

First Contact: Students & Primary Sources

Public, school, and academic libraries will work with educators to promote research and learning using primary sources (such as diaries, photographs, oral histories, correspondence). Materials will be made available for classroom use. Projects should include a visit to the owning institution to introduce students to special collections and their proper handling.

Anytime STEM Learning

Children who are introduced at an early age to a range of STEM activities may be the scientists and engineers of tomorrow. Libraries offer hands-on, inquiry based experiential learning and connect STEM to everyday life outside formal educational settings. Funds may be used for science programming, activity stations, STEAM kits, StoryWalk creation, robotics and coding clubs, field trips, and more. This grant provides opportunities to develop partnerships, inspire volunteer activities, spark intergenerational learning, and attract people who are traditionally underrepresented in science and engineering careers to participate and explore new directions.

IdeaLab: Rethinking Library Spaces to Create and Inspire

The goal of this grant is to help libraries implement, promote, and sustain an interactive creative space with an emphasis on programming, instruction, and hands-on learning. Limited funds are available for equipment and materials. Projects can be STEM or arts and media based and may include new digital media and/or traditional tools and techniques.

Access for All

The Board of Library Commissioners encourages libraries to consider their role as an information access point for all, including those members of the community who face special challenges due to disabilities. After conducting a community needs assessment using a document provided by MBLC, MBLC staff will work with libraries to identify the appropriate steps to integrate new accessible services and assistive technology into the library.

Pathways to Success

Libraries have always provided resources for career development and job information. As reported by the Pew Research Center, "Many believe libraries should be pathways to economic opportunity, especially when it comes to providing resources for business development, jobs search and enhancing workforce skills...52% of all Americans 16 and older say libraries should 'definitely' create programs for local businesses or entrepreneurs."

This grant provides funding for libraries to jump-start or expand this increasingly important role. Libraries will collaborate with local agencies, organizations, and businesses to initiate special focused programming and outreach activities and update resources.

LSTA NEW GRANT OFFERINGS

Civic Hub

- Libraries are:
- a trusted source for dependable print and media resources
 - a place to learn critical thinking skills (media literacy)
 - locally-focused to promote civic literacy and engagement
 - a neutral space to start and continue community conversations.

This grant provides funds for public programming, community-wide discussions, pop-up displays and exhibits on civic issues, staff training in facilitation techniques, and other structured opportunities for discussion and learning. Projects should demonstrate partnership with local, municipal, and/or civic organizations or institutions of higher education.

Go Local: Building Communities & Collections

Libraries have a key role to play in capturing, collecting, and making community stories available and meaningful. Libraries can be at the center of community celebrations and historic events and create valuable records of those events in traditional and new formats: from pamphlets and histories to podcasts, DVDs, oral histories, online exhibits, and more. Massachusetts libraries can draw on their strength in this unique niche by developing projects that use historical documents and artifacts to make new stories and/or generate new records by creating and participating in community events that build the local story.

For More information or to Apply:

To apply for these new grants or any of the LSTA grants please visit:
<https://mblc.state.ma.us/programs-and-support/lsta-grants/index.php>
Or contact Ruth Urell at 1-800- 952-7403 ext. 237 or email ruth.urell@state.ma.us.
Letters of Intent are Due by December 7, 2017