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

**Date** : Thursday, August 1, 2024

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

**Place** : Perkins School for the Blind Library, Grousbeck Center

Watertown, MA

**Board**

**Present** : Vicky Biancolo, Chair; Timothy Cherubini, Vice-Chair; Karen Traub, Secretary;

George Comeau, Esq.; Debby Conrad; Joyce Linehan; Jessica Vilas Novas

**Absent** :Kate Chang

**Staff Present:**

Maureen Amyot, Director; **Jessica Branco Colati,** Preservation Specialist; Celeste Bruno, Communications Director; Andrea Bono-Bunker, Library Building Consultant; Kate Butler, Library Information Systems Specialist; Tracey Dimant, Head of Operations & Budget / Business Office; Susan Faiella, Accountant; Al Hayden, Library Advisory Specialist; Rachel Masse, Assistant to the Director; Jaccavrie McNeely, Electronic Services Specialist; Cate Merlin, Head of State Programs

**Staff Zoom:**

Terry D'Angelo, Administrative Assistant / Business Office; Tanesha Deane, Contract Specialist; Allyson Dowds, Consultant to Special Populations; Jennifer Inglis, State Aid Specialist; Uechi Ng, Administrative Assistant; Lilli Sutton, Administrative Assistant

**Observers Present:**

Courtney Andree, Executive Director, Massachusetts Center for the Book; Kim Charlson, Library Director, Perkins School Library; Patrice Devin, Administrative Assistant, Perkins School Library; Andrea Everett, Reader Advisor, Perkins School Library; James Gleason, Assistant Librarian, Perkins School Library; Garo Papazian, Digital Production & Electronic Technology Manager, Perkins School Library; Sarah Sogigian, Executive Director, Massachusetts Library System

**Observers Zoom:**

Eileen Chandler, CLAMS; John Costello, Middleborough; Lee Anne Hooley, WPL/Talking Book Library; Sarah Jackson, Boston Public Library; Kathy Lussier, NOBLE; Philip McNulty, Minuteman Library Network

**Meeting called to order by Chair Biancolo**

Chair Conrad called the meeting to order at 10:02 A.M.

**Roll Call of Commissioners**

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Commissioner Cherubini- Present Zoom | Commissioner Linehan- Present |
| Commissioner Biancolo - Present | Commissioner Comeau- Present | Commissioner Traub- Present Zoom |
| Commissioner Chang - Absent | Commissioner Conrad- Present | Commissioner Vilas Novas- Present |

Chair Biancolo 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 Biancolo moved to adopt a consent agenda for agenda items #2- Approval of Minutes- July 11, 2024 and #14- Adjournment.

Commissioner Conrad seconded.

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Commissioner Cherubini- Yes | Commissioner Linehan- Yes |
| Commissioner Biancolo - Yes | Commissioner Comeau- Yes | Commissioner Traub- Yes |
| Commissioner Chang - Absent | Commissioner Conrad- Yes | Commissioner Vilas Novas- Yes |

**The motion passed.**

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

**July 11, 2024**

Chair Biancolo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the July 11, 2024 Monthly Meeting as presented.

Commissioner Linehan moved and Commissioner Conrad seconded to approve the minutes from the July 11, 2024, Regular Monthly Meeting as presented.

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

**Chair’s Report**

Chair Biancolo presented the following report:

July 2024 was steamy and busy. This was a short month, as the July 4th holiday pushed our July meeting to the 11th.

On July 12, I met over Zoom with Vice Chair Cherubini to discuss our roles on the Executive Committee. I think that we, along with Secretary Traub will work together well as an eBoard this year.

I visited two public libraries this month. On July 15, at the invitation of Senator Jake Oliveira and Representative Aaron Saunders, Commissioner Traub and I enjoyed a tour of the legislators’ hometown library, the busy Hubbard Public Library in Ludlow. The legislators spent over an hour with us, and unsurprisingly, only reinforced my belief that they could not be more staunch supporters of libraries, not only their own.

On July 16, I visited the lovely and very lively Truro Public Library, where I got a tour from the assistant director and had a lengthy conversation with the director. I was particularly impressed by their mud kitchen, financed with an LSTA grant, as well as their edible trail. Commissioners, if you are looking for something to do on a quiet day, I recommend visiting a library. It is a great way to hear stories of successes, challenges, plans for the future, the immense pride folks have in their libraries, as well as see what we do in action.

