

HIGHLIGHTS



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Annual Report 2020

Massachusetts Libraries
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS



Massachusetts **Libraries**
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

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MBLC

Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners

FY2020 Budget

STATE APPROPRIATIONS

7000-9101	Board of Library Commissioners	\$1,322,130
7000-9401	Regional Libraries Local Aid	\$11,516,000
7000-9402	Talking Book Program (Worcester)	\$468,217
7000-9406	Talking Book Program (Watertown)	\$2,665,800
7000-9501	Public Libraries Local Aid	\$10,059,081
7000-9506	Library Technology & Automated Resource-Sharing Networks	\$4,259,000
7000-9508	Center for the Book	\$200,000
Total		\$30,490,228

Federal Spending

LSTA

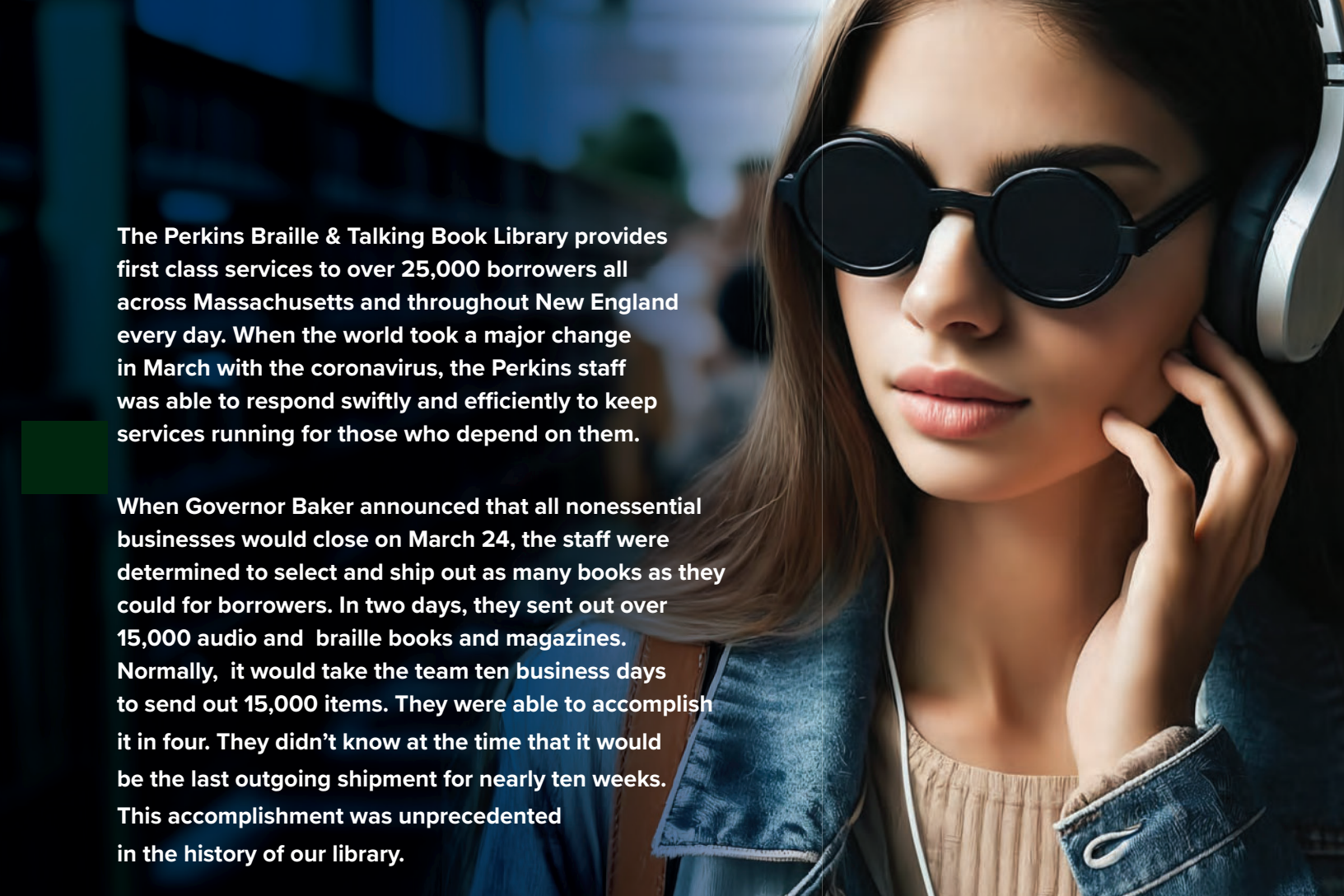
\$3,283,698

Commissioners

FY2020

APPOINTED

ROLAND A. OCHSENBEIN	of Bolton	Chair	2014
MARY ANN CLUGGISH	of Wellesley	Vice Chair	2011
MARY KRONHOLM	of Blandford	Secretary	2011
DEBORAH V.H. ABRAHAM	of Needham		2018
LESLIE D. BALL	of Scituate		2018
STACY DEBOLE	of Swampscott		2019
PHILIP MADELL	of Topsfield		2019
GINA PERILLE	of Boston		2018
N. JANEEN RESNICK	of South Hadley		2012



The Perkins Braille & Talking Book Library provides first class services to over 25,000 borrowers all across Massachusetts and throughout New England every day. When the world took a major change in March with the coronavirus, the Perkins staff was able to respond swiftly and efficiently to keep services running for those who depend on them.

When Governor Baker announced that all nonessential businesses would close on March 24, the staff were determined to select and ship out as many books as they could for borrowers. In two days, they sent out over 15,000 audio and braille books and magazines. Normally, it would take the team ten business days to send out 15,000 items. They were able to accomplish it in four. They didn't know at the time that it would be the last outgoing shipment for nearly ten weeks. This accomplishment was unprecedented in the history of our library.

