

# **TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON**

## **Meeting of the Trustees as a Corporation and Administrative Agency**

Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

Held via Zoom

### **DRAFT MINUTES**

A Meeting of the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston as a Corporation and Administrative Agency was held via Zoom, on Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

Present at the meeting: Gallery, Arana-Ortiz, Arenas, Asim, Bradlee, Douglas, Dorcena Forry, Hailer, and Tyler. Mr. Jeff Hawkins was absent due to a conflict.

Also attending: David Leonard, Pamela Carver, BPL Staff, and members of the public  
Mr. Gallery convened the meeting at 8:40 a.m. He welcomed those present and wished everyone well during these unprecedented times. He called for a roll call and determined there was a quorum.

His first order of business was the approval of the Annual Meeting Minutes of 5.26.20. With no comments or questions, the meeting minutes of 5.26.20 were approved by a roll call vote, which voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Mr. Leonard began the President's report with an introduction to the two newest managers, John Craven as the new Human Resources Manager and Angela Veizaga, the new Director of Strategic Partnerships. Each gave a brief introduction and were welcomed warmly by the Trustees.

Mr. Leonard gave some brief updates and statuses, recalling the BPL closed on March 16, 2020 and focused on becoming an online service provider. On June 22, 2020 the Library began opening services with BPL to Go. He gave a few high level statistics, which included over 40,000 new cardholders; there were 130,000 physical holds of materials and 110k physical pick-ups, and 1.9 million items were borrowed across all digital formats and platforms.

Mr. Leonard explained the new challenge going forward is to increase outreach to patrons who are unable to leave their homes or experience digital inequities. Programming remained strong with hosting nearly 800 programs since March. He explained their focus on core in-person services was in three areas: Printing to Go, BPL to Go, and Museum Passes to Go, along with computer use

Mr. Leonard explained they were focused on bridging the digital divide for those who do not have access to technology. Explaining some key initiatives they have done to achieve this. They boosted the external Wi-Fi at nine branch locations through the support of the BPL Fund. The expansion of the Hotspot lending program which has significantly reduced the current waitlist due to a funding commitment for seventy-five additional hotspots. They are also planning to expand the Chromebook lending program.

Mr. Leonard explained the civic engagement support efforts with other City departments to ensure everyone was counted for the census, offering upcoming elections support, and educational programming related to issues of the day. He highlighted our digital programming team had recently collaborated with Northeastern University in a pilot program.

Mr. Leonard continued that they had done some internal work on racial equity and systemic racism. The racial equity statement and action plan was now on the BPL website. There are some actions currently underway and asked that the Trustees formally vote to endorse the statement.

Mr. Leonard reviewed some key aspects with regards to hiring practices and collection development. He noted that Mayor Walsh signed two executive orders related to equity matters. The BPL has engaged with YW Boston as an external partner to do an organizational assessment and training related to this matter.

Mr. Leonard stated that in light of COVID-19 the BPL priorities were focused around youth engagement, workforce development, equity work, and capital improvements.

Mr. Leonard referenced the successful Tech Goes Home program, which has currently moved online. It offers technological support and education and provides participants with a Chromebook who complete the program.

Mr. Leonard reviewed some key updates on capital projects. Roxbury Branch construction was completed and staff was back in the building. They eagerly anticipated a late October/early November opening. Adams Street Library was still in construction and is on track to open for services in spring 2021. Hyde Park waterproofing project was in construction and on track to open for services in spring 2021. Roslindale was currently under construction and anticipated to reopen next summer. The Faneuil Branch was in design and hopeful construction would begin in January.

Michael Colford gave a brief overview of the homework assistance program and how it supports the Boston Public Schools. The BPL recently created a new position, a Youth Education Specialist. Her focus is on expanding the program and implementing it. He introduced Ms. Lina Raciukaitis and gave a brief history of the program and her background. The program started on September 21 with over fifty teen mentors and thirteen librarians who supervise it. The program encourages youth employment while supporting education tutoring and teen mentoring. It was designed to help students from kindergarten through eighth grade, no registration is required, and students are allowed to drop in as needed.

Ms. Arana-Ortiz thanked Michael Colford and his team for thinking outside- of- the- box during such a crucial time with remote learning and their outreach to help students. She also asked Mr. Leonard to give a little background on the racial initiatives and the work in collaboration with other City departments.

Mr. Leonard explained they will work closely with the newly appointed Chief of Equity for the City of Boston, Dr. Carolyn Crockett in collaboration with other city departments such as New Bostonians, Women's Advancement, Language Communications Access, Age Strong, etc. to provide a more structured way for outreach to help with our work in neighborhoods and communities. We should be taking "FREE TO ALL" and making it about the neediest and should be all; not just those who feel comfortable walking through our doors. Want to call out the first real statement we made was in light of the death of George Floyd to make a stronger statement. It gives clear statement and action. Wanted to thank more formal group of staff for their work, and thanked the two union executive boards who have committed to endorsing this work. Mr. Leonard it It will only work if we do it together. He congratulated Trustee Linda Dorcena Forry on her recent appointment to the Boston Racial Equity Fund.

Mr. Gallery made a motion that was duly made, seconded, and unanimously approved by a roll call of the Board.

