



BPL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE

Ben Bradlee Jr, Committee Chair

11.29.22

Members of the Public may sign up for Public Comment via the CHAT by 9:00 a.m.
Comments left in the chat will not be acknowledged. written comments may be submitted to the Clerk of the Board, pcarver@bpl.org

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.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE

Ben Bradlee Jr, Committee Chair

- Welcome Remarks
- Roll Call of Committee Members
- Approval of Meeting Minutes from 4.13.22

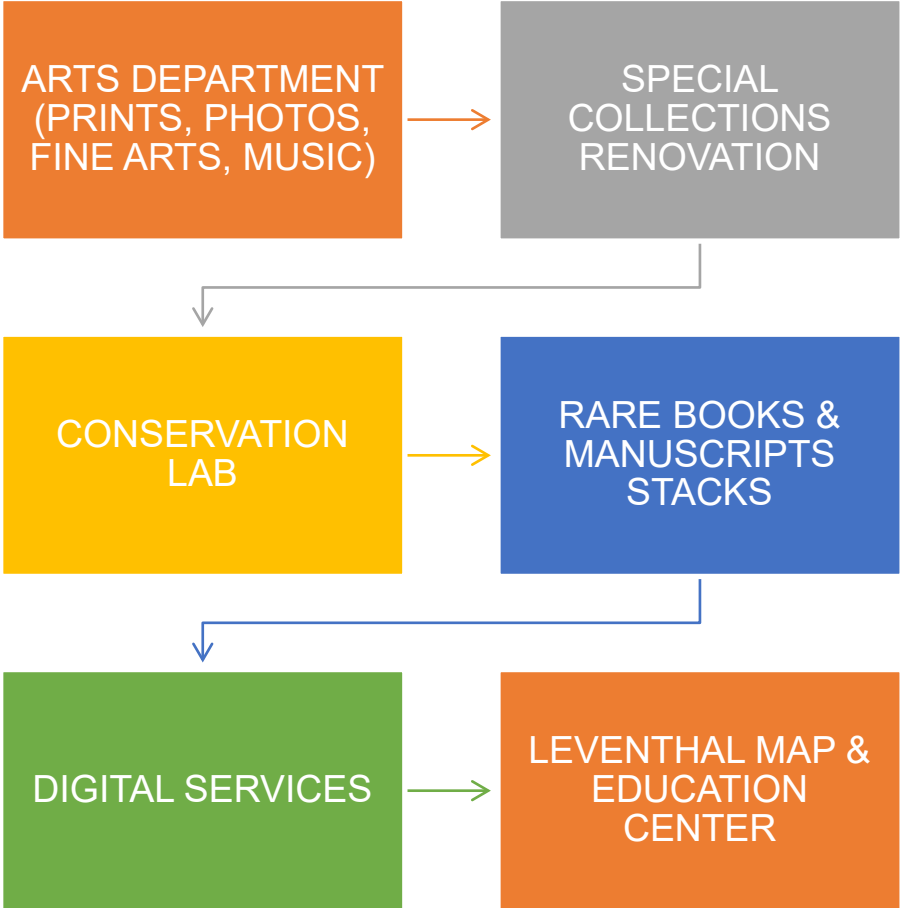