On July 23 I attended the monthly virtual meeting of the Executive Board. At this meeting, we had a preliminary discussion of possibilities for the FY 2026 legislative agenda, as well as the flow of the calendar year. We talked about identifying ways we can shift the calendar a bit, if possible, to give commissioners more time to consider before voting on important items. For example, at the September meeting, we will hear input from our affiliates and partners on what they see as potential legislative priorities, but we vote on the Legislative Agenda at that very same meeting. Rachel has created an outline of the year as it stands now, and you have a copy of that in your packet. Please take a look at some point, and if you have any comments, questions, suggestions, please let me or Maureen know.

You will see that typically at the September board meeting the Chair distributes the list of Board Liaison and Committee Assignments. So head’s up, I will be asking for a short meeting in the next week or so with each of you to discuss your interests.

This past Monday, the Governor signed the FY2025 budget, which was good news. Although we didn't get everything we asked for, we got an increase in all seven of our line items except for 9508, the Center for the Book. I know the legislative report will go into detail, but the actual bottom line is that the legislature sent to the Governor, and she signed, a healthier budget than we asked for. So, if you have not yet emailed your senators and representatives thanking them for such robust support of the library line items, please do so.

This week I spoke to Jonathan Torcia, Senior Deputy Director of Boards and Commissions, and he seems confident that we will have a new Commissioner in place by the next board meeting, bringing us to our full complement.

Last week I saw a play in Pittsfield and was delighted to spot a full-page ad in the Playbill by the Berkshire Athenaeum of suggested reads related to the play. I will pass it around so everyone can see.

Finally, the day before yesterday, June 30th, I was sworn in, having been reappointed by Governor Maura Healey.

**Commissioner Activities**

**Commissioner Cherubini**

* July 16, 2024- Sheffield Bushnell-Sage Public Library visit
* July 17, 2024- Westfield Athenaeum
* July 23, 2024- Executive Committee meeting

**Commissioner Comeau**

* August 1- Attended Building Committee Meeting

**Commissioner Conrad**

* July 16- Virtual MLA Legislative Committee Meeting
* August 1- Attended Building Committee Meeting

**Commissioner Linehan**

* July 22- Attended the Iron Pour MassArt Visit at the Woburn Public Library
* July 23- Attended the Sustainable Fashion MassArt Visit at the Medford Library
* August 1- Attended Building Committee Meeting

**Commissioner Traub**

* July 9, 2024- Mass Library Trustee Association Meeting
* July 9, 2024 United for Libraries Readcon Webinar - advocacy and community empowerment during challenging times
* July 15, 2024- Ludlow Hubbard Memorial
* July 16, 2024- Sheffield Bushnell-Sage Public Library visit
* July 17, 2024- Westfield Athenaeum
* July 23, 2024- Executive Committee meeting

Commissioner Vilas Novas

* July 19- Attended Summer Reading Blades visit at the Billerica Public Library
* Traveled to NYC Library with family

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Director Amyot presented the following report:

It’s hard to believe I’ve been in the Director position for less than a month – the time has flown and I have learned an incredible amount already. The staff has an amazing depth and breadth of talent and knowledge, and I feel very fortunate to work with all of them every day. Here are some of the highlights from our units this month.

**Business Unit**

* We are working on the end of year Diversity reports (submitted to the Office of Diversity and Equity Inclusion – ODEO). Tracey puts these together in her role as Diversity Officer, I review them, and they are submitted to ODEO.
* We are working on the final close of FY2024 and setting up the budget for FY2025 for the agency lines and Bond Bill lines. Tracey will do her annual report to the Board at the October meeting.
* We are working on agency staff and management team Performance Evaluations.
* We are working on our Procurement Plan for FY2025, including upcoming RFRs/RFQs and contract renewals. (Includes RFQ for Strategic Planner, RFQ for EDI plan, Database contract renewals, among many other items.)