The Perkins Braille & Talking Book Library



Staff had to adapt to working remotely and handling countless emails from borrowers asking for services. Librarians continued to place book orders for patrons in hopes that the Shipping department would return soon to mail them out. After thousands of emails and voicemail messages, Perkins was successful, working with IT, to get our phone system to allow staff to answer the phones remotely and process requests for our eventual opening. From the closing until the reopening, staff handled nearly 20,000 phone calls from anxious, desperate, and very appreciative borrowers.



BARD Mobile

The one way that patrons could still get books to listen to was by using the download service, BARD (Braille & Audio Reading Download). Since March, staff enrolled over 130 new BARD users. This has

allowed many people who are now homebound to have access to our materials once again. The Library Zoom Team hosted multiple training sessions to allow patrons to learn to effectively use this system, whether it be downloading to a cartridge or the special mobile app. Via zoom and the telephone, patrons learned to download their own braille and/or audio materials.

BARD training was a lesson in how powerful the Zoom platform could be for staying connected to borrowers. Perkins added Trivia groups, book clubs, Teaching Tuesdays, Audio Described Movie Afternoons, Remember When groups for Library Without Walls, and Audio Dramas. Hundreds of borrowers now regularly participate

in these events, feeling more connected to the Library, Perkins, and one another. During a time of isolation, they have succeeded in delivering information, entertainment, companionship, friendship, support, and engagement.

The Shipping Department was able to return in late May and faced a returned mail backlog



of audio and braille books and magazines of nearly 75,000 items stuffed into the library warehouse. Normally, about 25,000 return items are processed in each month, but in one month, the Shipping

team checked in nearly 75,000 returned items that had been delivered by the Post Office and filled up every bit of working space available. At the same time, staff sent out nearly 40,000 outgoing items for patrons who were so desperate to get accessible reading materials once again.

Thanks to Perkins' administration's willingness to embrace the latest technology, and to think about service delivery outside the box, thousands of patrons could still access services, teachers could get braille materials for students, seniors could have some connection with others through book clubs and other activities, and children and young adults could still participate in summer reading activities and win prizes for reading. The library figured out new ways to do business, stretched to meet the needs of patrons, and supported professionals working with consumers and students in the community.





Amid the growing concerns surrounding COVID-19 in March, 2020, many Massachusetts Public Libraries closed or switched to limited in-person services. In response, the MBLC and MLS responded as new information became available to keep library staff and patrons safe during the uncertain time.

Library delivery suspended

Library delivery, which moves items requested by patrons between libraries, was suspended. The Massachusetts Library System, which runs delivery, monitored the situation and continued to assess throughout. “I ask for your patience in advance as we go through this unprecedented time together,” said MLS Director Sarah Sogigian.

State Aid flexibility

The MBLC announced flexibility in its State Aid to Public Libraries program. The program, which provides the basis for statewide resource sharing, has several requirements that libraries must meet in order to be certified in the program. “I want to assure everyone that closure for a pandemic would be considered an emergency closure in the same way libraries close for other health and safety reasons. Library Certification would/will not be impacted if you reduce hours or are required to close,” said Mary Rose Quinn, Head of State Programs.

24/7 access

While many libraries are temporarily closing their physical doors, librarians reminded patrons that they have access to eBooks, audiobooks, streaming media, and online research databases. “In Massachusetts, we’re fortunate to have a rich and extensive variety of digital library resources,” said MBLC Director James Lonergan. Last year library networks began working together to form LEA (Library eBooks and Audiobooks) which gives patrons access to more than 350,000 eBooks and audiobooks accessible through libraries.state.ma.us, along with other digital resources. Some librarians have moved to virtual story times and librarians are working to come up with creative ways to keep patrons connected to their libraries.

On March 20, 2020, MBLC Chair Roland Ochsenbein released the following statement recommending that libraries in the Commonwealth close their doors to in person service.

While the MBLC respects local boards of trustees and their governance over local library operations, in this extraordinary time, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC), as a Commission appointed by the Governor of the Commonwealth, strongly recommends that all libraries in the Commonwealth that are still open to the public be closed in response to the COVID-19 crisis in order to safeguard the health of all library patrons and staff and to aid in the overall national goal of containment.

The MBLC also urges all governing bodies and institutions with libraries that are closed to the public to continue to pay all library staff for the duration of the closure period. In addition, the MBLC recommends that staff members not be docked for sick, vacation, or personal days as a result of stay-at-home directives intended to protect them and their patrons and to serve the greater good.

Many libraries are successfully working with their local board of trustees and officials to address the COVID-19 crisis. However, increasing concerns from the library community prompt the MBLC to issue the following additional recommendations:

1. Promote access to digital resources. All statewide resources are available on libraries.state.ma.us.
2. Discontinue curbside delivery as it may put both staff and patrons at risk.
3. In libraries that are closed to the public but open to staff, library directors should work with their local trustees and public health organization to determine safe staffing levels.
4. Libraries should remain closed until at least April 5 and possibly longer if Governor Baker's office or the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) provide guidance recommending public spaces remain closed for a longer period.
5. Libraries serving critical needs for special populations, such as libraries for the blind and print disabled, should modify these recommendations as needed.

The 370 public libraries and the numerous academic, school, and special libraries in Massachusetts are backbones of their communities. We know that this will be hard for the impacted communities, but it is in line with the steps that have already been taken by schools and other important community services.

The Commissioners and the entire staff at the MBLC are working hard to determine the way forward for library services, so very important to every community, while also looking out for the safety and health of all librarians and residents in the Commonwealth.

