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

**Date** : Thursday, July 11, 2024

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

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

 Boston, MA

**Board**

**Present** : Debby Conrad, Chair; Vicky Biancolo, Vice Chair; Karen Traub, Secretary;

Kate Chang; Timothy Cherubini; Joyce Linehan

**Absent** :George Comeau, Esq.; Jessica Vilas Novas

**Staff Present:**

Maureen Amyot, Director; Heather Backman, Library Building Specialist; Celeste Bruno, Communications Director; Tracey Dimant, Head of Operations & Budget / Business Office; Susan Faiella, Accountant; Robert Favini, Head of Library Advisory & Development / Government Liaison; Al Hayden,Library Advisory Specialist; Rachel Masse, Assistant to the Director; Cate Merlin, Head of State Programs

**Staff Zoom:**

Andrea Bono-Bunker, Library Building Consultant; Kate Butler, Library Information Systems Specialist; **Jessica Branco Colati,** Preservation Specialist; Terry D'Angelo, Administrative Assistant / Business Office; Tanesha Deane, Contract Specialist; Allyson Dowds, Consultant to Special Populations; Lyndsay Forbes, Project Manager & Grants Specialist; Jennifer Inglis, State Aid Specialist; Jaccavrie McNeely, Electronic Services Specialist

**Observers Present:**

Amanda Fauver, Membership & BiblioTemps Manager, Massachusetts Library System; Sarah Jackson, Metro-Boston Library Network Administrator, Boston Public Library; Kathy Lussier, Network Administrator, North of Boston Library Exchange (NOBLE); Sarah Sogigian, Executive Director, Massachusetts Library System

**Observers Zoom:**

Courtney Andree, Executive Director, Massachusetts Center for the Book; Mary Ann Cluggish, Former Commissioner, Wellesley; Maura Deedy, Local Librarian Consulting; Evan Hale, Assistant Director, Gladys E. Kelly Public Library, Webster; Lee Anne Hooley, Worcester Talking Book Library, Worcester; Mary Kronholm, Trustee Chair, Porter Memorial Library, Blandford, Former Commissioner; Deborah Lang Froggatt, Massachusetts School Library Association; Marie Letarte, Library Director, Bigelow Free Public Library, Clinton; Sondra Murphy, Director, Gladys E. Kelly Public Library, Webster; David Slater, Network Administrator, Old Colony Library Network

**Meeting called to order by Chair Conrad**

Chair Conrad called the meeting to order at 10:01 A.M.

**Roll Call of Commissioners**

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

Chair Conrad 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 Conrad moved to adopt a consent agenda for agenda items #2- Approval of Minutes- June 6, 2024; #7- Consideration of approval of the FY2025 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grant Awards and #15- Adjournment.

Commissioner Chang seconded.

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

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

**The motion passed.**

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

**June 6, 2024**

Chair Conrad asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 6, 2024 Monthly Meeting as presented.

Commissioner Linehan moved and Commissioner Biancolo seconded to approve the minutes from the June 6, 2024, Regular Monthly Meeting as presented.

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

**Chair’s Report**

Chair Conrad presented the following report:

As we await news about the FY2025 budget and the status of the library legislation, work continued on preparing for the upcoming advocacy season. On June 18th I attended a meeting of the MLA Legislative subcommittee charged with developing a fall advocacy event as well as a general meeting of the entire Committee on the 21st. On June 17, Commissioner Biancolo and I enjoyed a pleasant lunch with our new director, Maureen Amyot. On June 25 I attended the monthly meeting of the Board Executive Committee. On July 8th I attended the Executive Board meeting of the Massachusetts Library System – celebrating its 14 birthday this month.

This will be my last report as Chair of the MBLC. Today the Commissioners will be electing new officers whose term will begin with the August 2024 meeting. A great many changes have taken place at the Board this past year. We welcomed Commissioner Chang and Commissioner Cherubini to the board and said goodbye to Deb Abraham, Stacey DeBoles, Mary Ann Cluggish, and Barbara Barros. New MBLC staff members joined the Board this year as long-time staff members retired and other valued staff members left to pursue new career opportunities. This of course represents a loss of a lot of institutional memory, but it also opens the door for the new director to set her own course and for the new staff to develop new relationships with libraries and partners.

It has been a great pleasure to serve as Chair this year. I valued the opportunity to work with such a committed group of Board members and staff. Commissioners dedicated hours to advocacy for library related legislation and funding, in the process strengthening bonds with our partners such as the Massachusetts Library Association. The Board initiated a new construction grant round and I look forward to hearing about the applications that have been submitted. Our most important task was developing and working through the process of hiring a new director for the agency. The search committee chaired by Commissioner Biancolo spent hours reviewing candidates. My thanks go to them for their diligence. I also want to thank the chairs of the Massachusetts Library Association Legislative Committee, Will Adamczyk, Nora Blake, and Kathy Lussier for the hours they have put into advocating for libraries.

We have many challenges and opportunities facing us this coming fiscal year. We still don’t know what our FY2025 budget will be, there are threats facing us at the federal level, and much work still needs to be done on some critical pieces of library legislation. I look forward to partnering with my fellow Commissioners and our new Director as we work to ensure that Massachusetts provides the best library services in the country.