Special Collections Committee

David Leonard, *President*
Beth Prindle, *Head of Special Collections*

November 29, 2022

Pre-Meeting Tour of Special Collections Spaces 8:30-9:30AM



BPL collections

Over 21 million items*

Circulating – 1,883,630 items

*Central & branch libraries
downloadable & streaming media*

Research – 16,300,000 items

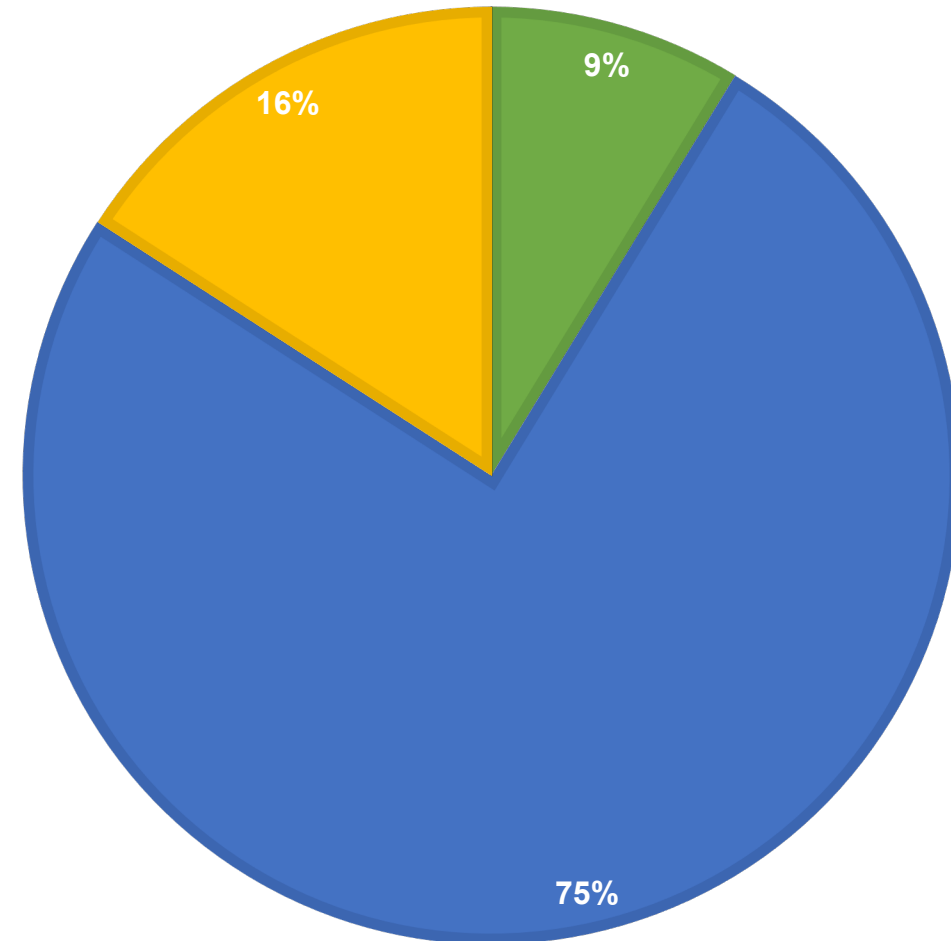
*books & periodicals
newspapers
microforms
government documents*

Special – 3,435,000 items

*Rare Books & Manuscripts
Archives
Maps & Atlases
Architectural Drawings
Prints, Drawings, Watercolors
Photographs*