**VOTED: "that, the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston vote to endorse and ratify the Boston Public Library Race and Equity Statement as presented on September 29, 2020."**

Mr. Leonard noted that Fine Forgiveness was extended to 12/3/20 with the approval of the City officials.

The new Art and Architecture brochure was reviewed by Mr. Leonard. It was formally available in black and white and was now a colorful piece of work that is truly worthy of the McKim Building. This was a big milestone on the Communications front and for the McKim Building's funding. This project was sponsored by Bank of America along with the BPL Fund. Mr. Leonard thanked Beth Prindle and Meg Weeks for their contributions to this project.

Michael Colford reviewed the 2020-2021 MBLC Action Plan. He explained that in order to be eligible for state grants they need to have an approved action plan on file. He created the Action Plan for the remainder of 2020 into 2021. With no questions, Mr. Gallery called for a motion, it was duly made, seconded and voted unanimously by a roll call of the Board.

**VOTED: “that, the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston approve to accept the Boston Public Library’s 2020 Action Plan for the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.”**

Next, Mr. Leonard called on Beth Prindle, Head of Special Collections and Caroline Driscoll, Legal Counsel to brief the Trustees on the John Adams Library. He noted that they will go into executive session but wanted to give a public report.

Caroline Driscoll explained that they received a letter from Mayor Koch of Quincy over the summer requesting the collection be returned to Quincy and wanted to give a history of the collections.

Beth Prindle gave a brief background on the collection that includes about 3,500 volumes owned by John Adams, the 2<sup>nd</sup> president, who lived 90 years (1735-1826). The collection includes volumes donated by the Adams family after his death. The subjects range from math, politics, travel, and military tactics. The collections also includes titles he collected while abroad in Europe and while in office at the White House.

She explained that this was not a formal presidential library, but instead a personal collection of books (Presidential Libraries collect the records and papers of an administration). John Adams entrusted it before his death to the Adams Temple and School Fund. Adams died in 1826, and the collections stayed in his home until his son died, when they were moved to the Adams Academy and later to the Thomas Crane Library. In the 1890s, the Temple and School Trustees approved for the Adams Library to be transferred to the BPL to better support scholarly research. It has remained at BPL for 125 years. The BPL has made many significant investments into the collection including online digitization efforts and a gallery exhibition, which welcomed 60,000 patrons while it ran.

Ms. Prindle explained the collections were available free of charge online and remained active to scholars to this day. Caroline Driscoll explained that this concluded the public report and would host executive session after the meeting adjourned.

That concluded the President's report and Ms. Arana-Ortiz was invited to give the report on the Finance and Audit Committee.

Ms. Arana-Ortiz began the Committee Report with a review of the FY20 Financial Statements. She thanked the BPL's financial team for their diligent work to ensure they were submitted on time and for the quality of their work despite working remotely at times. She asked Matt Hunt from CliftonLarsonAllen (“CLA”) to review the documents.

Mr. Hunt reported that it is CLA's policy not to include the auditor's opinion in the draft financial statement. It is expected that the rating will be "Unmodified," which is the highest available.

In describing the Financial Highlights of the report, Mr. Hunt pointed to the General Fund reporting balances in each categories: Restricted Fund (programs and general trust holdings); Unassigned and Assigned Funds (state aid, and enterprise funds) He noted some impacts negatively affected the fund, which reflected a 37% decrease in events revenue and fees and fines decreased \$250,000 due to the pandemic shutdown. The Fund for the BPL (previously known as the BPL Foundation) was in a transition last year. The Fund saw a major increase of \$840,000 from the previous year. Mr. Hunt reviewed the year-end balances overall of approximately \$72 million.

Overall, seen a drop of revenue in non-intergovernmental funds but the expenses report, administrative, equipment, and maintenance funds remained consistent. The largest changes seen were in books/materials increases due to the pandemic. Despite the decrease in investments, still ended the year with a positive of \$2.3 million.

There were no questions asked. Ms. Arana-Ortiz made a motion that was duly made, seconded, and,

**VOTED: "that, the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston approve the Boston Public Library's Draft Audited Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020."**

The vote was unanimously approved by a roll call of the Board.

Ms. Arana-Ortiz moved on to the Management Letter. She noted that one advantage of this contract is it offers the Library the flexibility to launch value added reviews at the recommendation of the finance team. This year they focused on the Print to Go program. The current system was introduced in 2014 but since then the vendor no longer supports this product. The BPL has put changes in place in regards to processes (such as logins, access, and collections) The technology piece will be addressed later in the CTO's strategic plan and replacements will be reviewed at a later date. Ms. Arana-Ortiz asked if there were any questions for which there were none. She made a motion that was duly made, seconded, and,

**VOTED: "that, the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston vote to accept the Draft Management Letter for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2019 from CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP, Certified Public Accountants."**

The vote was unanimously approved by a roll call of the Board.

