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

**Date** : Thursday, October 3, 2024

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

**Place** : North Branch, Dartmouth Public Library

Dartmouth, MA

**Board**

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

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

**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; Tanesha Deane, Contract Specialist; 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; June Thammasnong, Communications Specialist

**Staff Zoom:**

Terry D'Angelo, Administrative Assistant / Business Office; Allyson Dowds, Consultant to Special Populations; Allyson Dowds, Consultant to Special Populations; Jennifer Inglis, State Aid Specialist; Jaccavrie McNeely, Electronic Services Specialist; Uechi Ng, Administrative Assistant; Lilli Sutton, Administrative Assistant; Aparna Ramachandran, Data Analyst / IT Support Specialist

**Observers Present:**

Courtney Andree, Executive Director, Massachusetts Center for the Book; Debbie Froggatt, MA School Library Association; Kathy Lussier, North of Boston Library Exchange; Dina St. Pierre, Library Director

**Observers Zoom:**

Eileen Chandler, CLAMS; Lee Anne Hooley, Talking Book Library/Worcester Public Library; Sarah Jackson, Library for the Commonwealth; David Slater, OCLN; Sarah Sogigian, Executive Director, Massachusetts Library System; Lauren Stara, Former MBLC Employee

**Meeting called to order by Chair Biancolo**

Chair Biancolo called the meeting to order at 10:07 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.

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|  | Commissioner Cherubini- Present | Commissioner Linehan- Present |
| Commissioner Biancolo - Present | Commissioner Comeau- Present | Commissioner Traub- Present Zoom |
| Commissioner Chang - Present oom | Commissioner Conrad- Present Zoom | 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- September 5, 2024, #7 Consideration of Network Grant Awards under account 7000-9506, #8 Consideration of approval for the Library eBooks and Audiobooks (LEA) Content Grants, #9 Consideration of approval of two Planning and Design Grants for the Small Population Grant Type and #16- Adjournment.

Commissioner Cherubini seconded.

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

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

**The motion passed.**

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

**September 5, 2024**

Chair Biancolo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 5, 2024 Monthly Meeting as presented.

Commissioner Comeau moved and Commissioner Cherubini seconded to approve the minutes from the September 3, 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:

As you all know, I work full time and school started, and the chaos that is September is reflected in my light report today.

On September 19, I attended the Annual meeting of the Worcester Public Library Foundation, where among other things, Congressman Jim McGovern was honored with the Dr. Richard E. Greene Founders Award for his support of libraries, including his fight against book bans and his efforts on citizenship, food insecurity, and literacy. We also received a preview of the rather stunning *You Belong Here!* mural that will be installed on the currently rather bleak street side of the old building. This was in partnership with the Downtown Worcester Business Improvement District.

On September 26, I attended and spoke very briefly at the Central Massachusetts Library Advocates annual meeting. The theme of the event was The Playful Library, and we discussed the importance of play and joy in the library. It was a breath of fresh air.

I am looking forward to a very busy October, attending the *You Belong Here!* event at the Worcester Public Library, the Mass Book Awards at the State House, MLA Legislative Bootcamp at Worcester Public Library, the Boston Book Festival, and the MLS Annual Meeting at Devens. Let me know if you want information about any of these events.

**Commissioner Activities**

**Commissioner Chang**

* September 12- Attended the PR Committee Meeting
* Helped homeless register to vote and for library cards

**Commissioner Cherubini**

* September 12- Stopped in Springfield for rural and small libraries
* September 13- Spent time with Sarah Sogigian after MLS Meeting

**Commissioner Conrad**

* Sept 9 and Sept 23 – Virtual meeting of the MLA Legislative Committee – planning the October advocacy training event
* Sept 25 – Small Libraries in Networks Committee
* Sept 27 – Kickoff meeting for the 2024-2025 MLA Legislative Committee
* Sept 24 - I did visit the Norwell Public Library during banned book week because I wanted to see their display and I met with the director and had a tour

**Commissioner Linehan**

* Sworn into the Governor Cultural Advisory Commission

**Commissioner Traub**

* September 9- Virtual Office Hours with Al Hayden
* September 12- Attended PR Committee Meeting
* September 26- Attended CMLA Annual Meeting

**Commissioner Vilas Novas**

* September 23- co-hosted the ECCF digital equity coalition meeting
* September 25- filmed at the Lawrence PL as part of the MBLC librarian video series
* September 25- attended Lawrence City Council finance committee meeting - Lawrence PL closing the budget gap to get off waiver
* September 30- hosted information session for Digital Equity Initiative Partnership Grant, open to libraries

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Director Amyot presented the following report:

August has been a busy month across the agency. Here are some of the highlights from our units this month.

Library Advisory and Development Unit

PLA National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) Grant – Ally Dowds and Rob Favini  
Massachusetts will be participating in an IMLS Leadership grant focused on engaging Spanish speaking families that is being administered by the Public Library Association and the NCFL. Building on previous work done in California and Georgia, the MBLC will coordinate the recruitment of three libraries to pilot using project-supplied toolkit, plan and host a minimum of two community conversations with Spanish-speaking community members. Meeting will take place in the spring and participating libraries will receive a $3000 stipend to offset expenses.

E Rate Update – Kate Butler  
MBLC’s E Rate consultant Aleck Johnson from EdTech Solutions held an E Rate update on September 30, 2024. The session covered recent news relating to the E Rate program and gave attendees the opportunity to ask Aleck questions about the application process and how libraries can participate.

Aleck will also be meeting with Network administrators later this fall to discuss specific E Rate programs that several networks are participating in and to assist other networks who are thinking about applying for funds.

Library Advisory Office Hours – Al Hayden  
Al Hayden has launched Library Advisory Office Hours! Office hours are open to all Directors, Trustees, Library Friends, and Foundation Members. They are designed to be an open-ended, safe space to ask Al Hayden, Library Advisory Specialist, questions and offer opportunities for interaction among participants. As consistently as possible office hours will be held on the 2nd Monday of each month @ 9AM and the 4th Monday of the month @ 2PM. The next scheduled office hour is on Monday, October 7, 2024, at 9:00am. A full schedule of Office Hours is listed on the MBLC Calendar.