BPL COLLECTIONS

■ Circulating ■ Research ■ Special

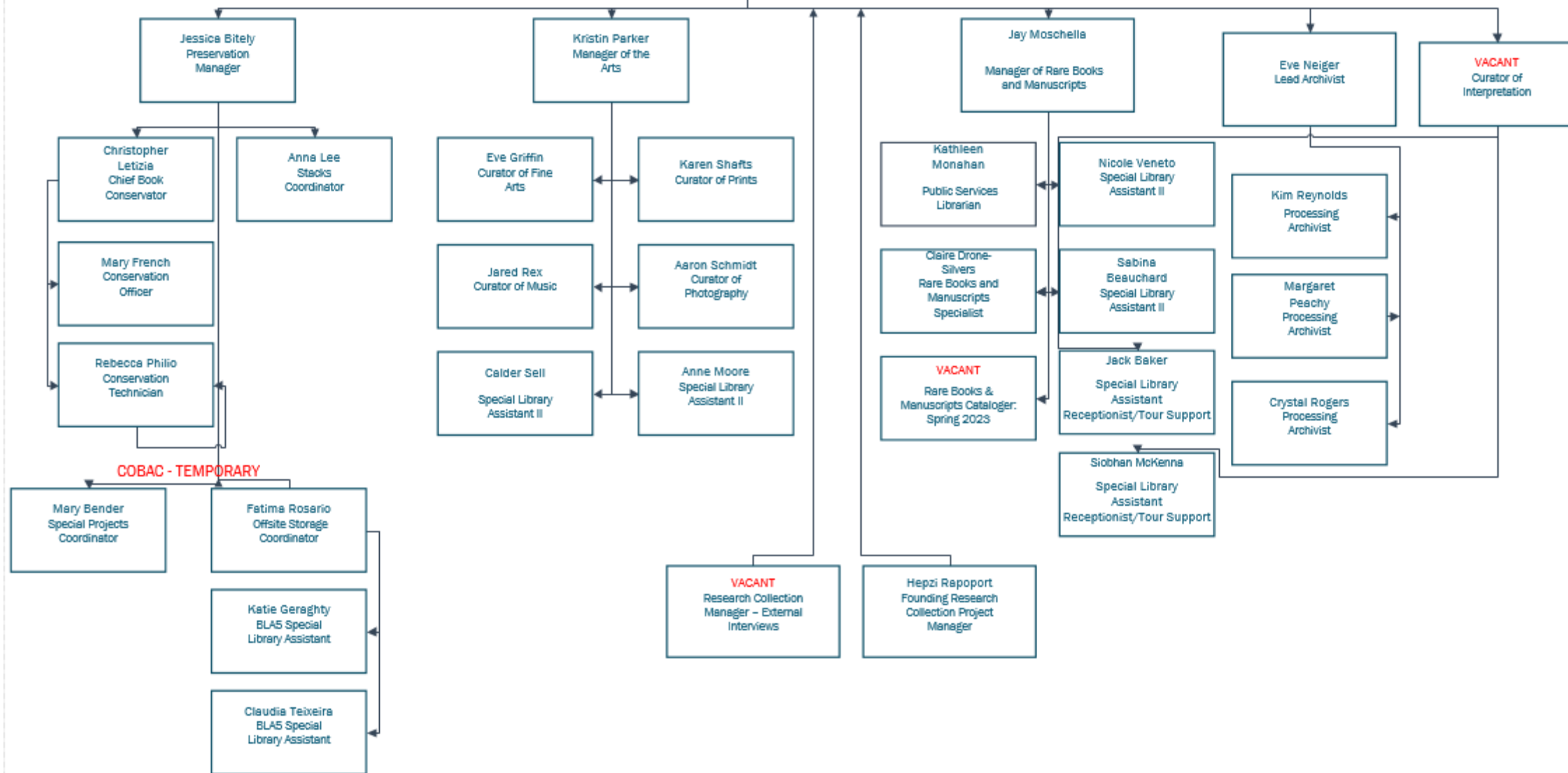


Special Collections

November 2022

*plus related Research Positions

Beth Prindle
Head of Special
Collections



2022 Achievements – part 1

Special Collections Renovation & Reopening

- Planned and mapped 7 miles of collection shelving
- Returned and reshelfed over 250,000 rare books and 1,000+ LF of manuscripts from off-site
- Launched refreshed web presence www.bpl.org/special-collections
- Launched Aeon technology for materials tracking and patron requests
- Reopened to the public September 2022

Reading Room & Reference Work

- **Reading Room (8/3/2022-11/25/2022)**
- 80 researchers for 118 research visits
- 394 items used in the reading room in all formats (Arts, Rare Books, Archives, Music, Photos)
- 63% of researchers have been from MA
- 93% of researchers have been from the US

- **Email reference help (8/1/2022-11/28/2022)**
- 444 tickets; 1412 reference transactions
 - We're averaging roughly 3 emails per individual ticket/question