**Commissioner Activities**

**Commissioner Biancolo**

* June 17, 2024- Lunch with Chair Conrad and new director Maureen Amyot
* June 25, 2024- Attended meeting of the Executive Board, virtual
* July 2, 2024- Introduced Summer Reading at the kickoff event in Waltham

**Commissioner Cherubini**

* June 18, 2024 - Toured the North Adams Public Library
* July 2, 2024- Participated in the Summer Reading Kick Off Event at the Waltham Public Library

**Commissioner Linehan**

* June 26, 2024- Toured Northeastern- Banned Books

**Commissioner Traub**

* June 10, 2024- Meeting of MBLC Nominating committee
* June 11, 2024- Mass Library Trustee Association Meeting virtual
* June 11, 2024- Mass Center for the Book meeting virtual
* June 12, 2024- Western Mass Library Advocates meeting
* June 25, 2024- Executive Board meeting virtual
* July 9, 2024- Mass Library Trustee Association Meeting virtual
* July 9, 2024- United for Libraries Webinar Readcon; A Curriculum for Library Readiness, Advocacy, and Community Empowerment During Challenging Conditions

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Director Amyot presented the following report:

June has been a busy month for Communications. The statewide summer library partnership with the Boston Bruins began with our first ever bilingual Blades visit at West Boylston’s Beaman Library. Everything from the welcome to trivia to the story was in both Spanish and English. Representative Robyn Kennedy’s Communications Director attended in place of the representative who was called into session. She took her daughter to the event and participated in all the activities. She, along with MLS Director Sarah Sogigian conducted the trivia in Spanish and she commented on how amazing it was to have the entire event in both languages. There are two more events planned in Spanish, one in Portuguese, and one in American Sign Language. Legislators have been invited to all events.

The annual Bruins Kickoff Event was held at Waltham Public Library (WPL) with 12 Bruins prospect players. WPL staff were outstanding and coordinated with the MBLC and the Boston Bruins to make the event a huge success. Thank you to Vice Chair Biancolo who delivered the welcome and Commissioner Cherubini who escorted one of the player groups throughout the event. Additional thank you’s to MBLC staff who participated in this event and those who helped in West Boylston: Andrea Bono Bunker, Heather Backman, Sue Fiorillo, and Jaccavrie McNeely; and to MLS Communications Manager Jack Martin and MLS Director Sarah Sogigian. [Photos from the kickoff](https://www.flickr.com/photos/mblclibraries/albums/72177720318612383/)
Bruins prizes were also awarded to libraries across the state. They include at game experiences like high-fiving players as they take ice, team signed Bruins jerseys. Libraries may use the prizes in any way that supports their summer program.

In addition to the Bruins partnership, the MBLC communications team worked with Commissioner Joyce Linehan to create the MassArt Summer Library Series pilot. Arts education reduces stress, increases focus, supports social-emotional skills, and bolsters academic achievement. The goal of the pilot is to give teens, especially in communities of need, access to the arts during the summer months. It is also important to connect teens with the MassArt faculty and students who will be conducting the workshops so that they see the arts as a potential pathway for themselves. Three workshops are being offered are as follows:

**MassArt Summer Sustainable Fashion Workshop (Medford)**
At this fun and interactive workshop participants learn about sustainable fashion and ways to get involved to be a voice for positive change. MassArt faculty Jennifer Varekamp will share some exciting sustainable fashion ideas and lead participants in an interactive and creative project where each participant can contribute their own creative ideas and learn how to make an impact toward a more sustainable future.

**MassArt Aluminum Pour (Woburn)**
Under the guidance of MassArt faculty Marjee-Anne Levine and current MassArt students, participants have the opportunity to carve their own design into a “scratch block” (a pre-formed mold made of resin-bonded sand) and watch as the design is cast in metal. Aluminum will be melted on site and poured into the scratch blocks created by each participant. Within minutes the metal will solidify and be cooled and finished by the MassArt team. Each participant will walk away with their own custom cast aluminum art.

**MassArt Comic Arts Workshop (Salisbury)**
The workshop provides an opportunity to deconstruct the comic creation process in an engaging and accessible way that can apply to a wide range of skillsets. It introduces the storytelling structure and starts with a simple activity where students sketch different shapes on their pages. MassArt faculty LJ Baptiste will demonstrate how these shapes can be fleshed out into full characters. Participants will learn techniques they can utilize to understand a character they're creating and develop their own 4 panel comic strip featuring one of their original characters.

The communications team also continues to meet monthly with the Statewide Public Relations Advisory Committee and with MLS Communications Manager Jack Martin to put our new 3-year communications/marketing plan into action. The committee recently released comprehensive Common Library Signage in Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese and Haitian Creole and is finishing a Libraries 101 document which will be translated as well. Libraries 101 explains what libraries do and how to access services. Whether it’s these documents, Bruins events, Bruins READ posters and other materials, or the statewide summer program page in multiple languages, the focus on opening access to people who speak a language other than English comes from the new 3-year communications/marketing plan that was developed this past fall which recognizes some of the systemic barriers to library service.

**Legislative Report**

Rob Favini, Government Liaison presented the following report:

**Freedom to Read Bills consolidated**

As expected, the five bills (S.2447, S2528, H.4005, H.229, and H.4235) that were in the Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development have been consolidated into one bill. [S.2839 An Act to Ensure Access to Library Resources and Services](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/S2839) was reported favorably by the Committee and referred to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means on July 3, 2024.

Like previous bills, S.2839 addresses both school and public libraries. Here are a few significant components:

* A lot of the book challenge decision making authority is given over to school committees.
* They have included strong employment protection language for librarians and library workers.
* They have removed the language about a “fund” that the MBLC was supposed to administer and now say the MBLC and MLS shall “make resources available.”
* There is now a requirement for the MBLC to file annual reporting on book challenges to the legislature.