COSLINE – Al Hayden and Rob Favini  
Al Hayden and Rob Favini attended COSLINE (Chief Officers of State Library Agencies Northeast) meeting in Concord, NH. This Annual meeting brings together state library agency staff from Maine to Delaware to provide state updates and participate in topical professional development sessions. The two and a half day meeting discussed successful ways to move libraries forward, libraries and democracy, and the creation of regional digital navigator networks.

Association of Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) - Ally Dowds and Rob Favini  
Ally Dowds and Rob Favini attended the ARSL annual Conference held in Springfield, MA.

Rob spoke on the panel *Funding,* *Sustainability & the Future of Public Libraries,* that discussed how public library funders are exploring the best ways to support public libraries as they continue to transform their communities. The panel brought together grant makers from the Mellon Foundation, IMLS, Mass Humanities, the MBLC, and the Berkshire Community Foundation to discuss their current support for rural and small public libraries, consider funding strategies for the future, and take audience questions.

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) All States Conference – Lyndsey Forbes  
Lyndsey Forbes attended the IMLS All States Conference held in Milwaukee, WI on September 18-19, 2024. This annual meeting brings together state LSTA Coordinators from all 50 states to be briefed on OMLS program updates, process and regulatory requirements, and to share best practices. The information and guidance obtained from this meeting enables the MBLC to successfully administer and report the use of IMLS funds and the management of direct grants.

State Programs Unit

The 2023-2024 grant round small population grant type recipients will presented to the Commissioners at today's meeting. The standard grant type recipients will be awarded after the MBTA Communities Act compliance deadline for the majority of affected applicant libraries, which is December 31, 2024. Approximately 45% of applicants in that grant type fall within the law's purview. Municipalities that fail to adopt a zoning ordinance or by-law by their respective deadline will be unable to sign a contract with the MBLC, as they will be noncompliant with Massachusetts General Laws.

Applications for State Aid are due tomorrow - Friday, October 4th - and the State Aid team has offered six online trainings and one online training for the Waiver application process. They will begin checking applications for all 367 public libraries, and present the first group for certification to the Commissioners at the November 7th Board meeting. Full waiver applications are due on Friday, November 8th, for presentation at the January 2025 Board meeting.

Communications Unit

Boston Book Festival

The Communications Team is preparing for the Boston Book Festival (BBF) where the MBLC will have a booth on October 26 from 10 to 6PM. The MBLC participated in the first BBF in 2009 and has participated every non-COVID year since. This year the team will use the BBF to kick off the legislative season with “Empowered by Libraries,” the theme of the FY2006 Legislative Agenda and the basis for a new campaign for the public. At BBF, we’ll ask people how their library has helped them. People can upload stories to the lovemasslibraries website (which will be re-skinned from the valentine site to the look of “Empowered by Libraries”). We’ll share these responses with legislators during the FY2026 legislative season. Libraries can join the campaign at any time. We’re creating collateral in 5 languages: cards, posters, and social media that libraries can use. The additional benefit to libraries that participate is that the website can be sorted by city/town, so they can access their stories and share with local officials to support local funding. All types of libraries are included.

Publications Survey

The team also launched a new PR Survey [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/S7MBJWT](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.surveymonkey.com/r/S7MBJWT__;!!CPANwP4y!S8QfFfNNbFqRoV0P-3IlS_PJ1biQPyW1vVnDQ2zg-j7ghltU9K2vq8sISA4BMbKkYbA7i4NKxsktlIEKjIEFLK9gwPsYEg$) to get a better understanding of how libraries are using MBLC created publications and promotional materials. The survey opened on Sept. 16. and so far, there are 130 responses. It’s open to all libraries, everyone who work in libraries, Library Friends, and trustees.

Video Series

The team would like to thank Commissioner Jessica Vilas Novas who was filmed as part of our librarian series for Spring 2025. The librarian series has three main goals: 1) challenge the stereotype of who a librarian is and what a librarian does to bring more diversity into the field 2) help alleviate the workforce shortage in Massachusetts libraries by connecting people to MBLC job board and MLS’ Bibliotemps 3) connect people to statewide databases with career/job/education support.

To do this we’re videoing library workers from across the state who have different roles in the library. We’re asking people to answer two questions: what was your journey to becoming a librarian or working at the library? and what do you love about your job? We’ll be releasing clips during National Library Week in April via social media. The posts will lead to a webpage on the consumer portal that provides information on librarianship, connects people to statewide databases with job/education resources, and to the MBLC jobs board and Bibliotemps.  In addition to featuring library workers who have different roles, we’ll feature librarians who speak languages other than English. This is part of the communications and marketing plan where we’re working to attract new and underserved populations to libraries. Having a workforce that reflects communities, new users, and underserved populations is an important way to do that and supports our efforts.

Bruins 100 Days of Hockey

And last but certainly not least, ss part of the Bruins 100 days of hockey, a special Blades visit was held at Wilmington Public Library. As part of the activities, kids traced their hands and signed their names on a Bruins 100 banner which will be hung up at a home game in December when the team turns 100 years old.

Business Office

This is a busy time of year for the Business Office, especially with processing contracts for LSTA Direct Grants. Payments for the grants went out last week so libraries can get their projects underway. Other activities included:

* Completion of the RFQ for a Strategic Planning Facilitator. It will be posted on 10/21, with the contract start date estimated for 12/1
* At my request, we are starting a procurement for a vendor to provide legal counsel for the agency. Several situations that have come up over the last few months that demonstrated our need for access to counsel in order to keep our exposure to risk of a lawsuit to a minimum.
* Tracey organized a fantastic tour of the Boston Public Library for Jackson Humphreys, our newly assigned A&F analyst. Anna Fahey-Flynn did an excellent job showing us the “secret” spots in the building. We were joined by Rob Favini and Sue Faiella.

Director Activities

This month, my focus areas were meeting with affiliates and working on plans for the fall. I met with the Mass Center for the Book executive board for a really productive discussion about the Center, the legislative agenda, and the plans they have for the future. I also had a good meeting with MSLA leadership, to understand the landscape for school libraries and their plans for the upcoming year.

I worked closely with the Construction Team on the final decisions on construction grants, and the decision to delay awarding the small/medium/large tiers until after December 31. There will be discussion about this at the meeting, but please know it was a decision that took many, many meetings, and a lot of thoughtful consideration.

