

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

Meeting of the Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee

Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.

Held via Zoom

DRAFT MINUTES

A meeting of the Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Present at the meeting were: Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee Chair and Trustee Evelyn Arana-Ortiz, Committee Members: Trustee Rep. Chynah Tyler, Che Madyun and Sara-Ann Shas, Friends of the Roxbury Branch Library, Priscilla Foley, Director of Neighborhood Services/Branches, and Allen Knight, Roxbury Branch Librarian. Also attending were: Diana Preusser, Assistant Neighborhood Services/Branches Manager, Candelaria Silva-Collins, Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Project Manager and Pamela Carver, Clerk of the Board. There were also members of the public present.

Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee (“Committee”) Chair Evelyn Arana- Ortiz presided and called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. She thanked everyone for coming and read the Trustees reaffirmation statement. Roll call was taken with all members present and determined there was a quorum. The Clerk noted the meeting was being recorded

First item on agenda was approval of meeting minutes from June 15, 2021. They were approved via a roll call vote.

Ms. Foley was invited to give updates on the Roxbury Branch. She thanked the staff for all their hard work. She noted that they were still unable to offer in person programming and were still operating with limited hours. She was thrilled to see the community come back. The branch celebration with Mayor Janey was a huge success.

Ms. Candelaria Silva-Collins gave her Program Manager’s report on the completed programs. Faith Johnson’s “Creativity with Meditation” had concluded, as well as the piano classes. They were currently working with Arts Emerson who had approximately 15-20 attendees. There was an upcoming Makanda concert on November 13 with Avery Sharpe; who would be hosting two concerts. Bonita Jones’ “Meditation and Mindfulness” had just began.

Ms. Silva-Collins reviewed the upcoming programs. Movers and Shakers who provide movement with crafts was coming in February. Haley House’s “Take Back the Kitchen” would be hosting their cooking classes in January, February, March, and April for families. They will also offer classes in those months for seniors. The African American History Teach-In Series would be starting in December with Kwanzaa, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and Juneteenth. Coding classes would be starting on Wednesdays. The Makanda Project would determine their other concert date in April. The second session of piano lessons was anticipated to begin in the spring but would be confirmed after the meeting.

Ms. Silva-Collins expressed her concerns for having successful programs during the week with the BPL’s current operating hours. Families were not available until after work and/or on the weekends.

She also noted there were some issues with offering virtual programming only due to limited access to computers and/or WIFI.

The Committee reviewed their priorities first to determine if offering virtual or in-person would be better suited. Ms. Foley noted that she didn't have any updates on when they would be able to offer more access at that time, she would keep the Committee updated as much as possible.

Ms. Silva-Collins reviewed the activities requested of the RFPs. She noted there was a strong request for Teens, She listed out the requests from the Branch staff, FATC committee members, and members of the Friends. She noted that children and teens could likely attend after school if space allowed.

The Committee discussed some ideas for youth or teen programs where they noticed they had the most gaps in programming already funded. There was an increase of teens coming to do homework after school which could potentially be a great target time. Mr. Knight noted that Homework Assistance Programming typically ends around 5:30pm. They suggested offering more technology focused programs like Minecraft or the use of 3d printers but noted they were limited to only one evening which impacted what they could capture for programming.

Ms. Silva-Collins noted that educational and cultural programming were invited, and a special interest in finding some financial literacy programs (example: banking, repairing credit, saving, budgeting, and investing).

She continued that they were looking for services for those formerly incarcerated (clearing and sealing incarceration records-CORI). Also, career building programs (including resume writing, interviews, and job search skills). She provided assistance for the instructions on how to apply for grants and fellowships.

Ms. Silva-Collins noted that she had put out the request for proposals to serve those areas, but welcomed any assistance in finding applicants from the Committee.

The Committee discussed the current reality of the library during COVID. They asked a few questions regarding the RFP process and timeline which was itemized in the materials provided. Any new programs would not be begin before the end of February and end contracts by June 17th, before the end of the fiscal year.

The next Committee meeting was scheduled for February 11, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the request for proposals.

Next, Ms. Arana Ortiz moved to New Business and the Program Manager's contact. Ms. Foley explained that they would be approving January 2021-June 2022 in the amount of \$63, 550.

Ms. Arana Ortiz called for a motion that was duly made, seconded, and voted to approve via a roll call.

VOTED: "that, the Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee of the Public Library of the City of Boston vote to approve the Program Manager contract of Candelaria Silva-Collins of Dorchester, MA in the amount of Sixty Three Thousand Five Hundred Fifty

Dollars and Zero Cents (\$63,550) for January 2021-June 2022.”

Ms. Arana-Ortiz reviewed the current balance for the fund’s annual distribution which was \$196,267.78. She noted the Fund was doing very well under the guidance of the Finance and Audit Committee.