**E Book Legislation**

Representative Balser’s E Book Bill has been reported out of Tourism committee as [H.4802, An Act Addressing Challenges Facing Public Libraries and Digital Resource Collections](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/H4802). The bill was referred to the committee on House Ways and Means on July 2, 2024.

The biggest change to this version of the bill is that it calls for the establishment of a legislative commission to assess and address challenges facing public libraries and digital resource collections. In addition to members of the legislature, the commission will include among other, the President of the Massachusetts Library Association, the MBLC Director, and the President of the Boston Public Library.

**Economic Development Senate Bill**

The Senate committee on Ways and Means took up the Governor’s economic development bill, [H.4804, An Act Relative to Strengthening Massachusetts Economic Leadership](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/H4804) and recommended amendment [S.2856](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/S2856) which is basically a rewrite of the House bill with Senate changes. The Senate bill is placed in orders of the day for Thursday, July 11, 2024, for discussion in the full Senate.

The MBLC’s library construction bond is still in the bill at $150,000,000. However, the senate has added the following language to the MBLC’s construction bond, and all other grant programs in the bill, requiring compliance to the Multi-Family Zoning as-of-right in MBTA Communities law:

*that grants or other financial assistance under this item shall only be awarded to projects within municipalities that have been deemed in compliance or interim compliance with the multi-family zoning requirement in section* [*3A of chapter 40A of the General Laws*](https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleVII/Chapter40A/Section3A)

If this proposed language passes, it has the potential to impact the MBLC’s ability to grant construction funds to communities who have not complied with the MBTA Communities law.

**FY 25 Budget**

At the writing of this report, the FY25 Massachusetts state budget remains in closed door Conference Committee. The state is currently running on the Governor’s 1/12 budget extension for the month of July.

**Consideration of approval of the FY2025 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grant Awards**

Rob Favini, Head of Library Advisory and Development was pleased to present the recommendations of the State Advisory Council on Libraries for grants for ten new projects under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) program for Fiscal Year 2025.

The recommendations are presented as a series of six motions identified as items a-f in the accompanying documentation.

Mr. Favini extended the MBLC’s thanks to the members of the State Advisory Council on Libraries for all their hard work and dedication.

**Access for All**

Program Abstract: The MBLC identified issues for libraries seeking to provide service for people who face special challenges using libraries. Many residents cannot fully utilize libraries for a variety of reasons including disabling conditions such as visual, hearing, mobility, and cognitive impairments. Libraries are encouraged to consider their role as an information access point for all, including those members of the community who are traditionally underrepresented among library users.

Commissioner Biancolo moved and Commissioner Linehan seconded to approve the following Access for All Grant totaling $19,050 to start no earlier than October 1, 2024.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Agency** | **Amount Recommended** | **FY25** |
| Wayland Free Public Library | $19,050 | $19,050 |
| **Total:** | **$19,050** | **$19,050** |

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

**Creative Communities**

Program Abstract: This grant will support the development or expansion of artistic and creative learning opportunities in the community. Libraries should have a clear target audience and specific needs they are trying to address through this grant. Co-creating this project with the target audience starting at the proposal stage is highly recommended. Projects must include a strong programming component with an emphasis on hands-on learning activities. Funding may be used to develop or expand a makerspace. Libraries should have vested partnerships at the proposal stage. Potential partnerships could include local museums, cultural centers, and other relevant organizations.

Commissioner Linehan moved and Commissioner Chang seconded to approve the following Creative Communities Grants totaling $51,725 to start no earlier than October 1, 2024.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Agency** | **Amount Recommended** |  |
| Stevens Memorial Library, Ashburnham | $21,725 |  |
| Elizabeth Taber Library, Marion | $30,000 |  |
| **Oak Bluffs Public Library** | **$30,000** | **Not Recommended** |
| **Total:** | **$51,725** |  |

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

**Dig In**

Program Abstract: Gardens present a variety of learning opportunities as well as benefits to a community. Libraries can use a garden to offer activities and programs that provide opportunities for all ages and abilities to explore science and nutrition, develop DIY skills, and improve social-emotional learning. Libraries may also use a garden to help promote and support healthy living in their community. There is increasing evidence of positive health outcomes from gardening.

Commissioner Biancolo moved and Commissioner Chang seconded to approve the following Dig In Grant totaling $20,000 to start no earlier than October 1, 2024.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Agency** | **Amount Recommended** |
| Reading Public Library | $20,000 |
| **Total:** | **$20,000** |

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

**Health and Wellness**

Program Abstract: Health and wellness can have a tremendous impact on one’s daily life, particularly among more vulnerable and marginalized populations. Libraries can use their position as a trusted resource to help their communities explore ideas and navigate the complex issues related to this topic.

Commissioner Chang moved and Commissioner Traub seconded to approve the following Health and Wellness Grant totaling $20,000 to start no earlier than October 1, 2024.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Agency** | **Amount Recommended** |
| Springfield City Library | $20,000 |
| **Total:** | **$20,000** |

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

**Mind in the Making**

Program Abstract: This grant allows public libraries to carry out a program to establish or enhance play spaces for children ages 0-6 in public libraries. These play spaces are aimed at early learning and social interaction among children and their caregivers. Funds may be used to support a limited amount of additional staff hours.