We received great news that the City of Lawrence finance committee has approved the library’s request for additional funding that will take them off waiver this year. There is one final approval that is required by the city, and that’s scheduled to be discussed at their meeting on October 1. We will keep you updated.

I had the privilege to attend the taping of some of the segments for the video project that the Communications Unit, and the final product is going to be amazing. Commissioner Vilas Novas and Lawrence Director Janelle Abreu were eloquent, and we had an unexpected interview with a delightful Young Adult librarian while we were there. I can’t wait to see the final product.

Lastly, I am working with Rachel Masse to organize a holiday celebration after the December board meeting for staff and Commissioners. Please keep a little extra time available if you can, and join us for fun and food!

**Legislative Report**

Rob Favini, Head of Library Advisory and Development, Government Liaison presented following report:

**“Library Bills” Still in Limbo**

Both [S.2839](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/S2839)*An Act to Ensure Access to Library Resources and Services* and [H.4802](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/H4802) *An Act Addressing Challenges facing Public Libraries and Digital Resource Collections* remain in a holding pattern as they were not brought to the flood during the last legislative session. There has been no news regarding a potential new sponsor of H.4802 following the retirement of Rep. Balser. It is looking more likely that the future of these bills will be determined during the next legislative session.

**Economic Development Bond Bill**

Like the library bills, [H.4789](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/H4789) Economic Development Bond Bill did not make it to the floor for a vote. Unlike the library bills, H.4789 has a significant economic impact on the Commonwealth including the funding of the MBLC’s $150 million library construction bond. There is still a chance that this bill will be voted on in a legislative special session. There have been several statements in the press expressing the desire to get the bill passed before the new year.

**MLA Preliminary Legislative Event Season Discussion**

Maureen Amyot and Rob Favini met with the Massachusetts Library Association Legislative Executive Committee to discuss the upcoming legislative breakfast event season. Key discussion points included:

* MLA will continue to host an event tracking spread sheet
* MLA and MBLC assigned and clarified communication roles and responsibilities
* MLA will continue last year’s open schedule model that allows libraries to organize and schedule events and then add to MLA’s event spreadsheet
* Working towards improving the efficiency of meeting based on feedback of some events lasting longer than expected – tightening up speeches and the number of people speaking.

**Amplify Your Voice: Library Advocacy Boot Camp**

The Amplify Your Voice: Library Advocacy Boot Camp will take place on October 10th, 2024, at the Worcester Public Library. Kathleen McEvoy, the Senior Policy Fellow at the EveryLibrary Institute, will be keynote speaker at the event.

The full-day boot camp is designed to help you build your advocacy toolkit as we enter the upcoming legislative season. It is meant for librarians and advocates at any skillset and is intended to help you build your advocacy toolkit. Register here: [https://bit.ly/MLABootcamp](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/bit.ly/MLABootcamp__;!!CPANwP4y!RVGLnkb0Q4ABf9jk7AcTwBECveYgLGiO2kTFTt5Q_aeEskNm0dlMLmWqAYuaa0eG-K7axOIkFA1VYFEOAB25MWAaFFU$) Please note, you do not need a CWMARS library card to register.  Skip this step.

**Department of Revenue September Collections**

Mid-month collections for September 2024 were $1.889 billion, $241 million or 14.7% more than the collections during the same period in September 2023.

**Consideration of Network Grant Awards under account 7000-9506**

Kate Butler, Library Information Systems Specialist presented the following State Grants

**Small Libraries in Networks**

**Program Abstract:** For FY2025, $405,649 from the Library Technology and Resource Sharing Account (7000-9506) will be used to support connectivity and network membership through the Small Library in Networks (SLIN) program for 160 libraries.

SLIN grants, though awarded to the network, directly offset the membership cost for eligible member libraries. Each library’s membership offset is calculated from a common base amount ($1,450), a municipal need factor using the library’s federal e-rate discount percentage (20% - 90%), and an additional award if the network membership exceeds 6% of the library’s Total Appropriated Municipal Income (TAMI).

MBLC staff provided each network with an initial list of eligible libraries and offset calculations, which were then confirmed by the networks.

CW MARS’ award includes an additional component for 4 libraries Joining the Network this year: Leyden, Montgomery, Russell, and Sandisfield.

# **Changes from FY24**

The Joining Networks program has shifted from being LSTA funded to being included with the SLIN program from the first year.

The municipal population for baseline program eligibility is checked every year against the latest Department of Revenue socioeconomic data figures (2022). No library’s participation in the program has been affected by a population shift this year.

The Small Libraries in Networks Review Committee Final Recommendations (9/25/2019) had frozen the remaining data inputs for network membership percentages and E-rate discount percentages for three years, FY20-FY22. A new snapshot of data was taken in FY23 -- network membership assessments were checked against the latest TAMI figures available (FY21). Awards for libraries that were no longer above the 6% threshold and for libraries that newly exceeded that threshold were adjusted accordingly. E-rate discount percentages did not change. These remained frozen for FY25.

The calculated SLIN award for five libraries, Egremont, Middlefield, Millville, Tolland, and Tyringham would have nearly fully funded, or even exceeded the library’s membership in CW MARS, thereby requiring no local contribution at all. CW MARS and MBLC have agreed to cap any library’s award at 85% of the actual membership cost, so that the library was responsible for at least 15% of their annual assessment.

Commissioner Comeau moved and Commissioner Linehan seconded to approve the following six Small Libraries in Networks Grants totaling $405,649 for FY 2025.

**Small Libraries in Networks Expansion**

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| **Library** | **Municipality** | **Award** |
| CLAMS | Barnstable | $30,665 |
| CW MARS | Worcester | $295,129 |
| Minuteman Library Network | Natick | $11,615 |
| MVLC | North Andover | $40,295 |
| OCLN | Braintree | $4,250 |
| SAILS | Lakeville | $23,695 |
| **Total Recommended: $385,678** | | |

**Telecommunications for Resource Sharing**

**Program Abstract:** The Telecommunications for Resource Sharing program offsets the annual operating expense of library connections to the internet and to the services provided by their automated library network, including core library business transactions, such as searching, circulation, cataloging, and patron registration. Automated resource sharing networks have received state-funded telecommunications support for 36 years (since 1987).