2022 Achievements – part 2

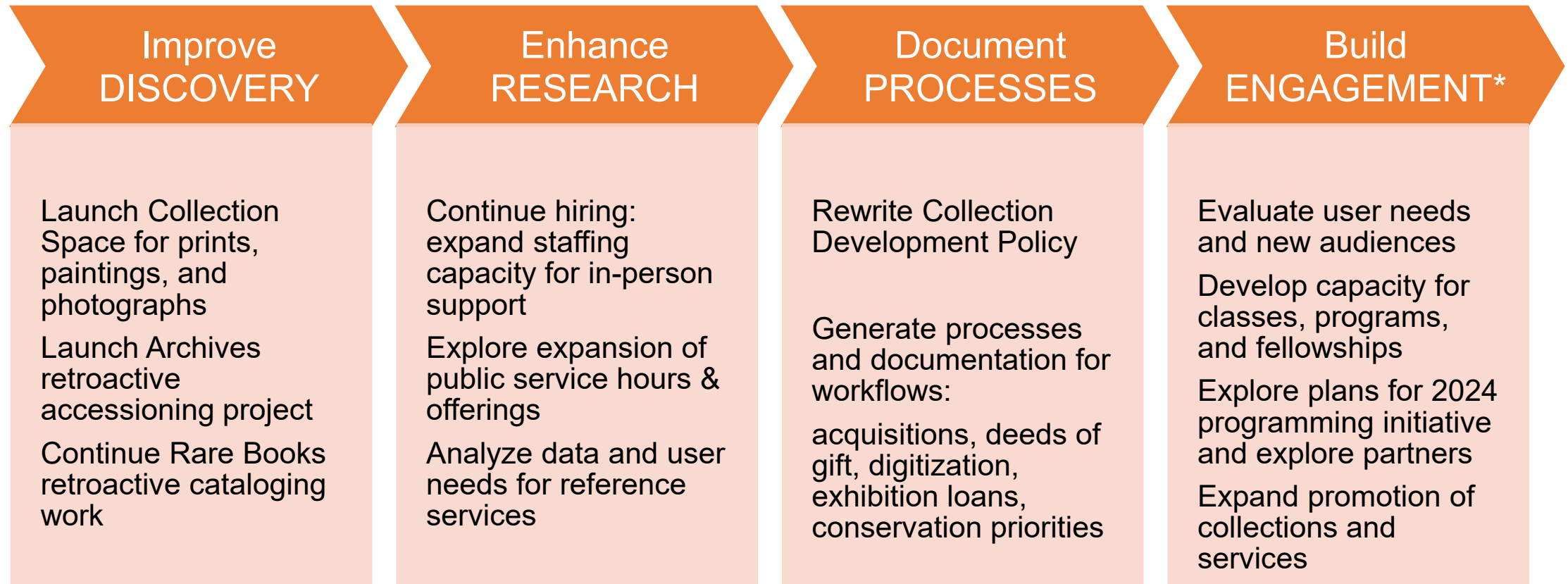
Major Projects

- **Founding Research Collection:** hired project manager and cataloging team; cleaned 150,000 volumes; cataloging and inventory commencing now
- Launched ***Boston Herald-Traveler Photo Morgue*** digitization pilot; 16,000 photos / 32,000 images complete (front/back)
- Completed **Collection Storage Study**
- Scanned over **800,000 catalog cards**

Hiring and Onboarding (12 positions)