Commissioner Cherubini moved and Commissioner Biancolo seconded to approve the following Mind in the Making Grants totaling $30,000 to start no earlier than October 1, 2024.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Agency** | **Amount Recommended** |
| Maynard Public Library | $15,000 |
| Wilmington Memorial Library | $15,000 |
| **Total:** | **$30,000** |

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

**Open**

Program Abstract: This category is being offered to allow librarians to satisfy needs that are not now being met by current programs. It has always been a priority of the federal program to encourage innovation and risk taking. It is also an interest of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to provide librarians with opportunities to help fulfill their strategic plan goals and objectives. The Open program will allow applicants to apply new methods to solve problems, build programs, and best carry out their library’s mission and plan. These projects must meet the needs of a specific target audience. Applicants can seek awards for projects that otherwise do not fall under the current LSTA program offerings, whether the project is innovative or a project that is being adapted. The Open Program offers libraries an opportunity to exercise maximum creativity to implement unique services in a flexible and collaborative grant-making environment.

Commissioner Biancolo moved and Commissioner Chang seconded to approve the following Open Grants totaling $40,000 to start no earlier than October 1, 2024.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Agency** | **Amount Recommended** | **FY25** | **FY26** |
| Chicopee Public Library | $5,000 | $5,000 | $0 |
| Montague Public Libraries | $15,000 | $6,300 | $8,700 |
| Gladys E. Kelly Public Library, Webster | $20,000 | $20,000 | $0 |
| **Total:** | **$40,000** | **$31,300** | **$8,700** |

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

**Report from Massachusetts Library System**

Amanda Fauver, Membership & BiblioTemps Manager, Massachusetts Library System provided an overview of BiblioTemps, Staffing Solutions for Libraries.

BiblioTemps is an employment service of the Massachusetts Library System that specializes in the recruitment of skilled library workers for short-term and temporary to permanent placements in public, academic, and special libraries. Our temps have provided thousands of hours of quality service to libraries throughout Massachusetts. It is our mission to empower libraries by providing them with the personnel resources required to meet patron needs and to contribute to a strong library workforce in Massachusetts.

**Report from Library from the Commonwealth**

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

**Browse, Borrow, Board Update:**

2072 sign ups with 647 checkouts (Data from May 7, 2024- MLA Presentation)

Other updates:

* + We are working with MLS and MassDot on an evaluation plan (survey for user, survey for non users and a focus groups from users)
	+ We are still hoping to launch in bus shelters in Boston
	+ Half of RTA’s have joined
	+ Some signs may be going up in Gillette in the next few months  (an idea from MLA)
	+ We are hoping to direct users towards a statewide ecard sign up page since everyone is now on Quipu for eCard (another suggestion from MLA)

**Digital Commonwealth Update:**

Hosted collections added:

* Boston Public Library - [American Civil War 20th Massachusetts Regiment (Collection of Distinction)](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3An8710p83z&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C81e5a5561063471b6cea08dc99e27ffd%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638554445346606351%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=T69kIDwLwXu8UsbMdmmsigY0OsWULfM47AgXRhunA7o%3D&reserved=0) (387 items; photographs from the 1890 publication, "War Memories, the War for the Union 1861-1865")
* Boston Public Library - [The Ashland Advertiser](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3Acr56t229r&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C81e5a5561063471b6cea08dc99e27ffd%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638554445346620344%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=kd%2B4L2Rt8j9cp9lph5kFJT8MYs5nawf3GzDCiWYuXxs%3D&reserved=0) (1,727 items; issues of the weekly newspaper from 1869-1906)
* Boston Public Library - [Boston Evening Transcript](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3A9p294c399&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C81e5a5561063471b6cea08dc99e27ffd%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638554445346627442%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2FoAgy44kl1yOo6rUWlm4TOJhfFdulU7IBpW%2FOjiIYkk%3D&reserved=0) (3,688 items; issues of the daily newspaper from 1880-1882, 1908-1911, and 1937-1939)
* Boston Public Library - [Evening Standard](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3A2r370r04h&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C81e5a5561063471b6cea08dc99e27ffd%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638554445346634403%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=QeZjjrQuKvF2Ih2xjyUJ6ayrNmUqzjqeADRgWCA5ZqM%3D&reserved=0) (1,838 items; issues of the daily New Bedford newspaper from 1880-1882)
* Boston Public Library - [The Fenway News](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3A4t64nm99m&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C81e5a5561063471b6cea08dc99e27ffd%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638554445346641359%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vhkMVWjK69W2YtqIDnQpeY7Cn1w%2BLpJqmx%2FNmOBG9Hg%3D&reserved=0) (36 items; issues of the monthly newspaper from 2007-2009)
* Boston Public Library - [The United States Declaration of Independence](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3Aw950b125t&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C81e5a5561063471b6cea08dc99e27ffd%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638554445346648231%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Er4ZROhk5aUChjVYJ%2FcNHtp3C91ta07lKNZYysf7dkk%3D&reserved=0) (2 items; early printed copies of the Declaration of Independence from the late 1700s and early 1800s)
* First Parish of Sudbury - [First Parish of Sudbury Historical Records](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3A3f467467n&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C81e5a5561063471b6cea08dc99e27ffd%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638554445346655111%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=XBFZmIQrjg0G91kPDMLK8ogMQg79%2BgrV4VbVxik%2FSBY%3D&reserved=0) (1 item; records of the First Parish in Sudbury from 1836-1956)
* Little Red Shop Museum - [Little Red Shop Museum Local History Collection](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3A9019z296q&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C81e5a5561063471b6cea08dc99e27ffd%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638554445346662031%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=407TcaZwXOGqdJ%2Bp2VaxaX25FkbVcdfB%2BM%2FK%2BglCxVY%3D&reserved=0) (212 items; annual reports and other documents related to textile manufacturing and the Draper Corporation in Hopedale from 1901-1958)
* Morse Institute Library - [Town of Natick Historical Photographs](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3A9w0372624&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C81e5a5561063471b6cea08dc99e27ffd%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638554445346668904%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=mE9npFUlglUh9aG7CCmV0te3WUMHjcE1vd0ronBaxJ0%3D&reserved=0) (591 items; photographs of Natick houses, businesses, schools, clubs, and town events from 1860-1950)
* Sharon Historical Society - [Sharon Historical Society Image Collection](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3Att44vp571&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C81e5a5561063471b6cea08dc99e27ffd%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638554445346675826%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=jJq2wxhflleYSiaVZtayjmxuXfVVJkh7EIxuh%2BAYCbY%3D&reserved=0) (283 items; photographs of important Sharon residents, historic houses, businesses, schools, and government buildings from 1850-1979)
* Weston Historical Society - [Weston Historical Society, World War I Service Records, Weston Post No. 214, American Legion Inc.](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3Ac821nk02m&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C81e5a5561063471b6cea08dc99e27ffd%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638554445346682900%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=RSbhSHnthYTufTRhvEhdtjTjvxXc7Ec9l35ZjZMc%2B5Y%3D&reserved=0) (103 items; American Legion records for veterans of World War I)