MBLC and MLS are continuing to update our resource guide. We encourage you to monitor it and to reach out directly to me or one of the staff members at MBLC with any questions or concerns you may have.

When it became clear that the shutdown would be longer than originally anticipated, the MBLC responded by creating the “We’re in this Together” digital library.

We’re in this Together gives residents easy access to “free-for-now” resources as well as library resources that are always free. On the site residents could access new resources that many nonprofits, authors, companies, and others are offering to residents who are at home due to COVID-19 outbreak.

The MBLC, in partnership with the Massachusetts Library System, continues to offer Massachusetts residents free access to research databases with no library card needed. Residents can access more than 350,000 eBooks and Audiobooks through the new program LEA. They can also access online resources from the Boston Public Library by signing up for an eCard which allows them to stream movies, music, and TV series. Historic documents and photos are available with no library card needed through the Digital Commonwealth. This is in addition to the online resources that are offered by public libraries across the Commonwealth.

These resources were supplemented by additional databases from Gale and eBooks from TumbleBooks and EBSCO. Museums around the world remained open through virtual tours, and authors and illustrators offered story times and drawing lessons through their YouTube channel, and Public Libraries continued serving their patrons online. Many have begun offering their regular story times streaming live on Facebook or YouTube, others offered free mindfulness classes, knitting classes, and virtual book clubs.

During its April board meeting, the MBLC voted to continue its flexibility with State Aid requirements.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on Massachusetts and in an effort to support and protect the Commonwealth's municipal libraries, their dedicated staff members, Trustees, and the patrons they serve and to assist them in their future recovery efforts, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners voted to suspend some requirements for the State Aid to Public Libraries Program and revised the Five Year Waiver Policy and the Library Closure Policy in acknowledgement of the current crisis. These changes are to the FY 2020 State Aid to Public Libraries Program Policies, which affects library reporting as part of the FY 2021 State Aid cycle.

For the Hours Open Requirement, hours reported up to the Governor's State of Emergency Declaration on March 10, 2020 will be considered as meeting the full requirement. For the Materials Expenditure Requirement, expenditures on materials for FY 2020 from July 1, 2019 up to the Governor's State of Emergency Declaration on March 10, 2020 will be considered as meeting the full requirement.

The Closure of a Public Library Policy was revised to include for clarification, examples of natural catastrophes, i.e. fire, flood, storms, and epidemics/pandemics and other states of emergencies (Federal, State, and Local).

Municipal Appropriation Requirement (MAR) Chapter 78, Section 19A was not changed. The MAR is funding, required in statute, to be provided by the municipality to support the library. Libraries that are unable to meet the MAR may apply for a waiver.

The MBLC will continue to request additional waivers beyond the statutory limit of ten in the state budget language. This provides municipalities experiencing financial hardship with an opportunity to continue participation in the State Aid Program

In response to libraries holding virtual programs, the MBLC worked with Burbio to create an online Virtual Events Calendar.

Library buildings were closed, but library services continued running. Librarians across the Commonwealth turned to virtual community programming to ensure that residents could still participate in educational and entertaining library programs while the stay-at-home order and social distancing were in place.

More than 300 public libraries are offered thousands of free virtual programs. Programs for all ages included storytimes, senior programs, homework help, book clubs, language training, film discussions, tech help, small business education and more.

To make it easy for residents to find a program, the MBLC partnered with Burbio, to create a statewide calendar of virtual programs which means that a resident might be able to take advantage of a library event that is occurring anywhere in the state. Burbio aggregates and organizes event information from library calendars and keeps them dynamically up to date.

The MBLC also created the Massachusetts Video Library with prerecorded story times, science experiments, sing-a-longs, and more.

First Lady of the Commonwealth Lauren Baker, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, and public librarians from across the Commonwealth worked together to create an online video library available at www.mavideolibrary.org. This collaboration helps children and families continue to learn and engage with their libraries in light of COVID-19 and in-person school year cancellation.

The library has videos of art projects, cooking, science experiments, sing-a-longs, and story times. Each video is made by public librarians who continued their work remotely to ensure that residents had access to the great programming that they have become accustomed to at their local library.

Mrs. Baker contributed to the video library by reading the story *Sleepy Mr. Sloth* by Paul Kennedy.

The resource is completely free and available to everyone. It has no ads, and all the content is safe for children. Videos that have been posted include Blackstone Public Library children's librarian Tressy Collier reading the *Velveteen Rabbit*, a lesson on how to make gnocchi from the Winchester Public Library, and sing-a-longs with Rachel Overbeck from Stoneham Public Library.

In May, the MBLC and MLS announced guidelines for reopening libraries to the public.

The recommendations for libraries to begin a phased reopening of in-person services were work in tandem with the state's reopening plan released by Governor Charlie Baker.

"We are grateful that Governor Baker and Lt. Governor Polito included libraries when creating the plan to reopen Massachusetts" said MBLC Chair Roland Ochsenbein. "Their plan lays the groundwork for us to build off of to continue working towards the safe reopening of libraries across the Commonwealth."

To create the plan, the MBLC and MLS held several listening sessions with librarians from across the state to hear their concerns and ideas for libraries as they prepare to resume in-person services to the public. Librarian input was compiled and submitted to the Reopening Advisory Board co-chaired by Lt. Governor Karen Polito. This information was taken into consideration by the group that released the recommendation that libraries can begin reopening for curbside pickup on May 25, and can resume in person services with restrictions during Phase II of the statewide plan. The May 25 date is not a requirement for in-person services to resume, and each community is able to consider what is best for their library by making their own plan. Despite having their physical spaces closed, many libraries have continued offering services and events virtually, and will continue to do so as they begin to reopen.

The guidelines were broken down into four phases and include guidance from other states and institutions that have begun reopening before Massachusetts, and included a template that could be filled out by libraries to help them plan their reopening.