Ms. Arana-Ortiz reviewed the first contract, which was for approval of the Johnson Building ceiling abatement project. It essentially will be removing the popcorn ceiling in the staff spaces. The vote is to delegate approval of the vendor to the Finance and Audit Committee since bids were due at the end of that week There were no questions. Ms. Arana-Ortiz made a motion that was duly made, seconded, and

**VOTED: "that, the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston vote to delegate approval of the Johnson Ceiling Abatement project in the estimated amount of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) but not to exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) to the Finance and Audit Committee."**

The second vote was for the extension for The Catered Affair ("TCA") contract for eighteen months. Ms. Arana-Ortiz explained that they essentially lost the last year of their contract due to COVID-19 closures. The BPL was in the process of trying to reschedule events that had to be canceled with the expectation of

TCA as the vendor. Ms. Arana-Ortiz explained that bidding the contract now would be difficult due to the COVID-19 restrictions and limitations. The Board discussed the contract and the benefits of having exclusive catering rights, penalty fees, and use of minority sub-contractors/vendors. After much discussion, the Board agreed on the urgency to vote to approve on the extension, but expressed the desire to look at multiple bids/caterers in the future and their agreement to our anti-racist agenda.

Mr. Gallery noted that based on experiences before the pandemic, including the Gala, he has only had positive experiences with TCA. He pointed out that this must be a painful period for them financially, so rolling this extension forward was only fair. They have been great partners to the BPL in the 5 years with us and the Trustees can take up the questions in the normal course of business.

Ms. Cronin noted she hoped some smaller community businesses could be offered the opportunity to host events to offer younger, diverse, and some cultural differences.

With no further questions or comments, a motion was duly made, seconded, and, voted unanimously through a roll call of the Board.

**VOTED: “that, the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston extend the Catering and McKim Restaurant Contract with The Catered Affair by a period of eighteen months to November 1, 2022.”**

Ms. Donaghey reviewed the Donors and Gifts Report. She explained the process for accepting donations. Ms. Donaghey pointed out one change made this year. In an effort to streamline acknowledgements, The Fund will deposit all donations received. Previously, the Library deposited some donations, others by the Fund. The Fund will forward them afterward to the finance office. As a result, the report reflected a larger balance from The Fund for the BPL and smaller individual donations. Ms. Donaghey highlighted the donations of the affiliates: She gave a special mention to the South End Friends, which gave a generous donation for the recent South End Capital project.

Mr. Leonard recognized in appreciation, all of the donors and organizations that this list represented. This included all donations made through the Fund, The Associates, the City-Wide Friends, as well as all of the Friends Groups from across the system. All of whom have done an amazing job to support the Library.

Ms. Arana-Ortiz asked if there was any New Business. Ms. Linda Dorcena Forry thanked the BPL team for their outstanding work. She gave a shout out for the initiative offering Wi-Fi hotspots around the exterior of some branches allowing many people access to the internet and complete the work they needed to do. She commended them on the homework help program to help Boston students not fall behind during the unprecedented times of a pandemic and remote learning. Ms. Forry also applauded the BPL for their leadership on the racial and equity statement, and providing action steps behind it. The Trustees congratulated Ms. Forry for her appointment to the Mayor’s Racial and Equity Fund Steering Committee.

Ms. Arana-Ortiz asked if there was any Public Comment.

David Vieira, of the City-Wide Friends pointed out four branches’ efforts to public commitment to support patrons during the pandemic. He felt there is a lot of grey money in the branches. He requested that President Leonard and the CFO sit down with the City-Wide Friends to work out some sort of special report to show how the branches are spending money raised by the Friends that was not being reflected on the Donor/Gift report. He acknowledged Marleen Nienhuis, longtime President of the South End Friends that recently stepped down. He thanked her for the years of dedicated service to the branch and the entire BPL system. He added that concluded his comments as a City-Wide Friends liaison. On a personal note,

he has attended the Finance and Audit committee, the Budget meeting with City Council held in May, and the Trustees meeting. He noted there was not a lot of concern for what he called the “elephant in the room”, which was a hole in the budget from both the city and state budgets. He expressed concern for the BPL’s lack of ability to keep it together while still reaching out to donors all while playing musical chairs on positions [in reference to the update of new manager in the Director of Strategic Partnerships and BPL Fund Executive Director positions]. He added he knew the answer would be that people left for personal reasons; but donors look for continuity.

Louisa Stephens, Executive Director of The Associates for the BPL wanted to highlight a new exciting fundraiser. The Associates were hoping to replace the lost revenue from the canceled Literary Lights annual event. They will be hosting an online auction in October. She reviewed some of the high-level items that are in the auction. She encouraged anyone to check it out at “[BIDITBOOKIT.org](http://BIDITBOOKIT.org)”. She explained this was a new initiative and was featured in a recent Boston Globe article.

David Leonard added to the comments from Mr. Vieira. He noted that the BPL would do a deeper dive in November on budget. They do not know the answers in regards to the budget just yet, and do not have the balances yet. The City has committed to support the library during this time and noted that we can hire critical positions only during the hiring freeze.

Paula Coar, a community resident that lives on Martin Luther King Boulevard wanted to call upon the renaming of the Roxbury Branch Library. She noted that the Library had a meeting and said the BPL would hear from the community before the name was changed. This was in writing that the community would have input. However, this was not done. Roxbury library was decided by people who do not live in the community and was not happy with the choice of it not being selected to be Nubian Library. She added she thought it is an excellent way for children of black and brown heritage, which is African heritage, to see Nubian exhibits and see themselves and content. Feel continuity of the area. Wanted to revisit the vote. This was what the community wanted and the community voted for Nubian Square and Nubian Square bus station. Wanted to know when they can have the opportunity to sit down to discuss this renaming.