**Harvested collections added:**

*No harvests in June.*

**Stats:**

Item views: 125,717

Total item-level records: 1,249,147

Total hosted items: 573,409

**The BPL hosted a Special Collections Open House on 7/5/24: (Staff/Public Info below)**

*Celebrate Independence Day with Special Collections!*

What better way to celebrate Independence Day than by viewing the document that made the holiday possible? Special Collections is excited to showcase the multiple original printings of the Declaration of Independence held within the Rare Books and Manuscripts Department. To take advantage of this unique opportunity to see seven printings of the Declaration of Independence at once in the Special Collections Reading Room, stop by [**Special Collections Open House: Independence Day**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2F47h6dyvab.cc.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D001POy8gWbRm1AltNNsg_OTY86BmD0tY0Xi-RxeFqS3o2tROF0Zxf1ENV4e8YSXrwvxPN5-2lEH1BImv_pFhGnt2qMOAPCYRT2SfO5ZYk7oAe50BERfEzfHNsmqzjqFjbpLQ8xpwH49eQz8m6xj5najjs-nnMIcx_XoR9mL88e_rGNFjoxjJ1ZpRMjDqEylzfkqT-yahWEq29U%3D%26c%3DtcSX5D-kfF7p20B6GFZdHkUmvey1388qabharyJyKOPRxzUZDOWOUg%3D%3D%26ch%3DOLRM7I_z0u3ISm81t5uvmmANA03NPAD6cxwd2MkW4IBJy8niIQL3AA%3D%3D&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C7b7f9d874a8642f30ec708dc96d3083f%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638551080434684142%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=q3PpFndXon8bxTYx6R%2BdEl6zpaZ3nec7GzzFzc8%2FrYQ%3D&reserved=0) on **Friday, July 5 from 11 AM to 4 PM**. Special Collections staff will be onsite and available to answer questions.

Staff, patrons, and visiting friends and family are all welcome!

**New Collections now in Digital Commonwealth: (Staff/Public Info below)**

*Thanks to the amazing work of****Digital Services****, the following Special Collections items are now available via*[***Digital Commonwealth***](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2F47h6dyvab.cc.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D001BSfivfd1czP2eIuKpxz13rAABSzucAHGzw5-mk3nrQFtvZZgO7oe2fbVJT1DVcJEzKDRtQfAWj4vKYySfu7llTrIBIj_le41c0z7k9zsX5ypUyjD1Nt5B-dpWLLpQ_eAgeM3735KPGPCN8s4sDJmY5CvXF31kwPFvrnSWDCiYDY%3D%26c%3DxjV9mVaWnVBYoYSW_dUjo0bIyCAwNCkXoUfAvAHLyWQRxkxbBM5x-Q%3D%3D%26ch%3Dbv5SHOfoK-brMMFjHhqabkqx1JQCUbSOoZ-sPdzeNj51_5JIBvIIDg%3D%3D&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C414bd5510e0442afc3d908dc9219e912%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638545887240074296%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=xoUktIXY%2FzRJfKbjtk6KXEL8efWZtniC%2BGKgnu75ijw%3D&reserved=0)*:*