SUMMER READING



Summer Reading Prizes were awarded to the following libraries:

Grand Prize Winners

Zamboni game experience:

Montague Public Library

High Five game experience:

Blanding Free Public Library, Rehoboth

Bench Assistant game experience:

Gladys E. Kelly Public Library, Webster

Team-Signed Bruins Jersey

Beverly Farms Library

Fitchburg Public Library

Franklin Public Library

Granville Public Library

Huntington Public Library

Mattapoissett Free Public Library

Norton Public Library

Palmer Public Library

West Falmouth Public Library

Charlie Coyle Signed Bruins Puck

Ayer Library

Brookline Public Library

Colrain, Griswold Memorial Library

Halifax, Holmes Public Library

Hopedale, Bancroft Memorial Library

Medfield Memorial Public Library

Newton Free Library

Northborough Free Library

Northampton, Forbes Library

Swampscott Public Library

Taunton Public Library

Westborough Public Library

Westfield Athenaeum

Westminster, Forbush Memorial Library

Winchester Public Library

FIRST LADY
AND BLADES

Summer Challenge



The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners teamed up with the Boston Bruins and First Lady of the Commonwealth Lauren Baker for the first ever First Lady and Blades Summer Reading Challenge. Participating libraries work with their communities towards their own goal.

Libraries across the Commonwealth selected their goal, and from July 1 to August 14 worked with the kids, teens, and adults that participated in summer reading to reach it. It was left up to each library what their goal should be; it could include books read, pages read, minutes read, or some other project that is inclusive of everyone. Twenty participating libraries met their goals and were awarded prizes from the Boston Bruins including in game experiences and player signed pucks and jerseys.

Despite the difficulties posed by library buildings being closed to the public, libraries reported high participation. In total, challenge participants read over 11,000 books and over 1.7 million minutes. The challenge offered an option for summer reading during an untraditional summer since goals were tracked online.

With schools closed down for the rest of this academic year, summer reading was more important than ever for students to retain what they have learned over the past year, and to increase their knowledge through reading and other events. Studies have shown that children who read just four books over the summer do better when returning to school in the fall than children who read one book or fewer.



SUMMER READING

Libraries that completed their challenge were entered into a drawing for Boston Bruins prizes. Below are the Prize Winners:

Grand Prizes

- **Zamboni Experience** – Lawrence Library, Pepperell
- **High Five Experience** – Southborough Public Library
- **Bench Experience** - Norton Public Library



Signed Pucks

Attleboro Public Library
Memorial Hall Library, Andover
Stoughton Public Library
Haverhill Public Library
Boxford Town Library
Fitchburg Public Library
Hazen Memorial Library, Shirley
Plumb Memorial Library, Rochester
Lakeville Public Library

Signed Jerseys

Holmes Public Library, Halifax
Leominster Public Library
Salisbury Public Library
Young Men's Library Association, Ware
Fiske Public Library, Wrentham
Sunderland Public Library
Middleborough Public Library
Harvard Public Library

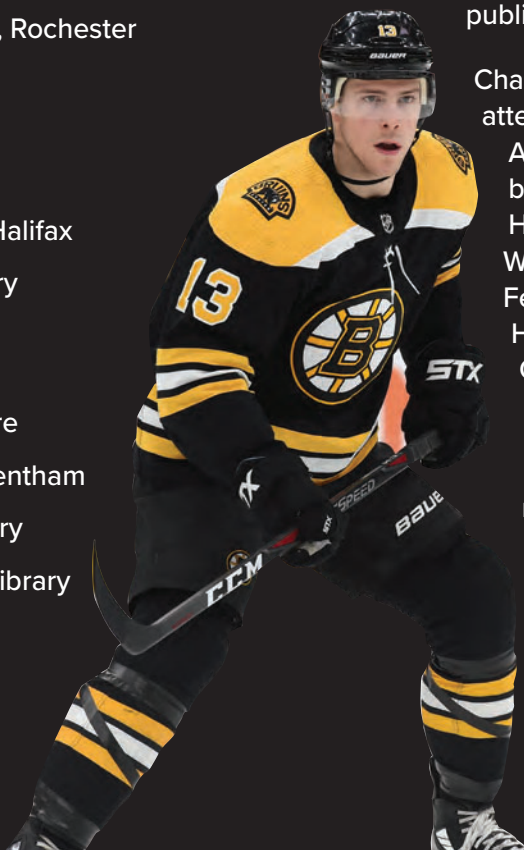
Bruins Player from Massachusetts is the Face of Summer Reading

Boston Bruins forward and East Weymouth resident **Charlie Coyle** was the featured player for the 2020 summer library program.

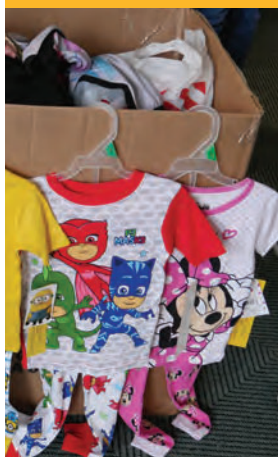
The MBLC has been working with the Boston Bruins to present the statewide summer library program since 2009. Since then, several Bruins players including captain Zdeno Charra, assistant captain Patrice Bergeron, and goalie Tuuka Rask have been featured on the annual READ poster available to residents through their local public libraries during the summer months.

Charlie Coyle grew up in Weymouth and attended Weymouth High School and Thayer Academy in Braintree for high school before playing hockey at Boston University. He began his NHL career with the Minnesota Wild before returning to Massachusetts in February 2019 to begin playing for the Bruins. He was an integral part of the 2019 Stanley Cup run and has continued playing well for the Bruins during this season.