For FY2025, the Telecommunications for Resource Sharing program will offset approximately 82% of the total cost of network telecommunications after E-rate discounts have been factored in. Both central site connections and library “remote-to-host” connections are offset at up to 85%. The maximum amount allowed per outlet for FY25 remains at $1,750 /yr.

The program supports direct connections to over 300 library outlets. Shared central site connections are now primarily for staff workstations, rather than for hosted library system services or a large, shared internet pipe. This is a change that has been ongoing for at least a decade as networks signed up for hosted, SaaS (Software as a Service), solutions from their system vendor, or more recently, have moved their locally-hosted integrated libraries systems into the cloud – most recently, CLAMS, CW MARS, and NOBLE.

Telecommunications for Resource Sharing also provides the annual ongoing “internet only” connectivity funding for small public libraries that are not part of a network. CW MARS is responsible for managing broadband internet access and/or payments on behalf of 6 public libraries.

Proposals were reviewed by MBLC staff and preliminary calculations shared with the automated networks prior to the final recommendation. This is a formula-based grant program.

Commissioner Linehan moved and Commissioner Cherubini seconded to approve the following nine Telecommunications for Resource Sharing Grants, totaling $504,057 for FY2025.

**Telecommunications for Resource Sharing**

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| **Network** | **Municipality** | **Award** |
| CLAMS | Barnstable | $29,190 |
| CW MARS | Worcester | $168,582 |
| FLO | Boston | $5,100 |
| MBLN | Boston | $29,702 |
| Minuteman Library Network | Natick | $67,880 |
| MVLC | North Andover | $41,877 |
| NOBLE | Danvers | $40,865 |
| OCLN | Braintree | $56,840 |
| SAILS | Lakeville | $64,021 |
| $504,057 | | |

**Network Infrastructure**

**Program Abstract:**

The Network Infrastructure program provides annual support for the capital and infrastructure costs of the nine automated resource sharing networks that form the foundation for essential library services throughout the Commonwealth.

Applications were reviewed by MBLC staff and outlet data verified prior to the final recommendation. This is a formula-based grant program that includes a common base amount for each network and a per-outlet amount based on the number of network member libraries, branches, bookmobiles, and connected offsite storage facilities. In FY25, the base amount is set at $10,000 (increased from $7,500) and the total grant amount at $400,000 (increased from $300,000). 555 total outlets were counted for a per outlet amount of $569. Also in FY25, cybersecurity costs were added as an eligible expense.

Commissioner Cherubini moved and Commissioner Comeau seconded to approve the following nine Network Infrastructure Grants, totaling $399,999 for FY2025.

**Network Infrastructure**

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| **Network / MLS** | **Municipality** | **Award** |
| CLAMS | Barnstable | $ 31,225 |
| CW MARS | Worcester | $ 116,126 |
| FLO | Boston | $ 30,667 |
| MBLN | Boston | $ 37,369 |
| Minuteman Library Network | Natick | $ 45,189 |
| MVLC | North Andover | $ 32,342 |
| NOBLE | Danvers | $ 28,432 |
| OCLN | Braintree | $ 30,108 |
| SAILS | Lakeville | $ 48,541 |
| **$399,999** | | |

**Resource Sharing Program**

**Program Abstract:** The Resource Sharing program provides an incentive for libraries that are members of the nine automated resource sharing networks to list their titles and holdings in a publicly accessible database, and to lend materials to users of other libraries. Annual assessments that network member libraries pay are reduced with the help of these funds. Libraries, in turn, can show their funding authorities that there is a direct monetary benefit for their sharing materials, as well as the opportunity for their own users to have access to a much larger pool of resources.

FY2025 is the third year using a new resource sharing formula. Under the new formula awards are based on the size of the network’s operating budget and the number of members served, along with a smaller nod to the interlibrary loan activity each network undertakes each year. Each network’s resource sharing grant award correlates well with its size, complexity, and resource sharing activity. The formula freezes all the inputs for five years, except for yearly interlibrary lending. Thus, given a stable overall funding target, each network has a very good estimate of what its award will be through FY26. To buffer the larger changes that some networks will see, increases and decreases are capped at 3%, so no network will experience a major shift from one year to the next.

For FY25, however, MBLC received a substantial increase in account 7000-9506. Since the resource sharing program provides the most flexibility for automated networks, MBLC increased the grant amount from $1.6 million to $2 million. Proposed awards for this year, and for the remainder of the 5-year cycle have been recalculated using this new amount as a revised baseline.

Network data reporting was reviewed by MBLC staff, and final calculations shared with the nine automated resource sharing networks on September 22, 2024.

# **eCard Maintenance**

Beginning with the FY23 award, the resource sharing grants have included support for the cooperative network eCard program. Networks have begun to launch the new eCard registration and renewal platform. The platform allows for simplified and more reliable card registration and renewal processes across the Commonwealth. LSTA funding supported the initial implementation costs. MBLC will also offset 75% of the annual maintenance costs for the eight participating networks through the resource sharing program for an additional total of $74,071.

Commissioner Comeau moved and Commissioner Linehan seconded to approve the following nine Resource Sharing Program Grants totaling $2,112,107.

**Resource Sharing Program**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Network** | **Municipality** | **Award** |
| CLAMS | Barnstable | $141,889 |
| CW MARS | Worcester | $425,519 |
| FLO | Boston | $95,584 |
| MBLN | Boston | $274,834 |
| Minuteman Library Network | Natick | $390,771 |
| MVLC | North Andover | $208,296 |
| NOBLE | Danvers | $220,253 |
| OCLN | Braintree | $165,048 |
| SAILS | Lakeville | $189,643 |
| **$2,112,107** | | |

**Consideration of approval for the Library eBooks and Audiobooks (LEA) Content Grants**

Jaccavrie McNeely, Electronic Services Specialist presented the following LEA Grants:

The **Library eBooks and Audiobooks (LEA) Content** grant provides networks participating in the LEA program with additional funds to purchase shareable eContent. These funds will directly support the continually growing demand for eBooks and Audiobooks across the Commonwealth.