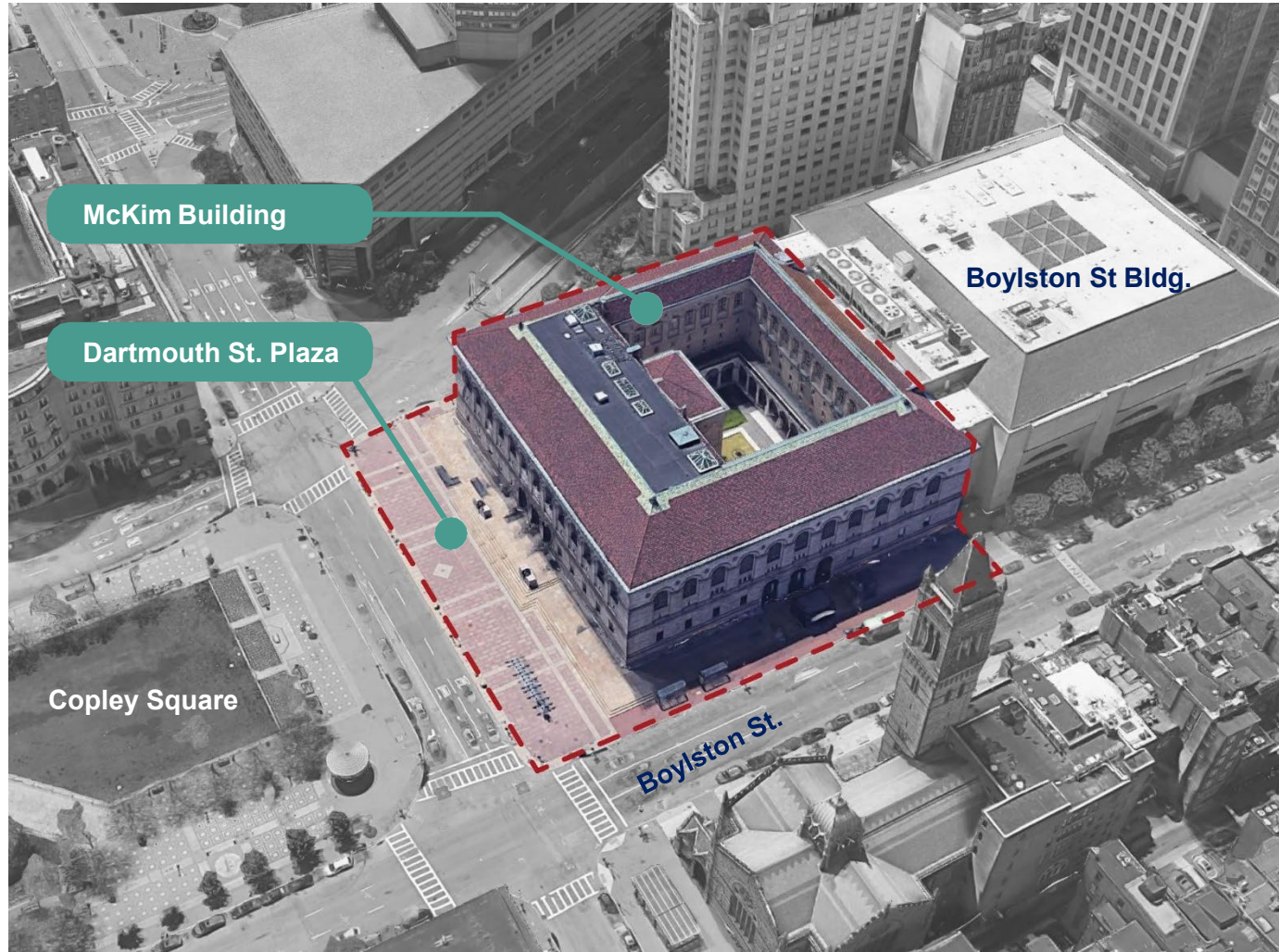
- **Conservation (1 position):** Conservation Officer
- **Archives (2 positions):** Archivists
- **Rare Books & Manuscripts (3 positions):** Public Services Librarian, Rare Books Librarian, Library Assistant
- **Arts (2 positions):** Library Assistants
- **City of Boston Archival Center (2 positions):** Library Assistants
- **Tours (2 positions):** Reception/Tour Support Assistants

Special Collections – 2023 Priorities



Project Scope – Master Plan Update

McKim Building & Dartmouth St. Plaza



Aerial View



McKim Entrance



View towards Copley Square

McKim Proposed Strategies

- Improve **accessibility** and **way-finding** inside and outside
- **Connect** to Dartmouth Street Plaza + Copley Square
- Restore and renovate to **improve** the **public experience**
- Utilize the courtyard to support **preservation, circulation**, and increase space use by **enclosing** it
- Update Infrastructure for **resiliency** and **sustainability**
- Support **modern library services**
- **Restore, Renovate & Reimagine: engagement with the broadest of BPL's Research and Special Collections Holdings**