The National Hockey League (NHL) resumed play in July 2020 after pausing play on March 12. This marked the first time that summer reading took place during the hockey season.



FIRST LADY LAUREN BAKER
CELEBRATES THE
**13th Annual
Boston Bruins
PJ Drive**



The First Lady of the Commonwealth Lauren Baker helped to kick off the 13th annual Boston Bruins Pajama drive at the East Forest Park Branch of Springfield City Library on February 21, 2020. She was joined by MBLC Commissioner Mary Kronholm for a special story time featuring Bruins mascot Blades.

The Boston Bruins PJ Drive benefits the Wonderfund of MA and Cradles to Crayons. Many of the pajamas donated go to local Department of Children and Families (DCF) offices, connected through the Wonderfund, to benefit babies, children, and teens. DCF estimates that at any given time the agency is working with 53,000 babies, children, and teens. Pajamas will also be given to the organization Cradles to Crayons which is a longtime partner with the Bruins and the PJ drive.

Bruins forward P.J. Axelsson and his wife, Siw, started the PJ drive during the Boston Bruins 2007-2008 season as a way to give to give back to their community. The couple collected 1,600 pairs of pajamas for Cradles to Crayons which connects with social service agencies to identify specific children in need. Last year, libraries from across the Commonwealth collected 13,022 new pairs of pajamas, a new record for the drive. In total, over 20,000 pairs of pajamas were collected by 251 groups, 136 of which were libraries.

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners works with the Boston Bruins to coordinate library participation in the drive. Libraries from around the state use the Massachusetts Library System's delivery service, typically used to send books and other library materials, to send their PJs to area collection locations which increases libraries' ability to participate in the drive.

Library Construction Breaks Ground with new Podcast

MBLCP

The construction team from Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioner's Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program has come up with a new way to connect with librarians and others interested in public library construction. The "Building Literacy: Public Library Construction" podcast explores all topics relevant to the entire construction process.

"Our Sustainability Summit had to be cancelled due to the pandemic but we still wanted to get the information out to our libraries, so we became quick learners and figured-out podcasting," said Andrea Bunker, Library Building Specialist at the MBLC. "We encourage anyone with even a thought of undertaking any building project of any scale to listen to these episodes, as sustainability goals must be identified early and remain a priority throughout the process."

In episode one, "Sustainability and Building Performance: An Interview with Building Evolution Corporation," Ms. Bunker spoke with Building Evolution Corporation's (BEC) Wesley Stanhope, BEC's Founder and CEO, and Ken Neuhauser, BEC's President, about practical steps to plan for and implement partial and whole-building projects that achieve energy goals while not compromising other aspects of building performance.

In episode two, "Designing for Sustainability: An Interview with Finegold Alexander Architects," the discussion focuses on how architects approach the integration of sustainable measures within the design process to reduce energy load and usage and how it impacts project budgets. Finegold Alexander Architects' Ellen Anselone, Rebecca Berry, Josephine Penta, and Beth Percy are interviewed.

Future episodes will include everything from advocacy and fundraising to what to expect a year after your new and improved public library opens.



MBLC Awards more than \$13 million for Library Construction

At its July 11, 2019 board meeting, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners awarded provisional construction grants to the Reuben Hoar Library in Littleton in the amount of \$5,844,747 and to the Sharon Public Library in the amount of \$7,485,943 through its Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP).

The Littleton project will build a new two-level building on a site directly adjacent to the current library/town hall and will feature a much larger children's area, larger meeting spaces, and more private study spaces. The new building will be more flexible and energy efficient, a major concern among many in the Littleton community. It will also be ADA compliant.

In Sharon, a new library will be built about a quarter mile from the current library and will include a teen room, media lab, business pods for work-at-home library patrons, improved telecommunications and HVAC systems, improved security and building access with full ADA compliance, larger community room and quiet study spaces.

The libraries were originally placed on the MPLCP waitlist during the July 13, 2017 board meeting when the first round of project grants was approved. Littleton has six months to secure the local match funding necessary to accept the grant. Sharon already secured its full funding through a 71% yes vote at town meeting on May 21, 2019.

The MBLC also approved Library Green Incentive awards for each project. Green Library Incentives help offset the cost of incorporating environmentally friendly and energy-efficient systems in library building projects. Projects that attain the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification will receive 2-3.5% of the grant award in additional state funds administered by the MBLC.

FY2020

CONSTRUCTION

Openings

Monterrey Public Library



Date: August 17, 2019

MBLC Grant: \$1,855,675

Architect: EDM Inc.

The one room, 1,809 square foot library built in 1931 was renovated and expanded to over 3,700 square feet. The project also removed the two additions that were added in 1975 and 1998 and converted the original library into a large multipurpose room that will serve this vibrant community in many ways. A light-filled addition in the back of the building and an attached porch give residents a view of the Konkapot River and waterfall. This new flexible space has areas for kids and teens and serves as a welcoming space for all Monterey residents.

Valente Branch, Cambridge Public Library



Date: October 26, 2019

MBLC Grant: \$3,879,407

Architect: William Rawn Associates

First constructed in 1961, the Valente Library is dedicated to the memory of Salvatore Valente, who was born and raised in the neighborhood, enlisted in the Army during World War II, and was killed in action during the war. The new building doubles the size of the branch from 5,000 sq. ft. to 10,000 sq. ft. It features a large community room that can be used for library events, and can be used by the public for other gatherings. The library will be open six days a week, and will pilot being open on Sundays, a first for the city.