**Program Abstract:**

The LEA program creates a statewide eContent system more closely approximating how books and other physical materials are shared. However, the current marketplace for digital books bears little resemblance to that for physical books and media. Prices and license periods for eContent are in constant flux, and often trend in ways harmful to library budgets. The LEA Content Grants funding, available for the first time in FY20, significantly supplements networks’ own collection development purchases, helps reduce hold queues and patron wait times, and increases the breadth of the collection.

For FY25, each network has provided MBLC with title and holdings counts of their shareable OverDrive collection, and both the network spending and individual library spending on shareable content for the previous three fiscal years. Items which are not shareable via LEA -- eMagazines, simultaneous use products, and OverDrive Advantage copies -- were not eligible for inclusion. Content awards were calculated with a common base amount of $10,000 for each network, with the remaining funds apportioned based on their provided data: 50% for total spending and 50% for holdings.

Commissioner Linehan moved and Commissioner Cherubini seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approves the following eight LEA Content Grants totaling $1,000,000 for FY2025, to be paid out of line item 7000-9506, and eight LEA Platform Grants totaling $94,000 for FY2025, to be paid out of LSTA funds.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Network | Municipality | Award (Content) | Award (Platform) |
| CLAMS | Barnstable | $64,868.96 | $12,000 |
| CW MARS | Worcester | $162,491.87 | $12,000 |
| MBLN | Boston | $219,391.74 | $10,000 |
| Minuteman Library Network | Natick | $214,078.23 | $12,000 |
| MVLC | North Andover | $73,684.13 | $12,000 |
| NOBLE | Danvers | $73,381.12 | $12,000 |
| OCLN | Braintree | $100,332.62 | $12,000 |
| SAILS | Lakeville | $91,771.32 | $12,000 |
| **$1,000,000** | | | **$94,000** |

**Consideration of approval of two Planning and Design Grants for the Small Population Grant Type**

Andrea Bono-Bunker, Library Building Consultant presented.

Planning and Design, 2023-2024 Grant Round, Small Population Grant Type

**Project Type Summary:** A Project for Planning and Design, which does not involve actual construction, proposes to develop a building program, perform a condition assessment, if necessary, conduct site investigations, prepare schematic drawings and estimate costs for a future major public library facility improvement project.

Commissioner Cherubini moved and Commissioner Comeau seconded the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approves planning and design grant awards totaling a maximum of $250,000 to 2 library projects in the amounts listed below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Provisional Awards Recommendations** | | |
| **Municipality** | **Library** | **Maximum Award** |
| Blandford | Porter Memorial Library | $125,000 |
| Otis | Otis Library | $125,000 |

Commissioners decided to take a roll call vote.

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

**Report from Massachusetts Library System**

Sarah Sogigian presented the following report.

***Commonwealth eBook Collection (CEC)***

* Total Items in Collection = 295,425 - 80,000 more items added compared to FY23.

-Four months topped over 200,000 circulations!

-350+ magazines added to Sora platform.

* Total Circulation= 2,132,093 - Over 530,000 more circs compared to FY23!
* Total Member Library enrollment= 665 - the largest fee-based service ever offered to MLS members

**Interlibrary Loan**

* Items **Borrowed** for MLS member libraries= 11,173 - 73% requests successfully filled
* Items **Requested** by MLS member libraries = 15,272 - 1,000 fewer compared to FY23
* Items **Loaned** to other libraries by MLS member libraries = 3,687 - 1,300 more than FY23
* **Document Delivery** (e-documents) via Boston Public Library's ILLiad = 4,247 - 700 more than FY23
* Borrowed items in over **30 languages**, the most popular include: French; Chinese; Russian; German. 90% of items borrowed were in English.
* Borrowed **item types** included: 83% books; 9% video; 6% sound recordings.

**MassCat Library Network**

* Total Member Libraries= **37** /Total Patrons= 47,789

-Comparable in size to CLAMS (35) and MVLC (36) networks.

-Of eleven networks, only three are larger: CW MARS (160); SAILS (60); Minuteman (43).

-Seven libraries left the network FY23 due school closures, moving to other vendors / networks, and loss of librarian positions.

* Memberships by type (Academic / Public / School / Special) = 3 / 7 / 20 / 7
* Total Holdings= **445,930** / Total Circulation= **129,924** - slight drops with loss of member libraries
* Total network Holds= **3,102** - slight drop with loss of member libraries

**Report from Library from the Commonwealth**

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

**The Browse, Borrow, Board Program:**

To date we have had: 2366 signups with 731 checkouts

Some slides from MassDot showing usage stats and photos of the BBB signs in bus shelters and other locations:

A map of a country with red dots

Description automatically generated

A bus stop with a sign

Description automatically generated

Hyde Park: Hyde Park Ave. & Thatcher St. Boston.

A black box on the side of a road

Description automatically generated

Seaport: 329 Northern Ave. Boston

(photos courtesy of JCDecaux Boston Inc.)

**The Arts Department at the BPL has hosted, and are hosting, some workshops this fall:**

In September, we held a demonstration and a workshop where patrons learned how to make prints on one of the historic presses that the BPL owns. Later in the fall, we're holding workshops on how to make paper from old military uniforms that's a partnership with the Mayor’s Office of Veterans’ Services. These are all part of our role to not only provide access to collections but to encourage patrons to engage with how art and books are made.

Program link is here: [Making Paper](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fbpl.bibliocommons.com%2Fevents%2F66c4fb9a4bbeaa3e00d0904c&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C8b620381afb64c545c9f08dcde6812d4%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638629785805947264%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=JUgQKD5BN9aYAHKyAhCKrsenLqn7EBANriB0ebebTwY%3D&reserved=0) (10/20)

**Program Highlight this month:**

**Boston Philharmonic — Interpretation of Music: Lessons for Life**

Saturday, October 5, 2024

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Central Library in Copley Square

Boston Philharmonic Orchestra joins us for another season of world-renowned classes on musical interpretation. Young performers of exceptional ability will have the opportunity to work on the most inspiring aspects of music-making with conductor and master educator Benjamin Zander.

Please note that the participants for each class are selected ahead of time by BPO. Audience members may simply sit back and enjoy the lessons!

Benjamin Zander’s Saturday morning Interpretation Classes are among the most extraordinary – and, thanks to video, most widely seen – of all the conductor’s musical activities. During these classes, which are free and open to the public, Mr. Zander guides highly accomplished young musicians who live or study in the Boston area to more communicative, more alive interpretations of a huge range of classical masterworks. The audience at these events feels very much a part of the process of transformation that unfolds, week after week.

