pZBeS6t57Hz3QqAnmtXL9UGNCllnUNQ_ZXJ6fX-Kbvpkx7etiYdrJTUQNotstbmQQttxOxlaW1Sizv6aQVVJS3Iukf_l1DjFhm3iMovQXIOSktDOVcNXBtF31g==&c=eZo2forCm24WYWVx7O2Vfxfm106BsvShfICNoO3d6_GsgSkHkYVPzw==&ch=fZmm_oBganime2axKdi-8gweyhFtLoH6d2WC_cQUfKvSnrC3BMDkyw==__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!wK9woBhXmq7-VEN0SiC61jh-O0_SmUrd4owh7wnTOXvD8cAhDYnviNLMaCyuMc31wRDV$)

Program enrollment remains open to MLS member schools. Begin the enrollment process here: [https://masslibsystem.libwizard.com/f/cecenroll2022](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001zoldbh-QG7CSEI0ldaRqQILpdWz5ZdIg0ET3w6aSrHypUqdg2K-jLYtSx3n90MlkO8FQhgxtI9PVnTsuey85y8dlUR5fUI5ZM6oHh1iXyC1VIeCZYn2ZWEFD9A5MSgaF7jK6L7GQ2x0U_73XCc5tiXnZNDN426ZC2otraaRYwkEIq6GMFZON7Q==&c=eZo2forCm24WYWVx7O2Vfxfm106BsvShfICNoO3d6_GsgSkHkYVPzw==&ch=fZmm_oBganime2axKdi-8gweyhFtLoH6d2WC_cQUfKvSnrC3BMDkyw==__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!wK9woBhXmq7-VEN0SiC61jh-O0_SmUrd4owh7wnTOXvD8cAhDYnviNLMaCyuMdjCJkgl$).

**State-wide Database Procurement**

The joint MLS and MBLC statewide database procurement process is continuing on pace. The procurement team is composed of MLS and MBLC database support staff as well as a nine-member advisory group. The joint MLS and MBLC committee has seen presentations by nine vendors proposing 91 products. The committee is now working on the evaluation process, which will run through February with open public trials to be announced soon. A special thanks to the advisory members and our partners at the MBLC, especially Kate Butler, MBLC Electronic Services Specialist, who is managing this complex project.

**MLS Live 2022**

Our MLS Live series is an opportunity to join MLS Executive Director Sarah Sogigian and Membership Manager Amanda Fauver, to discuss a different MLS related topic each quarter. We’ll also provide a brief update on what’s happening at MLS.

We’ll be hosting these sessions via Zoom 4 times a year, for an hour each. Registration, along with dates and topics, can be found on our [Event Calendar](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001zoldbh-QG7CSEI0ldaRqQILpdWz5ZdIg0ET3w6aSrHypUqdg2K-jLYV-iIs8pZBeFRIMyFl50a2uecQW_J2TKT1sXeOdgRe4hE76fl9YuGYrDB8rJDfr4KQnsZ6UTCBOwoh4wFj1V0kPHTew16kzE14FH755vxGItWQLAZvVvYyTuI-eYr26mwuczyexLdVx6n1BLV6W1Zb1OPUgPY36thbmw43sMcHWHuO5f_ItPa0ak0kNr3DCmeeiev3fD-qbsRb6RNqObUo=&c=eZo2forCm24WYWVx7O2Vfxfm106BsvShfICNoO3d6_GsgSkHkYVPzw==&ch=fZmm_oBganime2axKdi-8gweyhFtLoH6d2WC_cQUfKvSnrC3BMDkyw==__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!wK9woBhXmq7-VEN0SiC61jh-O0_SmUrd4owh7wnTOXvD8cAhDYnviNLMaCyuMccvspTg$). Our first MLS LIVE of 2022 will be on March 25 discussing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Topics.

**New England Summer Summit 2022**

Join your neighbors for the first New England-wide Summer Summit on Friday, March 4th! This is a day-long, free, virtual event hosted by all six New England states. We kick off with keynote bestselling children’s author Adam Gidwitz, and launch into sessions from each of our states. There will be children’s topics and sessions on families and adults – summer reading is for all!

**Host a COVID-19 Mobile Clinic and Community Conversation at Your Library**

Interested in hosting a COVID-19 mobile clinic or community conversation at your library? In this interview, we’ll hear from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health about resources and services available for your library to support vaccine equity.

**Report from Library for the Commonwealth (LFC)**

Angela Veizaga, Director of Strategic Partnerships presented the Board with the following report from LFC:

**Free Tax Assistance**

The Kirstein Business Library & Innovation Center (KBLIC) has teamed up with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program to offer free tax preparation for all patrons. There are two options to, a drop-off service on Wednesdays from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. now through April 13. The second option is a Remote Assistance option where you do not need to visit any of the BPL locations.

**Option 1: Drop-Off**

* Drop-off times must be booked using the booking calendar link which can be found in the event calendar posting.
* Only tax year 2021 will be prepared.
* Face-to-face tax assistance is not offered.
* Completed tax returns will be ready for pick-up on Wednesdays 4:00 pm-7:00 pm only; no appointment will be necessary for pick-up.

**What to Bring:**

* Copies of your tax forms and a copy of your ID will need to be left; they will be returned at pick-up of the completed tax forms.
* Current picture ID required for all adults in the tax return.
* Social security cards/ITIN documents for everyone included in the tax return.
* All W2 and income forms (unemployment, pension payments, etc.)
* Proof of health insurance, Form 1095 A if you received one.
* Total rent paid during 2021.