East Forest Park Branch, Springfield Public Library



Date: December 19, 2019

MBLC Grant: \$4,906,115

Architect: Johnson Roberts Associates

Since 2000, the East Forest Park Branch had been housed in a refurbished video store. The new branch encompasses many of the needs residents expressed that they wanted to see in their new library. The new 17,000 square foot building boasts an expansive children's room with furnishings that can be easily moved to create flexible space for programming. Teens also have their own space that features computers and comfortable seating. Everyone in the community will enjoy the MakerSpace, an area for residents to try hands-on activities like using a sewing machine or a 3D printer. The new community room is accessible after hours for meetings and events.

Groundbreakings

Norwell Public Library



Date: August 21, 2019

MBLC Grant: \$6,360,764

Architect: Oudens Ello Architecture

The building project will completely remove the 1975 building and use the same site for the new library. The new building will include more space featuring a large community meeting room and smaller meeting rooms and study spaces, a local history room, a spacious children's room, a young adult room, and an outdoor garden and porches. The larger building will also include more parking, an issue at the current space.

Hadley Public Library



Date: October 6, 2019

MBLC Grant: \$3,905,625

Architect: Johnson Roberts Associates, Inc.

The brand new building will take the place of the original Goodwin Memorial Library which was built in 1902, and has been changed very little since. The construction is taking place on a site directly behind the current building, and the 1902 structure will not be taken down. The new design will replace the current three story building with an accessible one floor space that is double the size and features a large multipurpose meeting room, dedicated spaces for children and teens, and updated technology to meet the needs of Hadley's residents.

Medford Public Library



Date: October 29, 2019

MBLC Grant: \$12,290,917

Architect: Schwartz/Silver

The new library will replace the current building which was built in 1959 and will be demolished to accommodate the project. The space will increase to 45,000 sq. ft. across two levels and will help to accommodate a growing population in the city. The first floor will contain adult collections and seating, technology areas, and several group study rooms. All spaces will be accessible, and the building is planned to be net-zero, meaning it will produce more energy than it consumes, and carbon neutral, meaning no fossil fuels will be used and no carbon emissions will be produced.

Grafton Public Library



Date: November 6, 2019

MBLC Grant: \$7,435,041

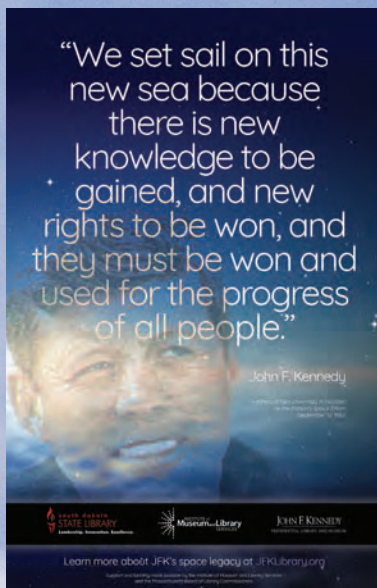
Architect: DRA Architects

The current Grafton Public Library building was built in 1927 and has been unable to meet the needs of the town's growing population. The historic building will be preserved and renovated and a new 22,597 sq. ft. addition will be added to the back. The new addition will feature a flexible meeting room, study rooms and tutoring spaces, a teen area, a youth services program room, a climate-controlled historical collections space, and a rooftop patio and gardens for outdoor reading and reflection. Director Beth Galloway says the project will turn the library from "an errand into a destination."



“We go into space because whatever mankind must undertake, free men must fully share... I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the earth.”

--President John F. Kennedy, “Special Message to the Congress on Urgent National Needs (205),” May 25, 1961.



The summer of 2019 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the Moon landing. To commemorate this historic occasion, libraries nationwide used a space theme for summer programming and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) teamed up with the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum (JFK Library) to create resources that highlight President Kennedy’s important role in leading the nation into space. Thanks to the generosity of the JFK Library Foundation and Raytheon Company, these resources which normally would only be available to Massachusetts libraries, were offered to libraries nationwide.



“The 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission provides an opportunity to learn more about President Kennedy’s bold and visionary leadership that inspired the nation to overcome the impossible and land on the Moon in 1969” said Alan Price, director of the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. “Through this partnership with the MBLC, people of all ages

across the country who visit their local libraries can discover more about President Kennedy's legacy, the lasting impact of Apollo 11 on science and technology, and the latest discoveries in space exploration today."

In total, twenty-two states and territories, including Alaska, Hawaii, and American Samoa, ordered posters that highlight President Kennedy's contributions to the United States space program and the Moon landing in 1969. Both posters include quotes from his famous "We Choose the Moon" speech delivered on September 12, 1962, at Rice University. In addition to the posters, a webpage of online and digital resources was created on the MBLC's public portal which included links to astronaut oral histories; an interactive recreation of the Moon landing called "We Choose the Moon;" a NASA kids page; and much more.

Since 2017, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) and the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum (JFK Library) have teamed up to provide resources to Massachusetts libraries as part of the statewide summer library program.



JOHN F. KENNEDY


PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

About the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum:

The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum is one of 14 presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration and is supported, in part, by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, a non-profit organization. Visit www.jfklibrary.org for the latest announcements and calendar of events.

About the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation:

The John F. Kennedy Library Foundation is a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization founded in 1984 to provide financial support, staffing, and creative resources for the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, a presidential library administered by the National Archives and Records Administration. The Kennedy Presidential Library and the Kennedy Library Foundation seek to promote, through educational and community programs, a greater appreciation and understanding of American politics, history, and culture, the process of governing and the importance of public service.

The image shows five stylized human figures made of paper cutouts, arranged in a circle and holding hands. The figures are colored in a gradient from light yellow to dark brown/black. They are standing on a reflective surface, and the background is a soft, out-of-focus light color.

**The Massachusetts
Board of Library Commissioners
stands with all
who condemn racism
and work for racial justice**

MBLC Commissioners released the following statement on racial justice:

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners stands with all who condemn racism and work for racial justice. We believe that Black Lives Matter.