Mr. Zander’s famed communication skills and lifetime immersion in all aspects of musical performance make him a transformative musical coach who guides and inspires players of all instruments to a deeper understanding of what the music is actually asking of the performer and how to communicate that with the greatest intensity and authenticity to the audience.

These classes give everyone involved a window into how music can and should be performed in order to engage, stimulate and inspire the audience at the deepest level.

Link to Program [here](https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/66da250579c37d9f5da5b941): <https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/66da250579c37d9f5da5b941>

**Newly Digitized in Special Collections**

Thanks to the amazing work of the Digital Production Services team, we added [**165 architectural drawings and blueprints**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2F47h6dyvab.cc.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D001s4BIZqQnY2dfbWwfN6riP0U7p4HZRHIbThd1esAp0Blr3tvb8KgvNw50IRQgIekOVFQlajbMLRS7eXgjVpcSG8NfOAHpsBDXzEa7bCntc2IjujUS1NjgakQLVx00DmiGwiNM8qT6LGCpEMeN5R5KsPTnKJ7KTfU0R1CI9cAIypHE3PZYwdjfpIIJL9XkhGNr3oXgYdFCI5LVjfjrJrUTTaz-dSfZAPRc%26c%3D3TOc4dbl0QMXcyx9vJj9HiSIit5N0kLrvEdU_WEJiYBqDUgr9RH_dg%3D%3D%26ch%3D-OGcbLbEvzZ-oa9OvRE7JGmgl7Xl6W2jgS1JXKHc6ccbeMX7prLvFg%3D%3D&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C4bb54d96b46e4794e55f08dcd8df9d5a%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638623702234175643%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=GzroY5C3BTyZVjxYHYOFyw2DIOtmsUpb0nyZUcKKreA%3D&reserved=0) from the [**architectural firm Maginnis & Walsh**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2F47h6dyvab.cc.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D001s4BIZqQnY2dfbWwfN6riP0U7p4HZRHIbThd1esAp0Blr3tvb8KgvNw50IRQgIekOJ7D4pkrtcDcaFlony9l005pnBhfXoYSpyPpvz64AXfe-YGdw3ayhaSCcmQI6_PtAr1Slg6aKkDMIB6G7roNG0b-aPl4b_2cAM_1uqfjoCxsYg9o2wWjBmpZbtrrfFGLJFxowYZSWvNg%3D%26c%3D3TOc4dbl0QMXcyx9vJj9HiSIit5N0kLrvEdU_WEJiYBqDUgr9RH_dg%3D%3D%26ch%3D-OGcbLbEvzZ-oa9OvRE7JGmgl7Xl6W2jgS1JXKHc6ccbeMX7prLvFg%3D%3D&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C4bb54d96b46e4794e55f08dcd8df9d5a%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638623702234192723%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=7e6vEM7dNQX33pcuiiBODp3G315vrcKPsz2oeVSV%2BmQ%3D&reserved=0) to Digital Commonwealth in August. The items digitized were all related to churches in Vermont that were designed by the architectural firm.

The drawings and blueprints can both be searched for on digitalcommonwealth.org or accessed through the [**collection finding aid**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2F47h6dyvab.cc.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D001s4BIZqQnY2dfbWwfN6riP0U7p4HZRHIbThd1esAp0Blr3tvb8KgvNw50IRQgIekOJ7D4pkrtcDcaFlony9l005pnBhfXoYSpyPpvz64AXfe-YGdw3ayhaSCcmQI6_PtAr1Slg6aKkDMIB6G7roNG0b-aPl4b_2cAM_1uqfjoCxsYg9o2wWjBmpZbtrrfFGLJFxowYZSWvNg%3D%26c%3D3TOc4dbl0QMXcyx9vJj9HiSIit5N0kLrvEdU_WEJiYBqDUgr9RH_dg%3D%3D%26ch%3D-OGcbLbEvzZ-oa9OvRE7JGmgl7Xl6W2jgS1JXKHc6ccbeMX7prLvFg%3D%3D&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C4bb54d96b46e4794e55f08dcd8df9d5a%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638623702234209522%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=EnZackTYyrpjT0j%2FkdewsjcGA5jGaBMNpr9%2Fy5uBNdo%3D&reserved=0) on [**archives.bpl.org**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2F47h6dyvab.cc.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D001s4BIZqQnY2dfbWwfN6riP0U7p4HZRHIbThd1esAp0Blr3tvb8KgvNw50IRQgIekOGoOhV_--rvVetUd4wNmTnpjcVkAZtdQydfggFNL1xW47Y9Lu_lMvg3Pwpn0hGj3B-f7fGrut1_j6tSj5TLAuOw%3D%3D%26c%3D3TOc4dbl0QMXcyx9vJj9HiSIit5N0kLrvEdU_WEJiYBqDUgr9RH_dg%3D%3D%26ch%3D-OGcbLbEvzZ-oa9OvRE7JGmgl7Xl6W2jgS1JXKHc6ccbeMX7prLvFg%3D%3D&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C4bb54d96b46e4794e55f08dcd8df9d5a%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638623702234225953%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=4FkdRq13Aw%2FCqlq%2BKtjLOing7uKOwbCERizvHX4jcZo%3D&reserved=0)