* [**The Woman's Era**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2F47h6dyvab.cc.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D001BSfivfd1czP2eIuKpxz13rAABSzucAHGzw5-mk3nrQFtvZZgO7oe2dbbph581zmM22f2uj7uL8NGZsP9BZYUEKHDViZrNiHW0GK_-A7iokdQjTi1PNMYr0a_EknXg8RSI52hsWo5fKJ43DyYVvMfBiVnOZbjEgGCm650KE6leGu6aJyELnR51amSh6xkOkJ6Cs3eaXrDf35am03vz3XW0SOshFoZMhSl%26c%3DxjV9mVaWnVBYoYSW_dUjo0bIyCAwNCkXoUfAvAHLyWQRxkxbBM5x-Q%3D%3D%26ch%3Dbv5SHOfoK-brMMFjHhqabkqx1JQCUbSOoZ-sPdzeNj51_5JIBvIIDg%3D%3D&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C414bd5510e0442afc3d908dc9219e912%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638545887240081913%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=E55G3naBaf4eFr1N3Fpa9I5SLwFb341IbsXTsmVViJw%3D&reserved=0): The Woman’s Era, published in Boston, is often cited as the first magazine in America written, edited, and published by Black women for Black women. A digitized copy of the microfilm was available previously, but after Conservation Officer **Mary French** completed extensive treatment of the originals, they are now scanned and much easier to read!
* 12 medieval manuscripts, including [**MS q Med.131. Book of hours : Franciscan use. Italy, 1300-1330**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2F47h6dyvab.cc.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D001BSfivfd1czP2eIuKpxz13rAABSzucAHGzw5-mk3nrQFtvZZgO7oe2dbbph581zmMi_apH_msIw3gfSfluVzE3y_a78sYFc7h_aHraAHEffKQcsnTQzjZcbUHdgzCdthXoBK6v9_o9OrClostXDcUVaHBFfmYL6S70E5bwFhD4xege_7hnDURWrj7q1CR_EQSmceozKluDylSzm5cwhAs94QIbA9vCPPXLN8XNtFU6dzpP8RpRZtsxzxh4tDnkfBUu3f6vDLu78y0GB0j-6AL1TJlGLEwZZ5S%26c%3DxjV9mVaWnVBYoYSW_dUjo0bIyCAwNCkXoUfAvAHLyWQRxkxbBM5x-Q%3D%3D%26ch%3Dbv5SHOfoK-brMMFjHhqabkqx1JQCUbSOoZ-sPdzeNj51_5JIBvIIDg%3D%3D&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C414bd5510e0442afc3d908dc9219e912%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638545887240089299%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=yfmL5bj9VSu6YO%2BtSpUOMOlMY8bIH%2BcjdougHm9XSCw%3D&reserved=0). Less than 4 inches tall, this very tiny book is one of the earliest surviving examples of an Italian book of hours in the world! It contains 15 full-page (but tiny!) illustrations depicting the Passion of Christ.
* [**Bainbridge Bunting Photograph Collection**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2F47h6dyvab.cc.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D001BSfivfd1czP2eIuKpxz13rAABSzucAHGzw5-mk3nrQFtvZZgO7oe2dbbph581zmMixp1nkDNkLablxNtWQMNqVdQZwuum6jtMkEUAzciC7HVBmkIGjTkP1LXtm_dF08-MUFf94BShk6Ligxybv2UsfQkAESpvhk6ECeSvMnhpGElHwTliTj5n93bhKdFFmjEcK3RUmus1A1wkq2bXA4Z3d98rmz1ItSr%26c%3DxjV9mVaWnVBYoYSW_dUjo0bIyCAwNCkXoUfAvAHLyWQRxkxbBM5x-Q%3D%3D%26ch%3Dbv5SHOfoK-brMMFjHhqabkqx1JQCUbSOoZ-sPdzeNj51_5JIBvIIDg%3D%3D&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C414bd5510e0442afc3d908dc9219e912%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638545887240096778%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=9pUYYZHHkFfdpaCEAgdOaDi7rUq5ycZZTXqHNA5IP7g%3D&reserved=0): Over 3,000 photographs of architecturally significant buildings in Boston's Back Bay, South End, and Fenway neighborhoods from 1930-1975 by architectural historian Bainbridge Bunting. Many of these photographs were taken for his 1967 book, [***Houses of Boston's Back Bay: An Architectural History***](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2F47h6dyvab.cc.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D001BSfivfd1czP2eIuKpxz13rAABSzucAHGzw5-mk3nrQFtvZZgO7oe2dbbph581zmMyLDhwVdoor7chPL2hEUKwJF6fbPxeTYmiUG_lYTgx8M-X99rrj84Zn8VS0nDaEIwgapoEOtpJDpFWfIC_igbYHjBJDC_mc_dc1-scEy7ZDC_q3lpetnau0v3FUSYl_ib%26c%3DxjV9mVaWnVBYoYSW_dUjo0bIyCAwNCkXoUfAvAHLyWQRxkxbBM5x-Q%3D%3D%26ch%3Dbv5SHOfoK-brMMFjHhqabkqx1JQCUbSOoZ-sPdzeNj51_5JIBvIIDg%3D%3D&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C414bd5510e0442afc3d908dc9219e912%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638545887240104211%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=VZhT%2FPelalU2q2BiYqNWaD%2Bt3sxiB1o4uZ4wS2Uujh0%3D&reserved=0)*.*
* [**Boston Elevated Railway Company Poster Collection**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2F47h6dyvab.cc.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D001BSfivfd1czP2eIuKpxz13rAABSzucAHGzw5-mk3nrQFtvZZgO7oe2dbbph581zmMMKN1F6GVhOIiIod5yQZIrhyTFzYX9yn4QJ7VcRecwTDo0sFYzjB2MgJ7YePrBSkKegM0Yn1LwG7S1dDUhop9bE8pRUX-5Q7kKs8hB3nzm_dYc2GUtmHAXLeogwyvKxqbvN15F6jjUWCMHAGiqsvvI_ZyzG2IqE6O%26c%3DxjV9mVaWnVBYoYSW_dUjo0bIyCAwNCkXoUfAvAHLyWQRxkxbBM5x-Q%3D%3D%26ch%3Dbv5SHOfoK-brMMFjHhqabkqx1JQCUbSOoZ-sPdzeNj51_5JIBvIIDg%3D%3D&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C414bd5510e0442afc3d908dc9219e912%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638545887240111610%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=iI1aZ0NhFl%2FYItbAcdkuncp5rgmmViNx90Xp0AxzcZg%3D&reserved=0): 23 posters from 1922-1947 by the Boston Elevated Railway Company encouraging ridership on their bus, elevated railway, streetcar, and subway lines. They include some advertisements for various destinations across the lines, including a [**poster about visiting the Central Library**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2F47h6dyvab.cc.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D001BSfivfd1czP2eIuKpxz13rAABSzucAHGzw5-mk3nrQFtvZZgO7oe2dbbph581zmMeoHzR8AAUpKelfCDFYkOWALQoBvK3fUxxtuLlS8L0lEFcB9HxSofE7UrL8xXsfyUf6uPJrFK_-pTplr8_SCSWUkSxFSqZNRhrZ_Vf0n6f88YNZUECyEt6qeA3nD_xcvbKTeMBLljGhvlW1gHA5uGig%3D%3D%26c%3DxjV9mVaWnVBYoYSW_dUjo0bIyCAwNCkXoUfAvAHLyWQRxkxbBM5x-Q%3D%3D%26ch%3Dbv5SHOfoK-brMMFjHhqabkqx1JQCUbSOoZ-sPdzeNj51_5JIBvIIDg%3D%3D&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C414bd5510e0442afc3d908dc9219e912%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638545887240119248%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=1P5JQZa%2FieWX7CFG9k8fmZq4fCj9ngQOlXktD4q%2BCSI%3D&reserved=0)!
* An additional 29 annotated scores by former BSO director Serge Koussevitzky in the [**Serge Koussevitzky Collection**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2F47h6dyvab.cc.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D001BSfivfd1czP2eIuKpxz13rAABSzucAHGzw5-mk3nrQFtvZZgO7oe2apL2utAHuF66HR2DzcBPjU-3s-pyrCQcxy9n2DhJM7a4aOsSD9ZuNCbqIHlmeq0CYe2JZEHWmMee0IsL6qvWWMq2crUqacCg_CqrhXn1VK5jh5sEAYpEBPAo88Bq69rk9vH-EQ-DSaF6FljwQPn9Cz6y0100KLk9r1dnCVVN3sQ%26c%3DxjV9mVaWnVBYoYSW_dUjo0bIyCAwNCkXoUfAvAHLyWQRxkxbBM5x-Q%3D%3D%26ch%3Dbv5SHOfoK-brMMFjHhqabkqx1JQCUbSOoZ-sPdzeNj51_5JIBvIIDg%3D%3D&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C414bd5510e0442afc3d908dc9219e912%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638545887240126786%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=KSI1TSUuyCI8VC%2FAtqjU6MU500CUEgSTkX%2FJl5bMQ%2Bw%3D&reserved=0).