**Library Advisory and Development Unit**

**Perkins Access Web Site Accessibility Training**

We are happy to be partnering again with Perkins Access to offer Massachusetts libraries a virtual training series designed to assist in making library web sites more accessible. Lyndsey Forbes has been working with Perkins Access to put together this updated version of the training that we offered during the pandemic. Sessions will include:

* Accessibility Design 101
* Web content
* Image descriptions
* Multimedia description
* Accessibility testing
* Inclusive language
* Procurement
* Office hours to answer individuals’ questions

Sessions will run from late August through September.

**Corrections Library Manga Collections**

The latest in a series of Manga book collection deliveries went to the North Central Correctional Institute in Gardner on July 25, 2024. This ongoing program uses LSTA funds to provide a set collection of Manga titles to both male and female corrections and jail libraries and is overseen by Ally Dowds with administrative assistance by Amy Clayton. Ordering has begun to assemble the next collection that will be sent to a facility to be determined.

**Discussions with Simmons University SLIS**

Ally Dowds has been coordinating an ongoing series of discussions between Library Advisory and Development staff, MLS consulting staff and Laura Saunders, Professor and Associate Dean, Simmons University School of Library and Information Science. The discussions center around skills and training needs of public librarians and how graduate curriculum can best meet these needs. Talks support work addressing the need to not only expand the diversity withing the library profession, but also the relevant skill sets that entrants into the library profession need to meet the always evolving role of libraries. In addition to discussions there are plans for several informal focus groups to get input from library staff in the field.

**Environmental monitoring program**

For past three years the MBLC has partnered with Conserve Solutions to provide libraries free tools, software, and training to use the latest technology solutions to easily implement museum-quality monitoring for their special or historic community collections. The MBLC is renewing the program and Jess Colati is currently evaluating the program to increase effectiveness based on lessons learned from the experience of 19 libraries who have participated in the program. Jess will also be exploring ways to expand participation through shorter term monitoring deployments to address specific issues, i.e. HVAC effectiveness.

**Communications Unit**

It’s been a busy month for Communications, with Blades visits and the first two events with MassArt. Hundreds of happy kids and adults have attended the Blades events in Billerica and Harvard, along with Commissioners, agency staff, MLS staff, and even Oliver the therapy dog from the Lawrence Police Department. Photos are posted on the MBLC social media sites, so please take a look, and Like/Share. The MassArt events were extremely well-attended, and they were outstanding to work with on this project. The teams of students and alumni couldn’t have been more welcoming and knowledgeable. They really inspired the teen participants. Celeste has some great comments she can share from attendees.

I’ve personally spent some time with Celeste and Rachel doing some planning for a fall “meet the director” series out in libraries, a video series highlighting librarians from diverse backgrounds in Massachusetts libraries, and some other fun projects.

I’ve also been having individual meetings with staff, to learn more about each person’s role and how they all fit together. It’s been a very informative and helpful way to get to know all of them a little better. I’ve been doing a lot of onboarding, getting registered in all the Commonwealth systems and learning how they work.

I am thrilled to inform you that the Griswold Library in Colrain is being awarded a National Medal for Library Service by IMLS, our federal agency, next week. They are the FIRST Massachusetts public library to receive this extremely prestigious award. I’m attending the awards ceremony with them in Washington DC on August 30, and I will share information about it at the Board meeting. I am beyond happy for them, and delighted that I get to attend.

**Communications Unit**

Lead by Rachel Masse, the communications team held the Bruins kickoff at Waltham Public Library with 12 prospect Bruins players. Blades events were held at Billerica Public Library with Commissioner Jessica Vilas Novas, Director Amyot and MLS Director Sarah Sogigian; and at Harvard Library. The turnout for the events has been great. Three more events are scheduled for August: Pittsfield and Brockton which will be bilingual Spanish/English and at Duxbury which will include American Sign Language.

The MassArt/MBLC pilot launched in July with workshops at Woburn Public Library, Medford Public Library and the final one was held at Salisbury Public Library on Monday. Each workshop was at capacity and participants, caregivers, and library staff all expressed how much they enjoyed them. The MassArt faculty and student ambassadors were outstanding and easily connected with participants. The youngest participant was 6, the oldest in her 20s. Overall the workshops attracted tweens and teens—typically difficult populations for libraries to reach.

The team surveyed participants at the workshops:  
99% said they learned something new  
94% said they wanted to see more MassArt offerings at the library  
76% said they do not take art classes during the summer (one person said: unless it’s at the library)  
  
The communications director also worked with a reporter from MassLive/Springfield Republican on a story about book banning in Massachusetts.

