



Massachusetts Libraries

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS



News from the MBLC

Fall 2016

Town of Shrewsbury Celebrates New Library

On September 21, 2016, Shrewsbury residents were joined by local and state officials at the grand opening of the newly renovated Shrewsbury Public Library. The \$23 million project was funded in part through a \$7.9 million grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners' (MBLC) Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program, and took two years to complete.

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Librarians to take MBTA's Greenbush route to attract patrons

Riders aboard the MBTA's Greenbush commuter rail can learn about the services and programs offered at libraries in Weymouth, Hingham, Cohasset and Scituate by reading "The Race Underground: Boston, New York, and the Incredible Rivalry that Built America's First Subway," by Doug Most, a Boston author. Weymouth Public Libraries Director Robert MacLean said patrons would be encouraged to read the book and participate in a group discussion while riding the commuter train when the project "All Aboard, Greenbush! One Train, One Book" in January. Note: This program is funded by a \$21,375 Innovative grant from the MBLC LSTA grant program.

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Reading Cuts Ribbon On New Library Building

It was standing room only at the grand opening of the brand new Reading Public Library as residents flocked to see the renovated building for the first time. After two years of being housed in a temporary space, the expanded library was a welcome sight for patrons young and old. The \$18.3 million project, funded in part through a \$5.1 million grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP), renovated the historic Highland School, home to the library since 1984.

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Reading library opens doors to magic on a Sunday afternoon

With the cutting of the bright red ribbon, the Reading Public Library officially re-opened at its newly renovated and expanded location. Acting Executive Director Amy Lannon welcomed everyone to “this beautiful, purposeful and essential part of our community,” and thanked the “amazing staff for their hard work and dedication throughout for this very long project.” She and everyone also gave “a special and heartfelt thank you” to Ruth Urell, the former director of the library, for her “vision, passion and perseverance that made it possible to get to this day.”

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Bruins Summer Reading Prizes Awarded

Just in time for the Boston Bruins first pre-season game, young readers across the Commonwealth received Bruins prizes based on their participation in the statewide summer reading programs at public libraries. Prizes include at-game experiences like riding the Zamboni, high-fiving the players as they take the ice, or getting to sit on the Bruins bench during pregame warm-ups. Team-signed Bruins jerseys and Bruins pucks signed by Bruins Captain Zdeno Chara were also awarded. "It's a great way to encourage kids to keep reading," said one librarian.

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Montague libraries to add STEM programs through grant

The Montague Public Libraries have received a \$7,500 grant, which will provide a year of STEM-related educational opportunities as well as allow for the purchase of technology based tools for students to learn from. The \$7,500 grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Service will provide for science educators to come and give presentations to the library. The Library has also partnered with local schools to help implement STEM-related programs and presentations. Note: Montague was awarded the \$7,500 “Science Is Everywhere” grant through the MBLC LSTA grant program.

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Shrewsbury Public Library Receives Federal Grant to Start “Memory Café”

The Shrewsbury Public Library has received a federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) to start a Memory Café. The 2-year grant funding of \$10,000 will help the library launch and run a Memory Café to serve the growing population of people with early-onset of Alzheimer’s disease and their care partners.

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Holding Tight To Its 'Philosophy,' Boston Public Library Re-Installs Rare, Restored Mural

After seven months of restoration, a rare mural was re-installed Tuesday night on a wall in the grand staircase at the Boston Public Library’s central library in Copley Square. A team of six maneuvered 160 pounds of canvas and framing from an upstairs workshop to the library's second floor.

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Deadline nears for student library design challenge in Weymouth

Suggestions for a new library design by Weymouth students include models made with Legos and Styrofoam paper. The displays are among an assortment of ideas offered by students in various grades in a library design challenge issued by Mayor Robert Hedlund.

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Scituate Historical Society to donate \$50K to library project

The Scituate Library Foundation has received a substantial donation toward the cost of building the new library with the Scituate Historical Society's pledge to contribute \$50,000 over the next year and half. "The society feels strongly that we all need to support education in our community, and those like-minded groups that are working tirelessly to also further this mission," said Thomas Hall, a member of the Scituate Library Foundation Board of Trustees. Note: This project is funded in part by a \$4,985,480 grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP).

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Town and library close to signing deal in public ceremony

The town of Wareham, Wareham Free Library, the Friends of the Free Library and the Wareham Free Library Foundation are a step closer to ensuring the library will regain its state certification. On Tuesday, Selectmen and library officials met to discuss an agreement that spells out how the different groups will work together. The agreement will officially be signed in the coming months during a ceremony. The agreement is still in its draft phase. No date has been set for the signing.

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The Bard unveiled, at the Boston Public Library

To walk through the Boston Public Library's "Shakespeare Unauthorized" exhibit is to delve behind the scenes into the Bard's creative process. In honor of the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death this year, this elaborately built environment looks like the set of a play. The walls are translucent. The lighting is dramatic. Its public debut was Friday.

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Inside the New York Public Library's Last, Secret Apartments

There used to be parties in the apartments on the top floors of New York City's branch libraries. On other nights, when the libraries were closed, the kids who lived there might sit reading alone among the books or roll around on the wooden library carts—if they weren't dusting the shelves or shoveling coal. Their hopscotch courts were on the roof. A cat might sneak down the stairs to investigate the library patrons.

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New York Public Library for the Performing Arts Acquires Its First Hip-Hop Archive

The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts houses the archives of dance titans like Merce Cunningham, Jerome Robbins and Mikhail Baryshnikov. Now it will also be a home to the history of hip-hop dance. The library has acquired the archive of Michael Holman, a hip-hop polymath who since the late 1970s has been a downtown dance impresario, filmmaker and journalist, as well as a musician and choreographer. This acquisition will become the library's first hip-hop collection.

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