**Quarterly Report from the Massachusetts Center for the Book**

Courtney Andree, Executive Director presented the following report to the Board.

The Massachusetts Center for the Book’s strategic planning process will draw to a close in the coming weeks, and we look forward to sharing this new plan with stakeholders, partners, and members of the library, literary, and literacy communities. We are eager to roll up our sleeves and start on the implementation process, taking concrete steps to build capacity and visibility; strengthen our programs; work to direct resources where they are needed the most; and build stronger ties and partnerships that are representative of the cultural, linguistic, and socioeconomic diversity of the Commonwealth. With input from across the state, including survey responses from 136 stakeholders and 553 community members, a focus session with Gateway City libraries, and direct input from a dozen interviews, as well as our board retreat in April, we have developed an approach that we believe will guide us as we enhance our programs and services and improve our overall effectiveness to better serve the people of Massachusetts.

**Letters About Literature**

Letters About Literature returned to the Massachusetts State House on May 21 to celebrate the achievements of 30 student writers. *New York Times-*bestselling author Lynda Mullaly Hunt offered words of encouragement to attendees and stuck around for a book signing following the program, and Representative Lindsay Sabadosa welcomed students to the State House. All in all, it was an inspiring program, with over 150 students, family members, legislators, librarians, teachers, and MBLC Commissioners in attendance.

# **Reading Challenge**

We launched the 2024 Student Reading Challenge in June, which will run through May 2025. This year, we have opened the program up so schools, public libraries, and bookstores can now partner with us directly. We have also added an option for parents to sign up and log monthly entries for their students. Everyone who submits a monthly entry will be entered into a drawing for middle grade and YA books (many of which are autographed!). So far, twenty-eight organizations have signed on as partners, with more expected to enroll in the coming weeks as targeted emails are deployed to Massachusetts booksellers, English teachers, and librarians, and current partners in the adult edition of the Reading Challenge.

# **National Book Festival**

Preparations are underway for this year’s National Book Festival, which will be held on August 24 in Washington D.C. We have selected our “Great Reads” for this year’s Festival, with Tracy Kidder’s *Rough Sleepers: Dr. Jim O’Connell’s Urgent Mission to Bring Healing to Homeless People* as the adult title, and Linda Coombs’ *Colonization and the Wampanoag Story* as the youth title. Coombs’ book offers upper elementary and middle school readers an Indigenous perspective on the impact of European settlement and colonization in Southern New England—the true story of injustice and disruption that is seldom told.