**Digital Commonwealth Update**

**Hosted collections added:**

* 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%7Cc339758d775a42fd2ab208dce311a1fa%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638634912149511476%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ufVRtqjj%2BjvQwDl5T2Dkdwr0xUkR9cvOKzUsR8EKCwo%3D&reserved=0) (359 items; issues of the daily newspaper from 1921-1922)
* Boston Public Library - [Essex Register](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3A8w32xk55d&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7Cc339758d775a42fd2ab208dce311a1fa%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638634912149545951%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=eXv%2FWVCXxMqy47sHmfeEpYDKNAvuPCbvd4wsYtrpMcc%3D&reserved=0) (1,869 items; issues of the weekly Salem newspaper from 1814-1837)
* Boston Public Library - [The Evening Journal](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3Ahq382205h&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7Cc339758d775a42fd2ab208dce311a1fa%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638634912149571034%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=DP34T1RaTdRKw4ev7Ze5n0XSY7X%2BPhnEhEIAT0ke2DI%3D&reserved=0) (18 items; issues of the daily New Bedford newspaper from 1892)
* 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%7Cc339758d775a42fd2ab208dce311a1fa%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638634912149596007%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=SEZwSOhEQP4Zx4W6bT9rp4kh22dmu4o%2Fw%2FdxpDh1qQ0%3D&reserved=0) (3,242 items; issues of the daily New Bedford newspaper from 1910-1920)
* Boston Public Library - [Medieval and Early Renaissance Manuscripts](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3Anp193j758&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7Cc339758d775a42fd2ab208dce311a1fa%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638634912149617649%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=7ZP30dhI2WC6kigYOb%2B13xBtCfTYT0SArHbmlcqB6QE%3D&reserved=0) (Collection of Distinction) (4 items; illuminated religious texts from the 13th-16th centuries)
* Boston Public Library - [New Bedford Evening Journal](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3A9g553x17r&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7Cc339758d775a42fd2ab208dce311a1fa%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638634912149633710%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=73%2Fy5GqxZKm%2Bwogyt3HGm2Prx4%2BvIPd9ha2xKrde2Mk%3D&reserved=0) (83 items; issues of the daily New Bedford newspaper from 1892)
* Boston Public Library - [The Salem Gazette](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3A5x220z24w&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7Cc339758d775a42fd2ab208dce311a1fa%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638634912149649682%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=T2aZztbsmnkQj0dBvS5ltU9t3I46AjddRfJmS9P0uTQ%3D&reserved=0) (3,877 items; issues of the weekly newspaper from 1806-1873)
* Boston Public Library - [Salem Register](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3A2v242664p&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7Cc339758d775a42fd2ab208dce311a1fa%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638634912149665505%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=jC3w%2FCn0T9Q%2FCYrbBzjEPaBkTYXunpeXr0JEYCJGYCs%3D&reserved=0) (3,771 items; issues of the weekly newspaper from 1847-1867 and 1906-1918)
* Boston Public Library - [Salem Register and Essex County Mercury](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3Avq2858446&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7Cc339758d775a42fd2ab208dce311a1fa%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638634912149681275%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=MyNC8fL27DbLLrk2aceDFxR1vi6XlihDmWZDhbqNyvI%3D&reserved=0) (150 items; issues of the weekly newsaper from 1904-1906)
* Boston Public Library - [Serge Koussevitsky Collection](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3Ahq380t345&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7Cc339758d775a42fd2ab208dce311a1fa%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638634912149701614%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Gnf4%2Fw6Hv3nxTWcL0HhJcu6nr%2FjicC0%2Br0nDjT3vrhE%3D&reserved=0) (1 item; conductor's annotated score to 'Peter and the Wolf')
* Boston Public Library - [Tom Grabosky. Drawings](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3Ap841g269j&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7Cc339758d775a42fd2ab208dce311a1fa%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638634912149726034%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=wnkyL4nIJT3UJs4qyEfvkFE2XC3DG9sXzlRM4WkWz8s%3D&reserved=0) (117 items; fantasy art drawings by the Boston-based artist, curator, and art critic from 1970-1994)
* Crane Museum of Papermaking - [Ledger Collection](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3Agx41sz22p&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7Cc339758d775a42fd2ab208dce311a1fa%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638634912149751738%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=gwCSEfQCmVI6w7b8SNd8nc%2BRS2S9%2BSTsfQEQQm%2Beq%2BQ%3D&reserved=0) (3 items; ledgers and account books from Massachusetts paper mills from 1770-1930)
* Crane Museum of Papermaking - [Photo Collection](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3Apr76mg50z&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7Cc339758d775a42fd2ab208dce311a1fa%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638634912149775055%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=8Ac8SBHKLb%2FAhDXZR9kUc3z7AZX4%2BCOnzCX5HpY7BHs%3D&reserved=0) (610 items; photographs of Crane Currency mills, machinery, employees, and other subjects from 1801-2001)
* Franklin Historical Commission - [The Franklin Sentinel](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3Aws85h122t&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7Cc339758d775a42fd2ab208dce311a1fa%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638634912149799120%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vWQO4uguoUsa8uQtWfr7OMimwZfQhpWYVZZwECLDJA0%3D&reserved=0) (4,239 items; issues of the semiweekly newspaper from 1878-1952)
* Hopedale Jr.-Sr. High School - [General Draper Memorial Library](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3A4j03kg09z&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7Cc339758d775a42fd2ab208dce311a1fa%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638634912149825849%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=R%2B58K9M8dJ%2FNbnV3kXxPqOqYxxf0yb%2BKpfWnnJqsogQ%3D&reserved=0) (109 items; artwork, maps, and letters belonging to prominent general and politician William Franklin Draper from the late 1800s and early 1900s)
* Hyde Park Historical Society - [History Hyde Park Library](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3Agm80q840s&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7Cc339758d775a42fd2ab208dce311a1fa%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638634912149852812%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=JrIo1NuczPgODMNqQCicBKQafRKRQJw2fjAA%2BhhlKs4%3D&reserved=0) (1 item; architectural drawings for the Hyde Park Public Library)
* Jamaica Plain Historical Society - [Doyle's Cafe Memorabilia](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3Avt150v91x&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7Cc339758d775a42fd2ab208dce311a1fa%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638634912149878287%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=dGZ%2F6Fo6DvTPYon8B8bdn1i%2FOV6EHnoopQXMFh%2FBDI4%3D&reserved=0) (30 items; photographs and memorabilia from the recently shuttered Boston restaurant)
* Jamaica Plain Historical Society - [Forest Hills, Mass., Forest Hills Station](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3A1g05ms71h&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7Cc339758d775a42fd2ab208dce311a1fa%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638634912149901633%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=K%2FknrjljdHhX%2Bc9Voi8pRMcal5k8lXO4v%2B3y0zatP2E%3D&reserved=0) (1 item; postcard depicting Forest Hills station circa 1910)
* Jamaica Plain Historical Society - [Jamaica Plain High School](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3Ac247m916r&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7Cc339758d775a42fd2ab208dce311a1fa%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638634912149928706%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Y4PpiMwpMI3URAgBuGpbJZnNo%2FJ1WFOYno%2FKqIUZfBk%3D&reserved=0) (1 item; graduation program, 1957)
* Jamaica Plain Historical Society - [Jamaica Plain Stables & City Park Rangers](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3Adj532p71w&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7Cc339758d775a42fd2ab208dce311a1fa%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638634912149954111%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=yZQmAjqv9VSVholMFgYrfUDd66I1Xjue1idTlSTjyOI%3D&reserved=0) (46 items; photographs of facilities, staff, and patrons of the Forest Hills Riding Academy, Arby's Stables, and Boston Park Rangers from 1979-1989)
* Jamaica Plain Historical Society - [Jude Hutchinson, Jamaica Plain Memorabilia](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3A66833m63c&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7Cc339758d775a42fd2ab208dce311a1fa%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638634912149980437%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=3VeA9s%2B7Q6Sog0kmAeTdmuXjKW2Q7hXK5wZ4l6mVk08%3D&reserved=0) (37 items; photographs of storefronts, breweries, Jamaica Pond, and Pinebank mansion from the early 2000s)
* Lawrence Library - [Historical Collections, Lawrence Library, Pepperell, MA](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3A05747667f&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7Cc339758d775a42fd2ab208dce311a1fa%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638634912150006737%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=70xyYPla65NFPvp7QGC8pGPmQX2MMGaOvt00FKV1YQY%3D&reserved=0) (1,565 items; photographs, cards, prints, and maps of Pepperell, Massachusetts from 1794-2000)
* Phillips Academy - [Sidney R. Knafel Map Collection at Phillips Academy](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3Aj3860802m&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7Cc339758d775a42fd2ab208dce311a1fa%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638634912150032572%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=acqPN0CIqvfCKtZwQYpOgVvPhomS2z1OxZ%2B%2BPE%2F5%2BJU%3D&reserved=0) (12 items; unique historical maps from 1478-1810)