Libraries are civic anchors, committed to access for all and strengthening bonds within and across communities. We stand firmly with all who battle the inequality, brutality, and failures of justice that have been laid upon Black Americans for centuries. We stand unequivocally for equity, justice, and opportunity. That said, libraries cannot stand solely on ideals. Libraries must find ways to encourage more diversity in our profession and recognize privilege in our everyday lives. We must listen to the communities that we serve and create opportunities for learning and action.

The United States of America can be the land of opportunity only when there is opportunity and justice for every member of society. We must speak out when there is injustice, but our words will mean little if they are not followed by action. The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners pledges to make racial and social justice integral and ongoing in our services and programs.

LSTA

Federal funds making a local difference

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC)
awarded **\$454,305** in 40 grants
to public, academic, and special libraries across
the Commonwealth under the
Federal Library Services and Technology Act
(LSTA) which is funded through the
Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Grants are open to libraries of all types that meet
the eligibility requirements.

Members of the MBLC's State Advisory Council on Libraries
review and evaluate grant applications
and make funding recommendations to the MBLC.


The complete list of grant recipients are on the pages that follow
along with highlights from some of the projects.

FY2021 Grants by Municipality

Institution Name	Grant Category	Amount Requested
Acton Memorial Library	Town-Wide Preservation	\$30,000
Steven Memorial Library	Serving Tweens and Teens	\$17,100
Cotuit Library	Dig In	\$8,975
Beverly Public Library	Health and Wellness	\$7,500
Billerica Public Library	Health and Wellness	\$7,500
Blackstone Public Library	IdeaLab	\$12,000
Porter Memorial Library	Protecting Priority Collections	\$5,088
Mass Eye and Ear, Howe Library	Protecting Priority Collections	\$5,698
Canton Public Library	Serving Tweens and Teens	\$20,000
Gleason Public Library	Access for All	\$14,235
Charlton Public Library	Mind in the Making	\$10,000
Chelmsford Public Library	Health and Wellness	\$7,500
Bigelow Free Public Library	At the Table	\$10,000
Griswold Memorial Library	Dig In	\$5,000
Eastham Public Library	Dig in	\$9,991
Ames Free Library	Go Local	\$10,000
Framingham State/Henry Whittemore Library	Civic Hub	\$7,500
Georgetown Peabody Library	Anytime STEM Learning	\$7,500
Sawyer Free Library	Pathways to Success	\$7,500
Kingston Public Library	Mind in the Making	\$10,000
Maynard Public Library	Open	\$5,000
Montague Public Libraries	Town-Wide Preservation	\$30,000
New Bedford Free Public Library - Wilks Branch	Health and Wellness	\$7,500
Norfolk Public Library	IdeaLab	\$15,000
Forbes Library	Go Local	\$15,000
Northborough Free Library	Health and Wellness	\$7,500
Morrill Memorial Library	Civic Hub	\$7,500

FY2021 Grants by Municipality

Institution Name	Grant Category	Amount Requested
Oak Bluffs Public Library	Go Local	\$15,000
Pembroke Public Library	Health and Wellness	\$7,500
Sharon Public Library	Open	\$9,100
Somerville Public Library	Citizenship Corners	\$13,305
Southborough Library	Dig In	\$10,000
Springfield City Library	Strength in Families	\$10,000
Sutton Free Public Library	Town-Wide Preservation	\$17,350
Swampscott Public Library	Town-Wide Preservation	\$26,500
Lucius Beebe Memorial Library	Civic Hub	\$7,500
Wayland Free Public Library	Mind in the Making	\$9,963
West Tisbury Free Public Library	At the Table	\$10,000
Whitman Public Library	Mind in the Making	\$10,000
Worcester Public Library	Mind in the Making	\$7,500
Total		\$454,305


 In Oak Bluffs, which is nationally recognized as a place of African American history and culture, the library will use the grant to create a Memory Lab and a Recording Lab so that the African American community can preserve local history as told through their own stories. The library will provide step-by-step instructions and skilled technical assistance, but the community members will control the process and content. Ultimately, the aim is that many of these preserved or newly created stories will be added to the library's local history collection, celebrated in library programming and featured in a new Oak Bluffs African American History exhibit.

Springfield City Library will use a Strength in Families grant to develop Family Literacy Advocates. Composed of parents, grandparents, and caregivers, Family Literacy Advocates will learn together to create a network of knowledgeable and skilled experts that provide advice and resources to other families. By learning together in a cohort model, these family members will be supports for one another when challenges arise. This learning will be delivered in a two-generation approach, with children engaging in the literacy and developmental practices while their caregivers are learning about those same topics, as well as strategies to engage with elected officials, policymakers and neighborhood councils. Empowered families will make a deep impact on their community to extend the reach of this project, making a ripple effect, exponential in its reach, through ongoing peer training.

continued

LSTA

● ● ● ● ● ● The Gloucester Lyceum & Sawyer Free Library is using a Pathways to Success grant to provide support for residents seeking to improve job skills. Gloucester is a strong seaside community struggling with its changing economy. Without the necessary skills, training, and support, year-round living wage employment is out of reach for Gloucester's marginalized populations. Through this grant, the library will become a platform for Gloucester to connect with opportunities, information and assistance in job seeking and work readiness. Gloucester residents living on the margins will benefit from the programs and resources borne out of the Library's collaboration with nonprofit and governmental organizations.

Several Cape libraries are using Dig In grants to improve and educate their communities.

The Cotuit Library in Barnstable will offer a series of workshops, lectures and presentations tied to a new stormwater bioretention garden that is being built adjacent to its parking lot.