Mr. Leonard responded that this was formal business of the Trustees and a vote was taken. He expressed his appreciation of the community members who are on both sides of this issue and referred it back to the Trustees.

Ms. Arana-Ortiz added that she disagreed with Ms. Coar’s statement of not living or working in that community. She explained she was the Chair of the Fellowes Athenaeum Committee since she began as a Trustee. She noted the Fellowes launches several programs and services to the community. She took the opinion of the Branch Friends Group, who are very devoted to the library. It was a very animated discussion; it was taken very seriously and will uphold the Trustees vote.

Jumaada Smith, a community member, would like to make an appeal to the Trustees. She felt there was a promise made that the Trustees would have an opportunity to hear people out before the vote would take place. The process was not fair. She was not sure if the Trustees were aware of this. She does not care if someone was brown or black but feels there are other valid points; she just had an issue with the process in which the vote was taken. They were told by way of a letter, that there would be a community process. There may have been an error or a glitch in the communication but felt the least the Trustees could do would be to hear people out because it is not fair to the community.

Ms. Forry wanted to clarify for the record. She thanked Ms. Smith for speaking during public comment. She wanted to clarify there was a robust conversation at the last Board meeting and several meetings in the community of Roxbury. Several groups spoke there were those who wanted Nubian and those that

did not want it to be Nubian. There was an argument for both sides. Both groups were represented and present during the deliberation.

Next, the Chair asked Ms. Driscoll, Legal Advisor for the BPL to explain the reasons for the request for an Executive Session. Ms. Driscoll explained the purpose for the Executive Session was to discuss the legal guardianship of the John Adams Library collection under Exemption number three of the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law. The clerk would take a vote by roll call to see if the Trustees agreed and noted that they would not be reconvening in public session after it concluded.

A motion was duly made, seconded, and was passed via a roll call that voted unanimously.

**VOTED: “that, the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston vote to enter into Executive Session.”**

Ms. Arana Ortiz adjourned the meeting at 10:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela Carver  
Clerk of the Board of Trustees

# **TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON**

## **CRITERIA TO BE CONSIDERED IN EVALUATING REQUESTS FOR NAMING OR RENAMING BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ROOMS BY THE TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON**

1. The person has made substantial financial, political, or cultural contributions to the community of the named Branch.
2. The recommendation of the Mayor of Boston.
3. A favorable vote of the Boston City Council.
4. The favorable recommendation of the Friends of the Branch.
5. The favorable recommendation of the President of the Boston Public Library.

*Adopted by the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston on March 25, 2003.*

### **Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston**

Robert Gallery, Chairman; Evelyn Arana-Ortiz, Vice Chair  
Zamawa Arenas, Ben Bradlee, Cheryl Cronin, Priscilla Douglas,  
John Hailer, Paul A. La Camera, Representative Byron Rushing

President, David Leonard  
Clerk of the Board, Pamela R. Carver





September 30, 2020

Dear Councilman Flynn,

I am writing on behalf of the Board of the Friends of the South End Library (FOSEL) to request the approval of the Boston City Council to honor Marleen Nienhuis, retiring founder of FOSEL, by naming the community room on the second floor of the Library, *The Marleen Nienhuis Community Room*.

We at FOSEL believe this would be a fitting way to acknowledge and thank Marleen for the significant contribution she has made to the Library and to the South End in general through her work at FOSEL and other neighborhood projects over the past two decades. The Board of FOSEL voted in favor of making this recommendation at a meeting held on September 29, 2020.

Marleen's commitment to the South End Library as a welcoming space, free to all, is evident by her activism, summarized below, that has inspired and educated so many.

### **The Formation of FOSEL**

In 2008, seeing the potential for the South End Library to be a more vibrant and relevant community resource, Marleen led the creation of FOSEL as a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization to support a renovation of the Library and the Library Park. This effort was interrupted for two years by a city-wide plan to consolidate and close library branches, and FOSEL directed its attention to advocating to save the library. Aspirations for a renovation were put on hold while FOSEL focused on creating programs that broadened and enhanced the South End Library's contribution to the community.

### **Programs/Events**

Under Marleen's leadership, FOSEL established a variety of successful programs including the popular author series, *The South End Writes* (initially held in the community room and now expanded and offered remotely); Local Focus Windows (featuring exhibits of interest from the local community); periodic Book Award highlights and displays; Easter egg hunts for community kids and their parents; jazz and blues summer concerts; children's performances; and various community requested events supported by FOSEL.

### **Library Park Renovation**

Once the threat of closure had been averted, Marleen and FOSEL turned their energies to changing and improving the relationship of the community to the Library, beginning with the Library Park. Marleen described this significant project as re-orienting the Park from a site of neglect and drug use to a welcoming and safe green space for the whole community to enjoy.

The initial goals were to clean up the Park, cut back overgrown shrubs, replant with donations from local nurseries (Urban Gardens, Mahoney's), keep the trash picked up, and organize interesting programming for children and adults. These goals have been more than accomplished with the complete redesign of the Park area including a central plaza with seating, an overhaul of the soil and new

perennial plantings (including a butterfly garden), and the installation of an automated irrigation system. Last fall, before the landscaping was completed, Marleen spearheaded the planting of thousands of spring bulbs which delighted the whole neighborhood during the spring blooming season. Marleen was personally involved in nearly every aspect of the planning and execution of these achievements, often putting in full time work weeks on a purely volunteer basis.