**State Programs Unit:**

The annual State Aid cycle is in full swing, with the online ARIS survey closing on Friday, August 16th. State Aid Specialist Jen Inglis and Unit Head Cate Merlin continue to answer questions and assist library and network staff in interpreting statistics as they fill out the forms, and Cate continues to assist and advise libraries facing budgetary struggles and shortfalls. Jen led multiple online ARIS trainings and drop in sessions, assisting over 200 attendees as they fill out their annual reports. State Aid Administrative Assistant Uechi Ng is reviewing completed ARIS submissions as they roll in, and all are preparing for the August 5th opening of the Financial Reporting survey, which will close on Friday, October 4th. Online Financial Reporting training sessions, including a training for libraries that will be applying for a waiver, have been scheduled for August and September and are open for registration on the Agency calendar. In addition to working with the unit on State Aid questions and logistics, Cate is preparing for the next State Aid Review process, which she hopes will begin in early 2025. She also continues to work with the Perkins Library and Worcester Talking Book Libraries, and looks forward to working with their Consumer Advisory groups as they begin to meet again.

Library Building Consultant Andrea Bono-Bunker and Library Building Specialist Heather Backman are in the midst of the current 2023/2024 Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program grant round- reading applications, accompanying construction professional reviewers on site visits, and answering independent reviewers' questions about process and procedure, while preparing for September's in-person meetings. They also continue to support currently awarded libraries as they move through the construction process, including attending the 8/2 groundbreaking for the Shutesbury Public Library's Small Public Library Pilot Program project. Andrea is also participating in the creation of a construction grant toolkit and an equity in grant making webinar with COSLA, and is working with Heather and Michelle Eberle from MLS on a regional resilience series with libraries from Maryland to Maine.

Construction subcommittee of the board met today and wanted to report out.

**Discussion of City of Everett and their plans to change in use for 2,337 square feet of the lower level of the Shute Memorial Library with occupancy transferred from the Everett Public Libraries to the Department of Youth Development and Enrichment**

Before the board meeting members of the construction team met to discuss the City of Everett and their plans to change the library. The City of Everett has received a Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program grant award in the last 20 years.

Commissioner Comeau stated that the Board needs a better understanding of what the space will be used for. The City of Everett has a contract with us. The library is not just for the people of Everett. The library is for the people of the Commonwealth. A change to the building must be a request to the Board not just done without the knowledge of the Board. It is a contractual issue that we would have to work with A&F to figure out.

Commissioner Comeau moved and Commissioner Linehan seconded that per the assurances made in 2012 and in subsequent assurances in the agreement made between the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the city of Everett Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners requests that prior approval from the MBLC be obtained before any proposed proportional use changes are made to the non-public library usage at the Shute Memorial Library.

A roll call vote was made by the Commissioners.

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Commissioner Cherubini- Yes | Commissioner Linehan- Yes |
| Commissioner Biancolo - Yes | Commissioner Comeau- Yes | Commissioner Traub- Yes |
| Commissioner Chang - Absent | Commissioner Conrad- Yes | Commissioner Vilas Novas- Yes |

