

FREE-TO-ALL

BPL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO SIGN UP
FOR PUBLIC COMMENT VIA THE CHAT TAB BY 4:30 P.M.

PLEASE INCLUDE "YOUR NAME" AND "PUBLIC COMMENT"

Linda Dorcena Forry, Committee Chair

3.15.23

BPL OPENING STATEMENT

The Trustees of The Boston Public Library reaffirm our commitment to racial equity and to principles of diversity equity and inclusion, more broadly.

The Library is formally committed to becoming an anti-racist organization in response to systemic racism, inequity, and injustice prevalent in our society.

We acknowledge also that the Boston Public Library's Central Library stands on land that was once a water-based ecosystem providing sustenance for the indigenous Massachusetts people *and is a place which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange among nations*. We are committed to land acknowledgements for all locations at which we operate.

We reaffirm this commitment to set the context for our planning, deliberations, and public engagement so that they take place from the spirit of welcome and respect, found in our motto 'free to all.'

Taken from the Institutional Statement Ratified by the Board of Trustees for the Boston Public Library on September 29, 2020.

CALL TO ORDER

Linda Dorcena Forry, Committee Chair

- Welcome remarks
- Roll call of Committee members
- Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 11, 2023



Summer Youth Activities Overview

Michael Colford, Director of Library Services

All Together Now!

Is our theme for summer activities for youth this year.

The Boston Public Library has joined 21 other urban libraries to participate in the Urban Libraries Council's ***Building Equity: Amplify Summer Learning*** initiative.

Summer Youth Activities (continued)

1. STEAM Programming to promote Summer Learning. Each branch will be selecting from two block programs and presenting two of their own programs related to STEAM.
2. Systemwide **All Together Now** Bingo – to engage families around reading and learning throughout the summer along with our early literacy story times
3. Read Your Way to Fenway



Partnerships at the Boston Public Library

Types of Partnerships

- **Program Partner**

- An organization that focuses on providing educational, artistic, and informational programs for our patrons.

- **Service Partner**

- An organization that focuses on providing a specific skill or aid for patrons.

- **Fundraising Partner**

- An organization focused on fundraising for the Boston Public Library.

How are these partnerships cultivated?

- **Director of Strategic Partnerships**

- Connect with the organizations' leadership to provide information about the library's programming needs and to find scope of partnership. Then, work with the Director of Library Services to find the capacity to work with a new partner.

- **Director of Library Services**

- Works with his staff of programs librarians and service providers to cultivate the programming and patron needs.

- **Programs Librarians at Central**

- Work closely with the organization's staff to coordinate programs or services that will take place at Central.

- **Branch Librarians**

- Also, form local relationships within their neighborhoods or receive programs and services from systemwide programs librarians.

Partners at the Boston Public Library

- **Affiliates**

- Boston Public Library Fund
- The Leventhal Map & Education Center
- The Associates of the Boston Public Library
- The City-Wide Friends of the Boston Public Library

- **State Library Associations**

- Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners as the Library for the Commonwealth
- Massachusetts Library System
- Massachusetts Library Association

- **Library Associations**

- American Library Association (ALA)
- Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC)
- Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA)
- Public Library Association (PLA)
- Urban Library Council (ULC)
- Association of Research Libraries (ARL)

Partners at the Boston Public Library

- **City of Boston Departments**

- Boston Housing Authority
- Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics
- Mayor's Office of Immigrant Advancement
- Boston Center for Youth and Families
- Mayor's Office of Workforce Development

- **Arts & Culture**

- American Repertory Theater
- Company One
- Lyric Stage
- Boston Book Festival
- Grub Street
- Boston on Broadway
- Boston Lyric Opera
- Museum of Fine Arts
- The Boston Globe

Partners at the Boston Public Library

• **Education**

- Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology
- Museum of Science
- Boston Public Schools
- New England Aquarium
- Simmons College
- Northeastern University
- Elliot School of Fine & Applied Arts

• **Civic & Human Services**

- Children's Advocacy Center
- Jewish Vocational Service
- Tech Goes Home
- More than Words
- The Dimock Center
- Bridge over Troubled Waters
- Massachusetts Trial Courts
- Pine Street Inn

How do we keep up?

- LibCRM
 - Through SpringShare, we use a LibApp called LibConnect or LibCRM. There are currently 134 organizations listed on the site, but not all staff have started adding their connections. There will be more.
- Internal list of partnerships
 - I created a list of partnerships I share with David to follow where we are with partnerships and to understand the gaps of services we might be missing.
- Being realistic about limitations
 - Once COVID vaccines became accessible, more organizations felt comfortable using the library, and we have had an onset of organizations that want to work with the library.
 - We must be realistic about our limitations regarding staff time and what we can support.

Linda Dorcena Forry
Committee Chair

**BOSTON
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**



New Business

Linda Dorcena Forry

Committee Chair

**BOSTON
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Public Comment

- If follow up is required, please send your contact email or phone number to the Clerk of the Board at pcarver@bpl.org
- People will be chosen in the order they were received and allowed 2 minutes to speak.
- The Moderator will unmute your mic when you are called on.
- Comments made in chat during meeting will not be acknowledged.

Linda Dorcena Forry

Committee Chair

**BOSTON
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Adjournment

*Future meetings will be posted to the BPL website/Trustees page