### **Library Refresh/Renovation**

In 2016/17, when the Walsh Administration demonstrated an interest in, and commitment to, renovating BPL's entire system, including branches like the South End Library, Marleen, along with FOSEL board member and architect Michelle Laboy, proposed a multi-phased plan to improve the interior of the Library with funding from a public/private partnership of the BPL and FOSEL. Under the first phase of the plan, the existing interior of the Library would be "refreshed" and updated, with the following phase to see a much bigger renovation/expansion of the entire building. The refresh was successfully completed in February 2020. Today the Library looks wonderfully cheerful, comfortable, and inviting, thanks in large part to Marleen's unwavering commitment to energize the community, advocate for a public/private partnership, and contribute funds of nearly \$44,000 raised by FOSEL from the community. Planning for the full renovation was to begin this year but has been delayed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The programming study is now slated for the 2020/2021 fiscal year.

### **Setting FOSEL up for success in the future**

Marleen's most recent accomplishment has been reorganizing and enlarging the FOSEL board by initiating a community campaign to engage new board members. Tirelessly, she visited other neighborhood organizations promoting the opportunity to serve the community through the Library and succeeded in expanding the board from seven to fourteen volunteer directors. FOSEL's expanded board comprises a talented, experienced group of people who are passionate about the South End, its Library, and what it can become for all of our community members. Marleen has also played a key role in establishing a large advisory board group, comprised of committed individuals with wide range of expertise, who volunteer their time and energy to specific FOSEL projects, programs, or events. As she steps down from her work with FOSEL, Marleen leaves the organization well situated to lead the neighborhood into the Library's next evolution.

### **Community Contribution**

Marleen's contributions to the South End community preceded her focus on the Library. She was a key leader in the successful renovation of Titus Sparrow Park, working for years to make it the beautiful, welcoming space that today is enjoyed by the South End's diverse population for a variety of activities from tennis to basketball to family picnics and summer concerts.

Throughout her many years in the community, wherever she saw room for improvement, Marleen has taken action and stalwartly worked to make the South End a better place. We hope the Boston City Council will vote in favor of honoring Marleen by naming the upstairs room at the South End Library, *The Marleen Nienhuis Community Room*. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Yvette Jarreau  
President



OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ED FLYNN, Janey, Baker, Flaherty,  
Mejia, Wu, Breadon, Bok, Arroyo, Edwards, Campbell and O'Malley

**CITY OF BOSTON  
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NAMING THE COMMUNITY  
ROOM IN THE SOUTH END LIBRARY  
"THE MARLEEN NIENHUIS COMMUNITY ROOM"**

- WHEREAS:** Marleen Nienhuis is a longtime South End resident, who led the creation of Friends of South End Library (FOSEL) as a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization to support a renovation of the South End Library and the Library Park in 2008; *and*
- WHEREAS:** With Marleen's leadership, FOSEL established a variety of popular programs in the South End Library, such as popular author series, *The South End Writes*, Easter egg hunts for the community, jazz and blues summer concerts, and much more; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Marleen and FOSEL worked hard to strengthen ties between the community and the South End Library and Library Park, transforming the Park into a community green space with a central plaza with seating, new perennial plantings, a butterfly garden, and an automated irrigation system; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Marleen was also instrumental in working with the city and the Boston Public Library in planning the refresh and full renovation of the South End Library, making the space into a comfortable and inviting place for the community; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Marleen has also been engaging new board members for FOSEL to further strengthen the organization, expanding the board from seven to fourteen volunteer directors. Marleen has also been critical in the establishment of large advisory board group who volunteer for specific FOSEL events and projects; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Even as Marleen has recently retired from her position at FOSEL, her tremendous contributions to not only the South End Library but also to the community at large deserve recognition, and naming the South End Library community room after Marleen Nienhuis; *and*

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

That the Boston City Council supports naming the community room at the South End Library "*The Marleen Nienhuis Community Room*" in honor of her work on the South End Library and Library Park.

**Filed on:** October 21, 2020

In City Council October 21, 2020. Adopted; yeas 13

Attest:

  
Maureen Feeney  
City Clerk



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
MARTIN J. WALSH

Dear Trustees of the Public Library,

On behalf of the City of Boston, I would like to offer my recommendation to rename the community room in the South End Library in honor of Marleen Nienhuis, the founder of the Friends of the South End Library (FOSEL). This dedication would be a great tribute to reflect the invaluable contributions that she has brought to the South End Library and the South End community as a whole.

As founder of the FOSEL, Marleen led significant efforts to renovate the South End Library by transforming it into a welcoming space for the community to enjoy. She also played an integral role in improving the Library Park, turning it into a vibrant green space through installing an irrigation system as well as planting shrubs, flowers and a butterfly garden to make the space more inviting for all.

Though Marleen has now retired, she has left a lasting impact on FOSEL and the South End community. With her leadership, she has left the South End Library in a position to continue to be a positive light in the South End community. Because of these reasons, and many more, I fully support the renaming of the community room in the South End Library as "The Marleen Nienhuis Room."