Dartmouth Street Plaza

Accessible and Inviting



View from Dartmouth Street

Dartmouth Street Plaza

Accessible and Inviting



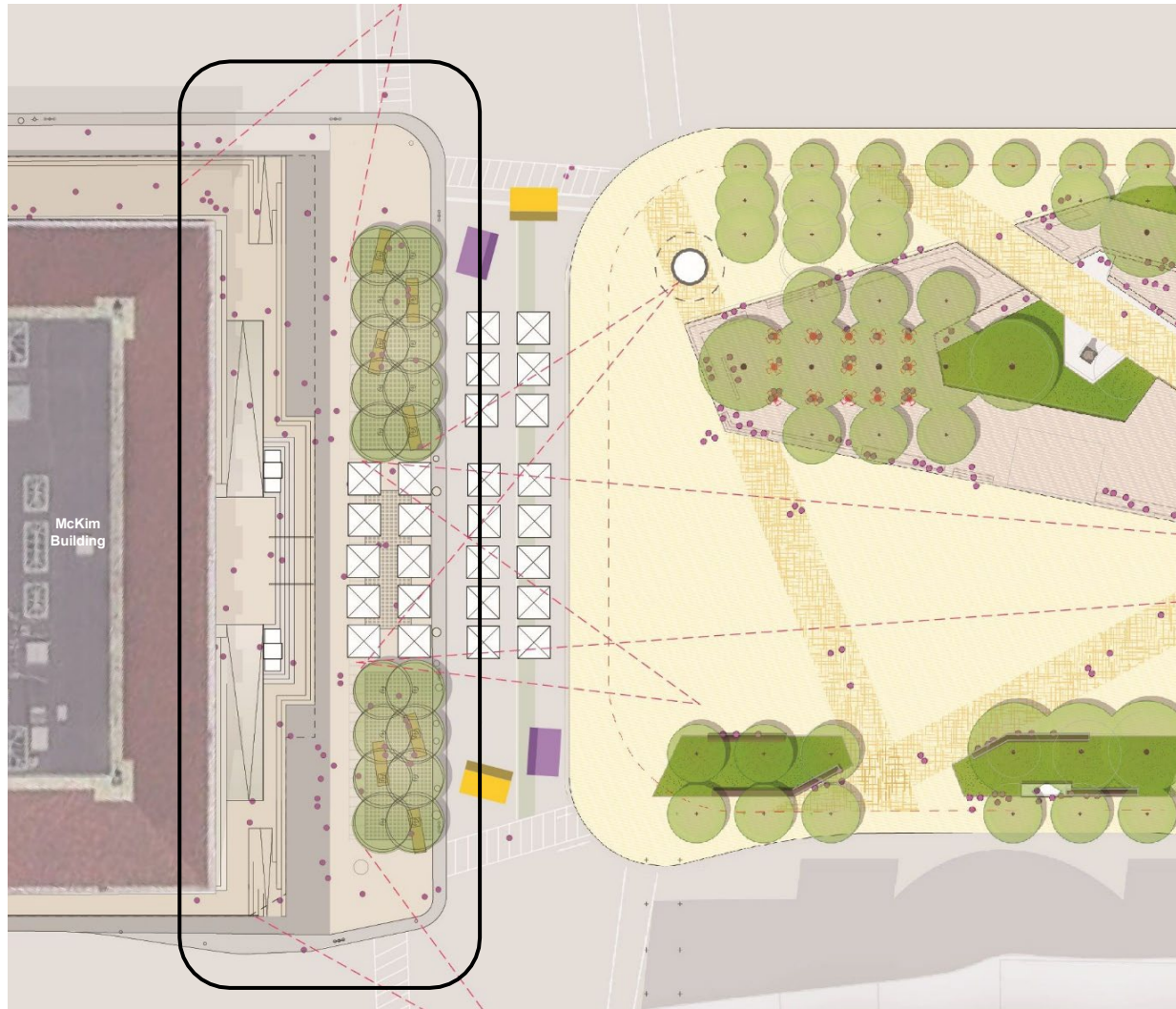
Existing Temporary Ramp



Proposed Sloped Walkways, Tree Grove, and Seating Area

Dartmouth Street Plaza

Community Connection and Programming



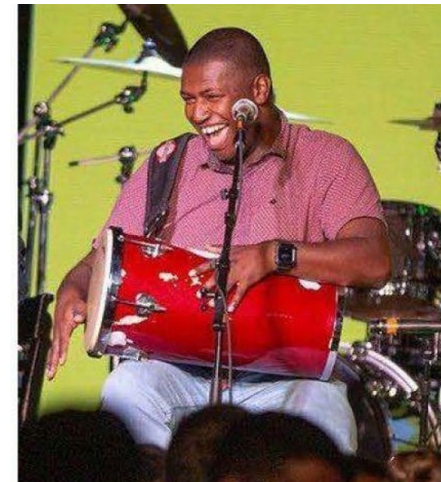
Draft concept design for the reimagined Copley Square Plaza, courtesy of BPRD and Sasaki