Ms. Arana-Ortiz asked for Public Comment.

Elizabeth Nagarajah, President of the Friends of the Roxbury Library liked the focus of the RFPs and the targeted audiences. She was also glad to see the approval of Ms. Silva Collin’s contract and recognized her work for the branch.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pamela R. Carver". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Pamela R. Carver

Report to FATF Advisory Committee – February 11, 2022
Candelaria Silva-Collins

The COVID restrictions, frigid weather and snow have impacted attendance for winter programming.

Selected Activities – November 2021-February 10, 2022

COMPLETED

Bonita Jones - Meditation & Mindfulness: Many Forms, Many benefits (virtual)

Dates: November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

I observed classes on 11/8 (8 attendees), 11/15 (5 attendees), and 11/29 (9 attendees)

Makanda Project Concert featuring bassist Avery Sharpe

Date: November 18th – 2 shows (7:00pm & 8:30 pm)

I helped staff FORL table with book sale. About 65 people attended first show; slightly less attended 2nd show)

ArtsEmerson Play Reading Book Club: Iphigenia

Dates: October 25, November 1, 8, 15 – 5:30- 7:30 (November 13, 8:00-m for show)

I observed on November 1 (15 people attended)

Kwanzaa Teach-In

Date: December 20 5:30-7:30 (8 attendees)

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Teaching in

Date: January 10 5:30-7:30 (Six people in person. It was also held live on Facebook and had 25 viewers)

CURRENT

ArtsEmerson – Play Reading Book Club – *Dreaming Zenzile*

Dates: January 31 – 2/28 (A final session with partial presentation will be determined) – 14 people attended 1st session, 17 second session

Project Fellowes Coding Classes (teens)

Dates: February 3-March

Observed 1st class – 3 students attended (6 pre-registered), 2 students attended on 2nd session (the icy Friday)

UPCOMING (Spring)

Iris Ferreira – Movers and Makers - Movement, crafts, and storytelling for families.

Dates: February 23, 24, April 20, 22 (1:00-4:00pm) (Two additional dates TBD)

Haley House – Take Back the Kitchen Classes

Dates: February 14, March 14, April 11 – 5:30-7:30 (Families)

Dates: January 31, February 28, March 28, April 25 – 11:00-12:30 (Seniors)

Makanda Project Concert

Date – March 12 – 7:00pm

African-American History Teach Ins

Juneteenth

Dates: June 11

To Be Scheduled:

Piano Classes for children (Carlos Vargas)

ArtsEmerson Play Reading Book Clubs

Dates (If Library open on Saturdays)

- *Burgerz* (April 2-April 23)
- *Sea Sick* (April 30-May 21)

Collage Workshop (for families with Jacqueline Johnson) – Will happen in March or April

Genealogy Bootcamp

Date: Originally scheduled for (Sat.) February 12. Grantee will reschedule when Roxbury Branch is open on Saturdays

CHART OF PROPOSALS

Special FATF RFP – January 15, 2022

Candelaria Silva-Collins

Contact Name	Organization	Project	Target Audience	Amount	Dates	Previous Funding	Tech. Assistance	NOI	Notes	Page #
Rob Brose	Chess Wizards	Chess classes	Youth PK-8 th grade	\$2870	Once/week for 5--15	No	Yes & No	Yes	An interested parents was referred by Philecia Harris, former children's librarian at Roxbury branch. The parent then let the Chess Wizards know about the grant. They applied.	3-26
Danielle Williams	Prophetic Resistance Boston	CORI info	Teens-Adult	\$3000	Summer 2022	No	No	Yes	Organization is affiliate of Massachusetts Communities Action Network	27-33
Joel Mackall	Reidren Group	Your Next Skills – Personal & Technical	17-22 youth released from DYS	\$2,978	April or May – 4 sessions	Yes	Yes	Yes	Joel has been funded for various classes successfully including Tracing Our Roots, Smart Phones, and Business classes.	34-45
Ayana Bean	Individual	Fundamentals of Financial Aid	High school seniors, parents of	\$1500		No	No	No	Had Zoom meeting with her and shared PowerPoint	46-55

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Special FATF RFP – January 15, 2022

Candelaria Silva-Collins

			HS students, & adults applying to college						from Tech Assistance Session	
Rev. Dr. Sandy Range	The Intentional Self	Helping women to understand what prevents them from living an abundant life.	Women 18-70	\$2470	If virtual – Tues. evenings In person – Saturday mornings	No	No	No	Surprise application rec'd 1/14. Is proposing that library purchase 15 copies of her book.	56-69

Please note that a proposal was received “Girls in Real Life Sanctuary” at 9:24 pm on 1/14 that didn’t follow the application at all. I wrote the writer and explained this to her and told her that I would add her to the list of receive the spring RFP.