**Harvested collections added:**

 No harvests in September.

**Stats:**

 Item views: 131,688

Total item-level records: 1,296,929

Total hosted items: 613,826

**QUARTERLY REPORT FROM MASSACHUSETTS CENTER FOR THE BOOK**

Courtney Andree, Executive Director presented the following report:

The Massachusetts Center for the Book’s strategic planning process concluded in late August, with the Board voting to adopt the plan at a special meeting in mid-September. We were very gratified to receive input from stakeholders across the Massachusetts library community and cultural space, including survey responses from 136 stakeholders and 553 community members, direct input from 19 expert interviews, and feedback from our board retreat in April.

MCB has developed an approach that will guide the organization as we enhance our programs and services and improve our overall effectiveness to better serve our colleagues and the people of Massachusetts. As you’ll see, the plan does not call for a dramatic departure from who we are. Indeed, our research and discussions indicate that Mass Center for the Book is playing a unique and vital role. The plan—while ambitious—seeks to build on what is already working for our organization and identify ways to further support the library, literary, and literacy communities in Massachusetts.

As we embark upon the implementation process, you’ll see MCB 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. MCB is unique as a public- facing, program-producing organization within the literary and library ecosystems. We are currently viewed as a promoter, an advocate, and a partner, but it’s our aspiration to also act as a convenor and connector—bringing libraries, publishers, authors, bookstores, and other players within the literary space together for important conversations, delivering turnkey programs, and responding to emerging needs.

The driving questions that will guide our organization in the coming years are: how can we deliver our programs where they are needed the most? How can we better understand community needs and build partnerships and trust? How can we respond to emerging concerns and serve a broader swath of Massachusetts readers and learners—regardless of linguistic background or socioeconomic status? How can we move the needle where family and youth literacy are concerned and motivate current (and aspiring!) Massachusetts readers to engage with books? How can we help our friends in libraries and bookstores better serve their patrons?

In order to build a stronger foundation for Mass Center for the Book’s future, we are prioritizing the development of internal capacity—building systems and structures that will strengthen our organization long term. One of the first projects that we are undertaking is the construction of an internal database. With a new executive director and new staff, it is important to map out and maintain a record of existing relationships with volunteers, donors,and partners. Another area of immediate need centers on fundraising. The Center is currently reviewing proposals from nonprofit fundraising consultants, who will assist the organization in developing and implementing a long-range fundraising plan. We are also developing processes and structures for program evaluation, and are currently working with an advanced graduate student at Simmons University on an assessment of our Mass Book Trails project.

Massachusetts Book Awards

The 2024 Mass Book Award winners were announced in early September, and will be celebrated in a recognition ceremony at the State House on October 8. We are currently piloting the Mass Book Awards Speakers Bureau, which will fund a limited number of author visits, readings, and lectures from recent prize winners. All but one of this year’s Award and Honors authors have signed on to participate. We are currently accepting applications from libraries, cultural centers, museums, and community nonprofits, which will be accepted on a rolling basis.

MCB launched the new graphic novel/graphic memoir prize with a September 18 event at Boston City Hall’s Civic Pavilion, in partnership with the Boston Comic Arts Foundation and the Mayor’s Office of Arts & Culture. The panel discussion featured authors and comic artists Joel Christian Gill, Raul the Third, Shelli Paroline, and Cagen Luse.

Upcoming Events/Activities

October

* Massachusetts Book Awards Ceremony, Massachusetts State House, October 8, 2024 at 1pm. Northampton Print & Book Fair, Northampton Center for the Arts, October 26, 2024.

November

* Mass Association of School Committees (MASC) & Mass Association of School Superintendents Conference, nonprofit exhibitor, Hyannis, MA, November 7–8.
* Ask Us Anything About Writing and Publishing, joint event with the Boston Authors Club, TLC Studios, Dedham, MA, November 14 at 7pm.

December

* Reading Challenge Year-End Celebration: Eastern Mass., Trident Booksellers & Café, Boston, MA, December 5, 2024 at 6:30pm.
* Massachusetts Independent Comics Expo, sponsored session, Boston University, December 7–8
* Reading Challenge Year-End Celebration: Western Mass., Abandoned Building Brewery, Easthampton, MA, December 8, 2024 at 2pm.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Comeau moved and Commissioner Linehan seconded to adjourn the October 3, 2024 Board Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:46 AM



Karen Traub

Secretary