**The motion was approved.**

**Legislative Report**

**FY 2025 Budget Signed**

On July 29th Governor Healy signed the FY 2025 Budget. All the MBLC’s budget lines in the final budget reflected the numbers outlined in the House and Senate Conference Committee report. The table below outlines how our budget lines fared at every step in the process. All Legislative Agenda asks were met except for 9101 Board of Library Commissioners, 9506 Technology & Resource Sharing, and 9508 Center for the Book. These all came in slightly below the Legislative Agenda Ask. 9401 Regional Libraries Local Aid came in significantly over our Legislative Agenda Ask due to an amendment filed by Senator Jacob Oliveria.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **FY24** | **FY25 Request** | **FY25 Governor's Budget** | **FY25 House Passed** | **FY245 Senate Passed** | **Compromise Committee** | **Governor Signed FY25 Budget** |
| [7000-9101](https://massbudget.org/budget-browser/line-item/?id=7000910100) | Board of Library Commissioners | $1,904,745 | $2,095,220 | $2,021,446 | $2,074,268 | $2,074,268 | $2,074,268 | $2,074,268 |
| [7000-9401](https://massbudget.org/budget-browser/line-item/?id=7000940100) | Regional Libraries Local Aid | $16,717,600 | $17,553,480 | $16,717,600 | $16,817,600 | $19,000,000 | $19,000,000 | $19,000,000 |
| [7000-9402](https://massbudget.org/budget-browser/line-item/?id=7000940200) | Talking Book Program Worcester | $678,040 | $711,942 | $678,040 | $711,942 | $678,040 | $711,942 | $711,942 |
| [7000-9406](https://massbudget.org/budget-browser/line-item/?id=7000940600) | Talking Book Program Watertown | $3,860,420 | $4,053,441 | $3,860,420 | $4,053,441 | $3,860,420 | $4,053,441 | $4,053,441 |
| [7000-9501](https://massbudget.org/budget-browser/line-item/?id=7000950100) | Public Libraries Local Aid | $17,600,000 | $20,000,000 | $17,600,000 | $17,625,000 | $20,000,000 | $20,000,000 | $20,000,000 |
| [7000-9506](https://massbudget.org/budget-browser/line-item/?id=7000950600) | Technology & Resource Sharing | $6,167,581 | $6,475,960 | $6,169,480 | $6,475,960 | $6,169,480 | $6,169,480 | $6,169,480 |
| [7000-9508](https://massbudget.org/budget-browser/line-item/?id=7000950800) | Center for the Book | $420,000 | $500,000 | $420,000 | $420,000 | $420,000 | $420,000 | $420,000 |
|  | **Totals** | **$47,348,386** | **$51,390,043** | **$47,466,986** | **$48,178,211** | **$52,202,208** | **$52,429,131** | **$52,429,131** |

The success of the FY25 Legislative Agenda was due to the hard work of hundreds of advocates across the Commonwealth. In particular the support and dedication of the Massachusetts Library Association Legislative Committee was key. The committee coordinated and supported not only 16 Legislative Breakfasts across the state, but also a Legislative Briefing dedicated to the MBLC’s Legislative Agenda. Many thanks go out to MLA/LEG Co-Chairs Will Adamczyk, Nora Blake, and Kathy Lussier.

Thanks also go out to the host libraries staff and attendees of Legislative Breakfasts, legislators and local officials who attended and spoke, the Massachusetts Library System staff, Western Mass Library Advocates, Central Mass Library Advocates, The Massachusetts School Library Association, the Library Networks, and of course our amazing MBLC Staff, and Commissioners who attended and spoke at various events.

**FY 2026 Legislative Agenda**

Yes, you read that correctly. Starting with today’s preliminary discussion of the FY26 Legislative Agenda we start the process all over again. The September Commissioners Board meeting will feature legislative agenda input from MBLC affiliates, partners, and stakeholders. MBLC staff will use this input to help create the narrative to support our FY26 budget line asks.

I want to point out two events to mark your calendars for the upcoming Legislative season. On October 10th there will be a Legislative Advocacy Day at the Worcester Public Library. This event hosted by the MLA Legislative Committee will help attendees tune up their advocacy skills. And on the evening of December 5th the Worcester Public Library will host Stand for Libraries. This event will attract legislators, librarians and library supporters from across the state. The agenda and speakers are still being developed but Senate President Karen Spilka is scheduled to speak. More details on both events to come.

**Library Related Bills**

At the writing of this report (7/30) all the library related bills have still not been brought to the floor for a vote. We are still waiting on the following:

* H.4789 Economic Development Bill (that includes our Construction Bond)
* H.4802 An Act addressing challenges facing public libraries and digital resource collections (E Book Bill)
* S.2839 An Act to ensure access to library resources and services (Freedom to Read)

**Report from Perkins School Library**

Kim Charlson, Library Director presented the following report:

# Perkins August 1, 2024 Notes for MBLC Board Meeting Presentation:

Kim Charlson, Executive Director of the Perkins Braille & Talking Book Library shared information about programs and services for FY24.