The programming, for both children and adults, will help educate the public about the importance of reducing the amount of chemicals and bacteria in stormwater runoff in Cape Cod's Three Bays watershed by employing eco-friendly lawn care techniques and creating their own green infrastructures on their property.

The Eastham Public Library will add a pollinator's garden to provide a much needed home for local pollinators, as well as attract people outside to experience nature, explore it and learn from it. Working with community partners, Pollinators' Playground will offer both observational and hands-on educational opportunities.

Detailed signage throughout the garden will allow visitors to learn about the pollination process. Circulating science backpacks and educational materials will be available to support further exploration in the garden and beyond. The library will also offer a variety of informative programs for all ages.

LSTA is administered on the federal level by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and in the Commonwealth by the MBLC. IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation's approximately 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums. Their mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. IMLS' grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. ● ● ● ● ● ● **To learn more, visit www.ims.gov.**

In Memoriam



Commissioner Frank Murphy was appointed by Governor Deval Patrick in 2007 and served on the Commission until 2018 including a two-year term as Board Chair. As an MBLC Commissioner he served on the Resource Sharing Committee which made recommendations that led to the first statewide effort to share eBooks across the Commonwealth. This effort was one of the first of its kind in the nation. He was also on the State Aid Review Committee and helped develop changes that strengthen the State Aid program and encourage more communities to fully fund their public libraries. He was a forceful advocate for public libraries, often speaking at the state house and at legislative events about the importance of libraries and advocating for funding for the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program which resulted in a \$150 million bond bill for the program.



Commissioner Greg Shesko was appointed by Governor Deval Patrick in 2009. He served on the Commission until 2018 including a term as Board Chair. As a member of the MBLC Construction Team, Greg was a strong advocate for funding to support the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP). During his tenure as MBLC Chair, Everett, South Hadley, and Salisbury opened renovated and expanded libraries with assistance from the MPLCP and Eastham, Framingham, Scituate, Shrewsbury, and Reading broke ground on new construction projects. About the importance of the program, Shesko remarked, “These projects better the lives of every single resident now and in the future.”

Preservation Specialist Gregor Trinkaus-Randall

worked at the Board for over 30 years and became nationally and internationally recognized for his work in preservation and disaster preparedness. Among Gregor’s many MBLC projects was “Finding Common Ground: Collaborative Training for the Cultural Heritage and Emergency Response Communities,” which was funded through a prestigious \$196,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). This project built on the quarter century of the MBLC’s statewide preservation activities and the work of its partners--the statewide cultural heritage emergency network, COSTEP MA, the Massachusetts Archives, the New England Museum Association, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, and the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services—to ensure that the cultural heritage community is included in a municipality’s Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and that emergency responders play a formal role in the protection of local humanities collections.





Massachusetts LIBRARY SYSTEM

MLS began FY20 with a move to a new office in Marlborough. The new space provides a better workflow setup, a bigger training space, and plenty of workspace for visitors and staff.

In addition, MLS created a new strategic plan with consultant Stephanie Chase. Because of COVID-19, the planning process was virtual only, but had an emphasis on member participation.

As MLS began to receive questions about COVID-19, the Consulting and Training Services Team worked collaboratively with MBLC to create a guide providing resources about the virus and how libraries could begin to prepare for it. As new information became available, MLS staff worked to keep members informed. The Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Massachusetts Libraries Guide provided libraries with information on pandemic planning, workplace safety, what your library can do remotely, webinars, reopening, and more.

MLS members used their services more than ever. Many services and programs saw record highs in FY20.

Consulting and Training Highlights

- 973.25 consulting hours
- 142 events
- 6,341 workshop attendees

Summer Reading Highlights

- 295 participating libraries
- 21,667 programs
- 524,032 program participants

COVID-19 Response

- 94,592 more LibGuide views than FY19
- 73,000 page views on COVID-19 guide
- 15,661 more webinar views than FY19

eBooks

- 57.5% increase school participants from FY19
- 275,573 circulations for school collections (record high)
- 21,573 items in school collection
- 334 participating libraries (record high for schools)
- 711 support requests (record high)

Databases

- 6,100,000 full text articles viewed
- 495 support requests

Resource Sharing

- 14,247 ILL & DocDel requests processed
- 9,100,000 items delivered
- 3,506 items MassCat shared

Bibliotemps

- 62 temporary placements
- 2 temp-to-perm placements

Cooperative Purchasing

- 5,600,000 dollars saved

Agency Staff

Administrative Unit

James Lonergan
Director

Celeste Bruno
Communications Director

Matthew S. Perry
Outreach Coordinator

Rachel Masse
Assistant to the Director

Operations and Budget

Tracey Dimant
*Head of Operations and Budget/
Business Office*

Sharon Zitser
*Administrative Assistant /
Business Office*

Terry D'Angelo
*Administrative Assistant /
Business Office*

Susan Gibson
Accountant

Mary Ellen Osbourne
Contract Specialist

Data, Technology, Construction and State Aid Unit

Mary Rose Quinn
*Head of State Programs /
Government Liaison*

Liz Babbitt
State Aid Specialist

Ann Downey
Systems Analyst

Uechi Ng
*State Aid
Administrative Assistant /
State Aid*

Lauren Stara
Library Building Specialist

Andrea Bunker
Library Building Specialist

Paul Kissman
*Library Information
Systems Specialist*

Kate Butler
Electronic Services Specialist

Library Advisory and Development

Rob Favini
*Head of Library Advisory
and Development*

Amy Clayton
Administrative Coordinator

Shelley Quezada
Consultant to the Unserved

Evan Knight
Preservation Specialist

Maura Deedy
Library Advisory Specialist

Lyndsay Forbes
*Project Manager and
Grants Specialist*

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