Extension of the Farmer's Market



Outdoor Reading Room



Outdoor Concerts



Seating and lighting

Third Floor

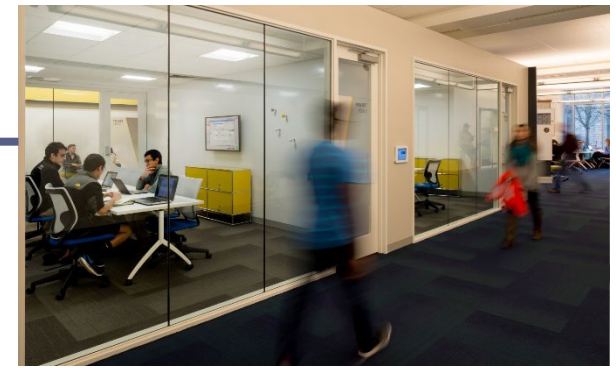
Reference, Education, and Collaboration



PATRON SEATING



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS CLASSROOM



COLLABORATION ROOMS



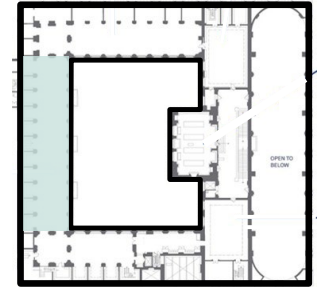
SEATING + COLLABORATION



MULTIPURPOSE + DEMONSTRATION/LAB

Third Floor Renewal

One-Stop Reference and Reading Room



Original



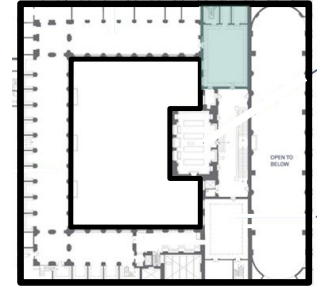
Current Condition



West Gallery Sketch

Third Floor Renewal

Cushman Room: Engage and Collaborate



Current Condition



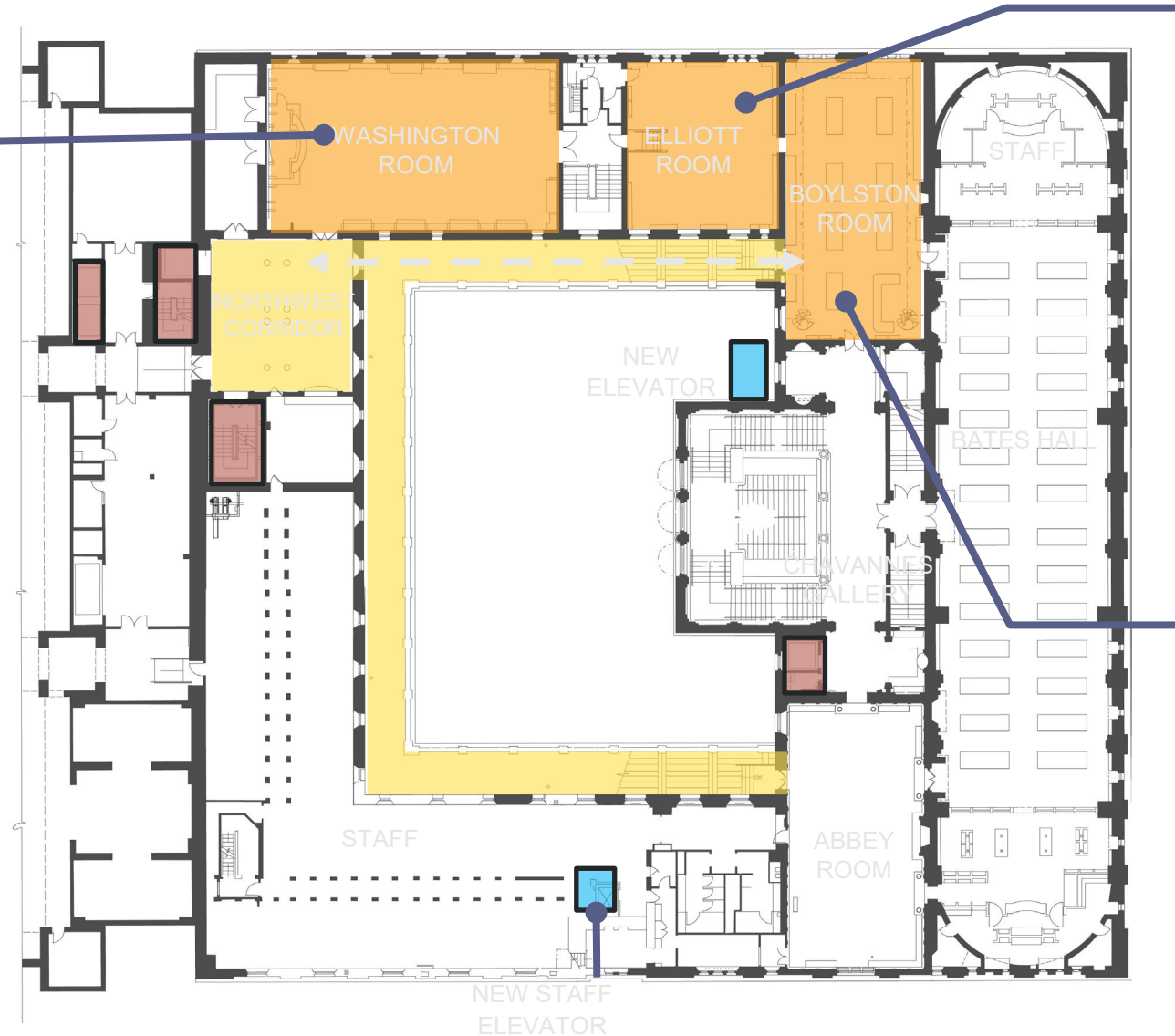
Cushman Room Sketch