Sincerely,

Martin J. Walsh  
Mayor of Boston

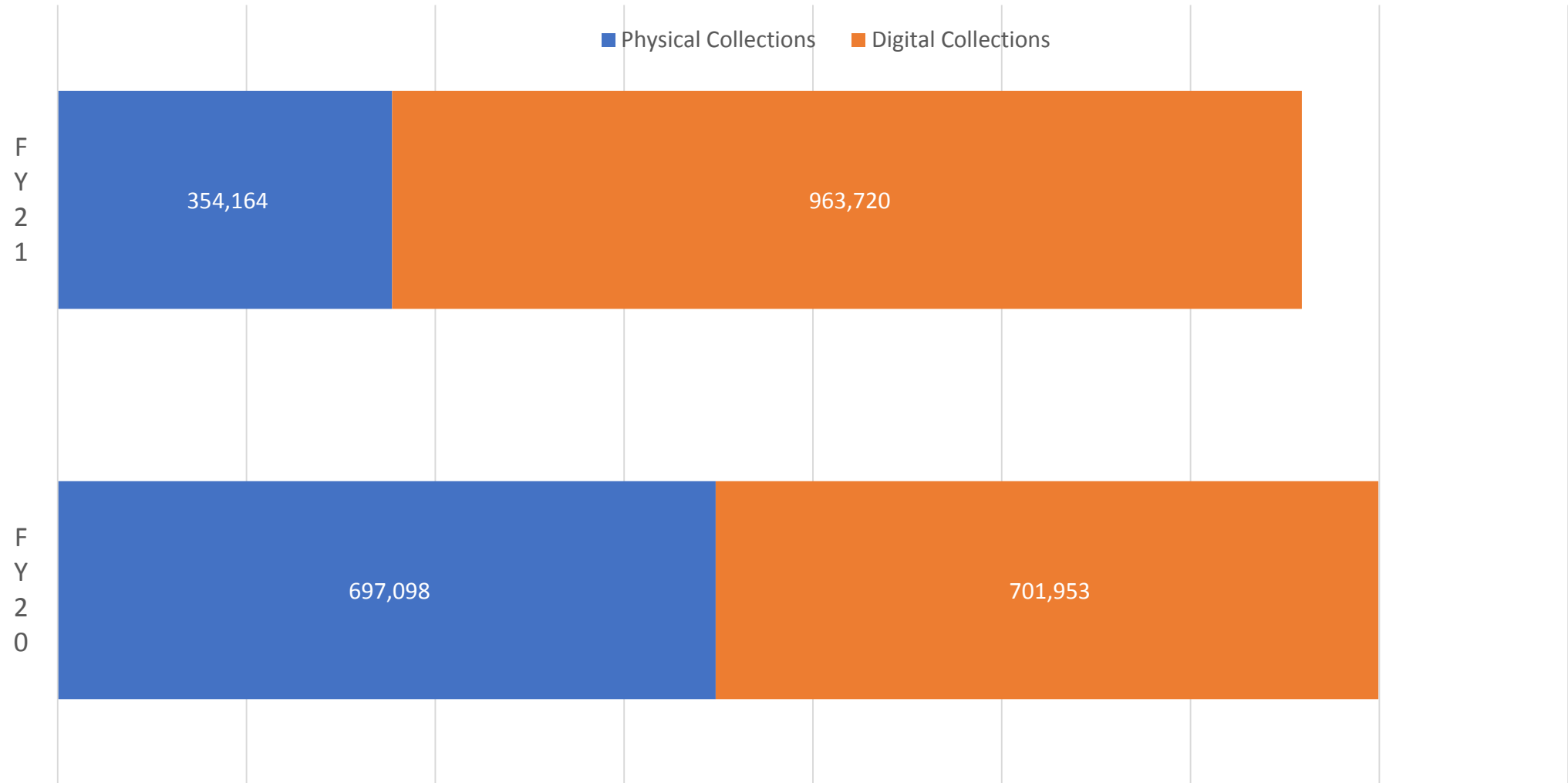
# Collection Usage



*Since March 16:*

- 57,677 new e-card registrations
- 162,203 physical items picked up
- 2.3 million items borrowed across all digital formats + platforms

# FIRST QUARTER CIRCULATION FY20-FY21



# New Online Products



*MakeMake* has 300 Spanish-language eBooks for children. The collection includes picture books, read-along books and interactive books. The interface and search are also in Spanish.



BookFlix is a literacy resource that pairs interactive, fictional video storybooks with related nonfiction eBooks for kids 3-9 years old.