* **Active registered patrons:** 20,500
* **Equipment Loans:** 2,765
* **FY24 Annual Circulation:** 598,000
* **Collection Titles (all formats):** 250,000
* **Active Newsline Subscribers:** 4,200
* **# Newsline Calls:** 105,400
* **Newsline Minutes/Hours used:** 240,000 Minutes; 4,000 Hours
* **Active BARD download patrons:** 2,560
* **BARD downloads:** 102,236
* **Annual incoming phone calls:** 40,740
* **Zoom Activities:** 
  + 560 events
  + 7,400 participants
* **Total Zoom minutes:** 60,800, 1,013 hours

**Digital Transition:** completed by the end of FY24. Almost all of our patrons are receiving customized digital and braille cartridges with books and magazines on them as of July 1, 2024. Our circulation has increased significantly. In July, 2024, Perkins assumed responsibility for the Audio Magazine Distribution from the National Library Service for the Blind & Print Disabled (NLS). All audio magazine cartridges will now ship from Perkins and staff have been trained to duplicate and track all magazine circulation.

**New Staff:** three new Reader Advisor Librarians, and one new children’s librarian have joined the staff. A new Communication and Graphic Design Manager has joined our team to handle our print newsletters, enewsletters, Facebook & other social media, website maintenance and content management, and general media/marketing activities.

**Summer Reading Program:** Perkins had a very successful Summer Reading Program with 60 participants from all across Massachusetts. All activities included accessible activity guides that were sent out, and this year, we had a scheduled animal handler visit and accessible arts and craft days at Perkins with good engagement.

**Prison Librarians Visit Perkins:** Perkins hosted a meeting of prison libraries (coordinated by Allie Dowds) for those working to provide talking book services to inmates with disabilities. Many resources were shared and strategies and collaborations were increased.

**Tactile Art Exhibit:** Perkins and the Worcester Talking Book Library are working together to bring an accessible tactile art exhibition of 7 great masters to both Perkins and Worcester for four weeks in each location in the spring of 2025. The exhibitions come from Tactile Images of Chatham, NY and are amazing with audio and tactile components.

**Cape Cod/Islands Outreach:** In the fall of 2024, Perkins will be adding a part-time outreach specialist to our team to focus on outreach/awareness of our services on Cape Cod and the Islands. This will be supported in part with state and private funding to Perkins.

**Library of Accessible Things:** Perkins is in the process of establishing a demo center and Library of Accessible Things for patrons. It will be a place to come and see accessible devices, and in some instances, many of the items will be able to be loaned out on short-term loan to patrons who want to try out these devices before purchasing them for themselves. Examples of devices include: talking radio, talking tape measurer, talking cane with sensors, talking microwave and toaster oven, talking scales, and toys like Blind Barbie.

The remaining portion of this segment focused on tactile graphics and 3D printing of objects for patrons. The presenters were Andrea Everett, Librarian, and Garo Papazian, Duplication and Electronic Technology Manager. Information was shared about how to produce tactile graphics and 3D printing of things and objects, and the factors that need to be taken into consideration to make the items usable. Each attendee received a 3D model of Faneuil Hall.

**Report from Library from the Commonwealth**

Sarah Jackson, Metro-Boston Library Network Administrator presented the Board the following report.

**Browse Borrow Board program:**

Signs were installed at the Foxboro MBTA station!

* [https://www.thesunchronicle.com/foxboro\_reporter/news/local\_news/foxboro-mbta-commuters-can-read-listen-and-ride/article\_a86057c0-6e44-528b-8318-0d11ee4835cb.html](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furldefense.com%2Fv3%2F__https%3A%2F%2Fwww.thesunchronicle.com%2Ffoxboro_reporter%2Fnews%2Flocal_news%2Ffoxboro-mbta-commuters-can-read-listen-and-ride%2Farticle_a86057c0-6e44-528b-8318-0d11ee4835cb.html__%3B!!CPANwP4y!QJmTCwBSPPc3_wYCrVdR30oVt84ZZhoYBSr_g9-FF4Sfzup-vR_OyOwYgPz06D8oBjI-LqXlLFlhf02vT3f6KfuP4D_p_mrY2iw%24&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7Caac6ec3e835f4c1d73d208dcad9fd071%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638576149117637291%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=rX6yMeBg1eR5yxt6qElETiWzAgSGrUpSuOh7Cde87GE%3D&reserved=0)
* The BPL sent out a survey to 2000+ past users to gather feedback about the program and invite interested participants to paid focus group opportunity in September.
* Working with the BPL Fund on ULC innovation award application

To date: 2178 sign ups and 685 checkouts.