**Option 2: Remote Assistance**

* For those unable to do the drop-off option, they may send an email to request remote assistance.
* For regular taxpayers/international students email: **vita@cfmp.us**
* For au pairs email: **aupair@cfmp.us**
* Taxpayers must send all required documents to complete the tax forms.
* No tax return will be started unless all required documents are received.
* Tax forms will be completed remotely and emailed to the taxpayer for review.
* Once approved by the taxpayer, the tax forms will be e-filed.
* Taxpayers will need to email/fax all required social security cards, IDs, and tax documents.

More information about this service can be found in the calendar posting [https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/search/q=Free%20Tax%20Preparation](https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/search/q%3DFree%20Tax%20Preparation)

**Hotspot Lending Program Update**

We received 200 hotspots through the MBLC’s Hotspot Lending Program. Working with the City of Boston’s Office of Neighborhood Services, we prioritized third spaces and community-based organization to reach more residents as opposed to supplementing our existing lending program. Our partners have used these hotspots to empower youth organizations and provide connection to public housing residents, connect farmers’ market and food pantry clients with easy access to SNAP, make telehealth a reality for our most vulnerable neighbors and offer digital English classes available for Afghan refugees and much more.

We have received feedback from each partner organization, and they have stated that the hotspots are a lifeline of possibility to the communities of Boston.

Below is a list of the organizations that have received hotspots.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Organization Name** | **Neighborhood** | **HotSpots** |
| Immigrant Family Services Institute | Mattapan | 15 |
| ICNA Relief | Roxbury | 6 |
| PAATHS | South End | 5 |
| AHOPE | South End | 5 |
| BHA event | South End | 30 |
| Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center | Allston | 1 |
| Grand Carver Lodge | Dorchester | 3 |
| VietAid | Dorchester | 5 |
| Somali Development Center (SDC) | Roxbury | 5 |
| Pine Street Inn | South End | 5 |
| Farmer's Market | Citywide | 23 |
| Winter Placemaking (MONUM) | Citywide | 2 |
| Fields Corner Crossroads Collaborative/DotHouse | Dorchester | 15 |
| Fathers’ UpLift | Dorchester | 3 |
| Willows at Woods Mullen | Mass & Cass | 5 |
| Woods Mullen Shelter | Mass & Cass | 2 |
| Daily Table | Roxbury + Dorchester | 4 |
| The Boston Project Ministries + Talbot/Norfolk Neighborhood Association | Dorchester | 10 |
| Hyde Square Task force | Jamaica Plain | 15 |
| Presentation School Foundation | Brighton | 1 |
| Friends of the Faneuil Public Library | Brighton | 5 |
| SPARK Boston | Citywide | 1 |
| The Dominican Development Center | Jamaica Plain | 10 |
| Office of Housing Stability | Citywide | 10 |
| Boston Transportation Department | Citywide | 1  |
| Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative | Dorchester | 4  |
| North American Indian Center of Boston | JP | 7  |
| FarmCollab | Dorchester | 1 |
| East Boston Farmers Market | East Boston | 1 |
| Charlestown Farmers Market | Charlestown | 1 |
| SoWa Farmers Market | South End | 1 |
| DotHouse Farmers' Market | Dorchester | 1 |
| Dudley Town Commons Farmers' Market | Roxbury | 1 |
| Brighton Farmers Market | Allston | 1 |
| Roslindale Farmers Market | Roslindale | 1 |
| Mattapan Square Farmers' Market | Mattapan | 1 |
| Seaport Farmers Market | South Boston Waterfront/Fort Point | 1 |
| Copley Square Farmers Market | Back Bay | 1 |
| Ashmont Farmers Market | Dorchester | 1 |
| Roxbury Crossing Farmers Market | Roxbury | 1 |
| Mission Hill Farmers Market | Mission Hill-Longwood | 1 |
| JP Centre St Farmers' Market | Jamaica Plain | 1 |
| Boston Public Market at Dewey Square on the Greenway | South Boston Waterfront/Fort Point | 1 |
| Codman Square Farmers Market | Dorchester | 1 |
| South Boston Farmers market | South Boston | 1 |
| Chinatown Farmer's Market | Downtown | 1 |
| Fowler Clark Epstein farmstand | Mattapan | 1 |
| Boston Nature Center's Farm Stand | Mattapan | 1 |
| Blue Hill FarmStand | Dorchester | 1 |
| Field Corner FarmStand | Dorchester | 1 |
| The Laundromat Jackson Square | Jamaica Plain | 2 |

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**List of documents for the March 3, 2022, Regular Monthly Board Meeting:**

1. Agenda for the March 3, 2022, Regular Monthly Board Meeting
2. Draft Minutes from the February 3, 2022 Regular Monthly Board Meeting
3. Agenda #7- Consideration of approval of Budget Revision for the Massachusetts Center for the Book
4. Agenda #8- Consideration of approval to extend the moratorium on the State Aid to Public Libraries Hours Open Requirement through the end of the fiscal year
5. Agenda #9- Report from the Massachusetts Library System (MLS)
6. Agenda #10- Report from Library for the Commonwealth (LFC)

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Cluggish asked for motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Comeau moved and Commissioner Abraham seconded to adjourn the March 3, 2022 MBLC Monthly Board Meeting 12:00 P.M.

**Hearing no objection, Chair Cluggish declared the motion passed under the consent agenda.**



Deb Abraham

Secretary