**BOSTON  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY**



***FY21 Budget Update  
November 17, 2020***

# **BPL FY21 - Fiscal Update**



## Changes to City Budget

Initial FY21 Budget	41,632,909
<u>Final</u>	<u>41,386,509</u>
Reduction	246,400

### Current FY21 Status:

Payroll surplus estimated at \$500,000 (EOY)\*

Utility surplus estimated at \$700,000 (EOY)

Potential G4S Security Deficit – TBD

All other costs – closely monitored

*\* Beyond salary savings target*

## Major State Funding (FY21)

- *Library for the Commonwealth*
  - Governor's Revised budget submission – level funded at \$2,879,000
  - House Budget would increase to \$3,129,000
- *State Aid*
  - Governor's Revised budget submission – essentially level funded- \$10,000,092
  - House Budget – level funded at \$10,059,081
  - Based on past history, Library would receive approximately \$700,000

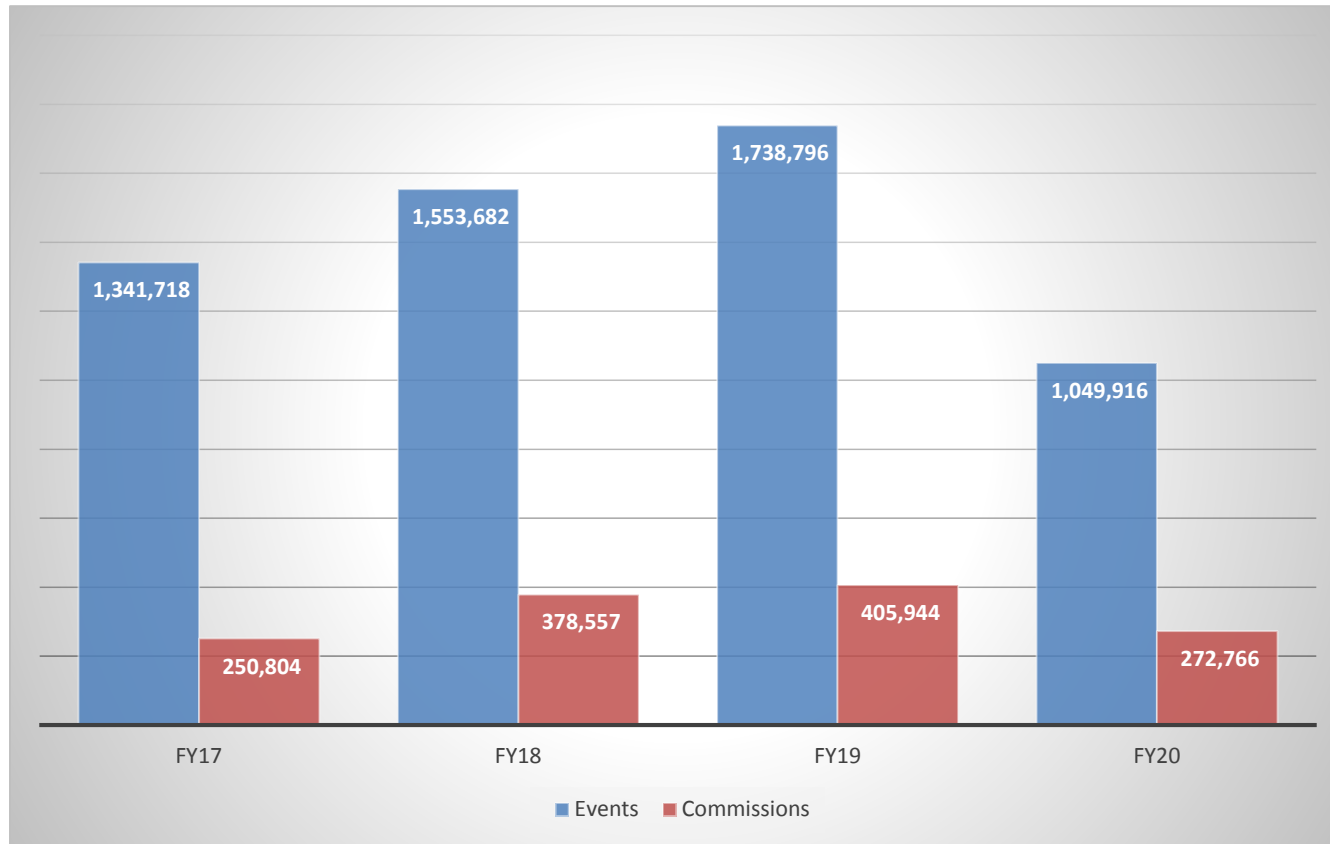
# Unrestricted Revenue - Definitions

- Funds all costs not included in city budget or through dedicated funding source, such as Affiliates.
- Unrestricted revenue includes
  - State Aid
  - Unrestricted Trusts
  - Restaurant Leases
  - Special Event Revenue

# Unrestricted Revenue

- State Aid and Unrestricted Trusts funding are stable for FY21
- Revenue associated with leases and special events has been significantly impacted by COVID restrictions

## Special Event Revenue – FY17 to FY20



- Special Event Revenue Averaged \$1.9m FY17-FY19
- Through Three Quarters of FY20, \$1.3m
- Approximately Half of Special Events Revenue is Spent on Events Related Costs

# Historical Expenditures for Unrestricted Revenue

- Examples include:
  - Additional Collections Costs
  - Facilities and Fleet Costs
  - Certain Building Repair costs
  - Employee Travel and Training
  - Opening Day Costs
  - Special Critical Projects e.g. Mural Restoration

# Operating Costs

- From FY18-20, we had an average of \$1.3m in these costs
- Year to date FY21 costs are under \$400,000
- To continue to fund these costs without special event revenue, the Library has the following resources:
  - Previous year surplus of \$660,000
  - Unrestricted Reserve of \$900,000
  - Salary Reserve of \$460,000



**Boston  
Public  
Library  
Fund**



# Boston Public Library Fund

Chapter 2!