**Leventhal Map Center Exhibition Closing August 31, 2024:**

Heaven & Earth: The Blue Maps of China

Saturday, May 11, 2024 - Saturday, August 31, 2024

 Central Library in Copley Square

This exhibition considers two series of large-format maps printed using Prussian blue—one terrestrial and one celestial. *Heaven & Earth* puts these two maps, never before exhibited together, into the context of China during the Qing Dynasty.

The blue maps at the center of *Heaven & Earth: The Blue Maps of China* are more than just visually astonishing. They also reflected Chinese ideas about the relationship between terrestrial and celestial space, and still provide insight today into how Chinese scholars and artists conceptualized the world around them. Beautiful and powerful in equal measure, these blue maps capture details of a transitional moment in the history of China—and the wider world. This exhibition considers these two maps in the context of their production, consumption, and functionality, revealing them as unique objects in the global history of mapmaking. The exhibition is guest curated by Dr. Richard Pegg, Director and Curator of the MacLean Collection in Chicago, IL.

**Special Collections:**

On Tuesday August 27, Special Collection is holding a [Conservation Showcase Open House](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fbpl.bibliocommons.com%2Fevents%2F66379c15b7ed963d0096bf10&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C6e664fa19c0e40e3b1da08dcb00eabd3%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638578824272992697%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=xHaiqjxwyFrr6vGQzeMyUDRxi9awlnl8aGCr88x92tQ%3D&reserved=0). The Special Collections Conservation staff will have examples of repairs and items they've treated out in the Special Collections Reading Room from 2pm-4pm and will be available to talk to visitors about their work. This is part of our regular open house series, and it is a chance to spread some light on a truly fascinating – and often invisible! – work that goes into preserving collections for access.

**Boston Public Library Strategic Planning Process:**

Working with our partners Gensler and Margaret Sullivan Studios, the Boston Public Library has launched a strategic planning process.  This process is designed to deliver us a plan that will guide us into a successful future, helping us understand not only what it means to be a 21st century library, but just as importantly, will help us understand how the BPL can support the values and goals of the patrons we serve.

Our Community Survey is open to all and can be found here: (the survey will close Aug. 9th, 2024)

[Community Survey](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=cVxz-pXXAUywrgn6dBWysYapEg7Ig3FKgXcAxAFjeWBUNEs3N1gxS0EwU1VYVkxaMk5DN0VNMTNKOC4u)

**The BPL recognizes and celebrates Disability Pride Month in July:**

Programming and initiatives included: community conversations, curated booklists and highlighting our monthly bookclubs: [**Neurospicy Reads: A Book Group for ADHDers, Autistic Adults, and Allies**](https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/65fb04f402859793719d660c) and our Quiet reading Parties.

Our annual Booklist link is [HERE](https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/list/share/2504215469/2529036779); #BPLDisabledNotUnable

The BPL also hosted a film screening of the:

[**Best and Most Beautiful Things: A Documentary Film Screening with Q&A with Director Garrett Zevgetis**](https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/668c43a5897288371b277b96)

**Researching:**

The BPL has posted a new LibGuide: Researching Black History in the U.S., at the BPL and beyond:

[Getting Started - Researching Black History at the BPL - Research Guides at Boston Public Library](https://guides.bpl.org/c.php?g=1397513)

There are links for [Primary Sources](https://guides.bpl.org/c.php?g=1397513), [Primary Sources (library card needed](https://guides.bpl.org/c.php?g=1397513)), [Collection Directories](https://guides.bpl.org/c.php?g=1397513) and [Oral Histories](https://guides.bpl.org/c.php?g=1397513). It also includes links to Black newspapers and journals, Black magazines and journals and Black historical sites in New England.

**Discussion of the FY2026 Legislative Agenda**

Director Amyot discussed that the thought this year would prioritize 3 line items; agency line, Massachusetts Center for the Book line, and State Aid to Public Libraries.

Affiliates will be invited to speak at the September 5 Board Meeting to give their thoughts about the legislative agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Comeau moved and Commissioner Conrad seconded to adjourn the August 1, 2024 Board Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12: 29 P.M.



Karen Traub

Secretary