COSLA and the Library of Congress are once again offering funding for local programming in the lead up to National Book Festival. We are working with the Falmouth Public Library on a young adult program with Linda Coombs scheduled for August 6.

In order to inspire conversation and spur engagement with our youth Great Reads title, we were pleased to offer libraries, public schools, historical societies, and nonprofits across the state a new opportunity for 2024. We were able to distribute over 40 kits, which contain up to twenty copies of *Colonization and the Wampanoag Story*, a discussion guide, and other goodies and supplies. Additionally, the book will be a featured giveaway at this year’s National Book Festival.

The response to our call for Great Reads book box applications was surprising and overwhelming—in the first two weeks we received 107 applications and had to close the portal earlier than anticipated. Some organizations based in historic Wampanoag territory requested boxes to host discussion groups; libraries across the state requested copies for their teen groups and to incorporate into programming around Native American Heritage Month and Indigenous Peoples’ Day; elementary and middle school teachers are planning to teach the book in their classrooms. Historical societies have requested boxes to dovetail with new youth initiatives and programming associated with indigenous histories, while nonprofits have requested copies to help support social justice work for their young people.

# **Massachusetts Book Awards**

The Mass Book Awards longlists in the fiction, nonfiction, poetry, YA/middle grade literature, and picture book/early reader categories were announced on May 1 and continue to be publicized, with coverage appearing in the *Boston Globe, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Springfield Republican, Cape Cod Times,* and other outlets. In response to feedback from the library community, which has requested more ready-made assets, we designed longlist fliers, which are available for download through our website. In July, we plan to publicly announce the launch of two new categories in the book awards—a biannual award honoring graphic novels and memoirs, and a “publishing excellence” award in recognition of Massachusetts-based publishers and presses.

**Upcoming Events/Activities**

# July

[Summer Book Fair at the Children’s Museum at Holyoke,](https://www.childrensmuseumholyoke.org/posts/cmhs-2nd-annual-summer-book-fair) sponsored storytime with MA children’s author Hannah Moushabeck, July 28, 2024.

# August

Youth Great Reads Event at Falmouth Public Library, featuring author Linda Coombs, August 6, 2024.

[Discover Massachusetts Debut Authors: a 2024 Reading Challenge Event](https://springfield.librarycalendar.com/event/discover-massachusetts-debut-authors-2024-reading-challenge-event-9113) at the East Forest Park Branch of Springfield City Library, with authors Autumn Allen, Ana Reyes, & Adam White, August 14, 2024.

# September

[Unlocking Potential: How the Center for the Book Network Can Benefit Small & Rural Libraries,](https://www.arsl.org/2024-schedule-and-programs) MCB- organized panel at the Association for Small & Rural Libraries Conference, September 13, 2024, Springfield, MA.

# October

Massachusetts Book Awards Ceremony, Massachusetts State House, October 8, 2024 at 1pm.

[Northampton Print & Book Fair](https://www.northamptonprintandbookfair.net/), Northampton Center for the Arts, October 26, 2024.

**Election of Officers for FY2025**

Commissioner Traub stated that she chaired the nominating committee that discussed the FY2025 Slate of Officers. Commissioner Comeau and Commissioner Vilas Novas were on this committee as well.

The committee began by expressing appreciation for the leadership of chair Debby Conrad, then acknowledged the strengths that the current board brings in terms of working well together with an array of experience in library and political spheres. It was agreed that it would be good to have a conversation for the future with each board member.

“Therefore, I have the honor to present the following slate of officers for FY2025: Commissioner Biancolo for the office of Chair, Commissioner Cherubini for the office of Vice Chair, and Commissioner Traub for the office of Secretary.”

Chair Conrad asked for any nominations from the floor.

Commissioner Chang moved and Commissioner Linehan seconded that the FY2025 Slate of Officers are Commissioner Biancolo for the office of Chair, Commissioner Cherubini for the office of Vice Chair, and Commissioner Traub for the office of Secretary.

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

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

MSLA Outreach Director Report

Submitted by Deborah Lang Froggatt

1. Welcome to Director Amyot
2. MassArt Partnership
* MSLA looks forward to learning more and to support programs
* MBLC Summer Reading - Significant for Spanish speakers - exciting
* In public ed, bilingual programs and documents for families means a lot.
1. MSLA Meeting with Kate Doneghy, Undersecretary and Chief of Staff for Department of Education/Secretary Tutwiler - 6/10/23
* Shared [Equitable Access to School Libraries Policy Brief](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Um1Rvq91A8Pp_Z0fvxzCwr4BWzVcEVY0/view?usp=drive_link)
* Kate: Dept of Ed will do whatever it takes!
* MSLA to serve on Literacy Launch team
* DESE / MSLA Leadership Connections
* Supports and will follow through with Licensed SLT landscape analysis
* Supports stronger collaboration with DESE and MBLC & new DESE director.

1. Sent Dept. of Ed Undersecretary Update - to Senator Jason Lewis & EveryLibrary - 6/11/24
2. [MSLA Strategic Plan Update](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1k-OcHkHIjbI9D5A3mSmxjre2yDlhKe3ys3gWtL1ikWA/edit) This wasn’t included in my remarks, it but will be more complete by October. We are finishing the first year of the MSLA Strategic Plan.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:33 P.M.



Karen Traub

Secretary