# Contents

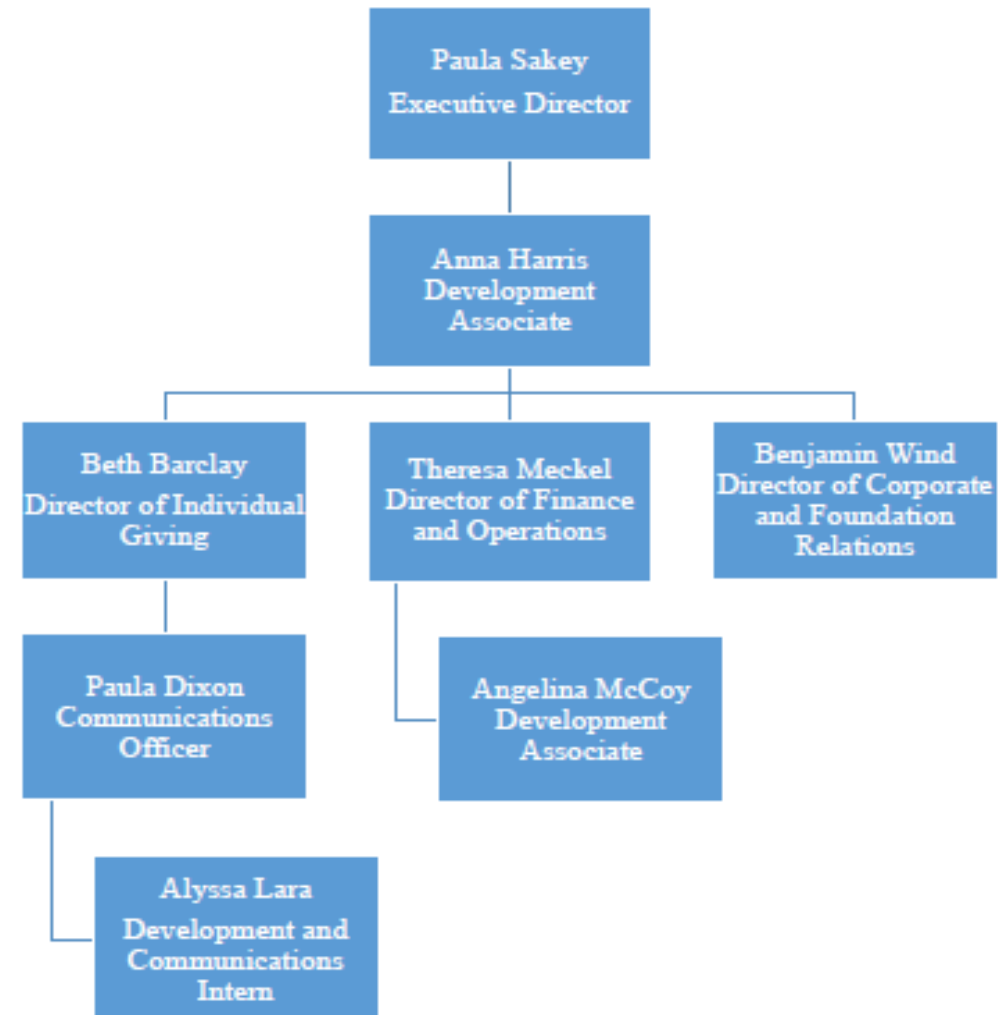
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- Infrastructure
- Inform and Involve
- Inspire
- Investment



# Infrastructure

Boston Public Library Fund team November 2020



# Inform & Involve

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## Programmatic Accomplishments

- Launched broad based, multi-channel **annual giving**, donor acquisition program.
- Developed a leadership annual giving program -**Patrons of the Courtyard**.
- Honing in on operations, finances, policies, procedures and data.
- Growing, expanding and professionalizing BPLF communications.
- Establishing a **planned giving program** and marketing gift vehicles.
- Created **1848 Society** to recognize donors who include BPLF/BPL in their estate plans.
- Establishing a **major gift** pipeline.
- Building a responsive **corporate and foundation** giving program.
- Strategic **BPLF Board** growth.

# Inspire and Invest

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Priority Restricted Focus areas: Youth, Workforce, Equity - \$1.1 Million Goal – 33% there! Some successes:

- Anonymous Foundation \$75,000
- Mabel Louise Riley Foundation \$75,000
- Eric & Jane Nord Family Fund \$100,000
- PDB Foundation \$20,000
- American Tower \$21,000
- Highland Street Foundation \$30,000
- Henry & Michelle Nasella \$50,000

# Inspire and Invest – Partnering & Collaboration

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Start-Up Mode! Moving away from capacity building support to sustainability – How BPL Board of Trustees can help

- Board of Trustees
- Leventhal Map & Education Center
- Associates of the Boston Public Library
- Citywide Friends
- Branch Friends Groups

“Making Connections – spread the word”

# Contact

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***“I think the health of our civilization,  
the depth of our awareness about  
the underpinnings of our culture and  
our concern for the future can all be  
tested by how well we support  
our libraries.”***

**Carl Sagan**