Second Floor Renewal

Gather and Connect



WASHINGTON ROOM
MULTI USE



ELLIOTT ROOM
MULTIPURPOSE CLASSROOM



BOYLSTON ROOM
PATRON SEATING

First Floor Renewal

Convene and Explore



COMMONWEALTH SALON
CURRENT CONDITION



COMMONWEALTH SALON
MULTI USE
PROPOSED



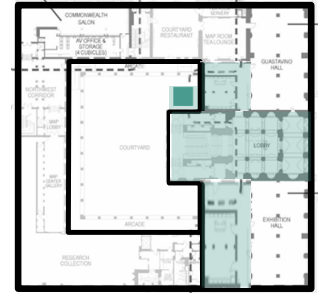
GUASTAVINO ROOM
FLEXIBLE PATRON SEATING

UPGRADE MCKIM
EXHIBITION HALL

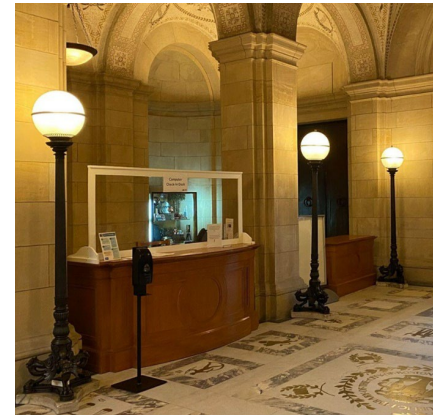
NEW STAFF
ELEVATOR

Dartmouth Street Lobby

Welcome and Reveal



Showroom & Corridor, 2020



Current Lobby



New Connector/Elevator Lobby Concept



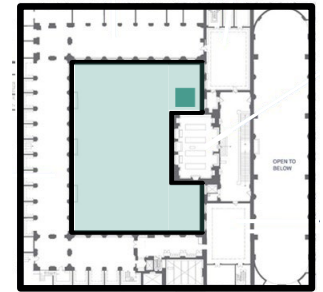
Preliminary Sketch of Dartmouth Street Lobby Renewal

Courtyard Enclosure

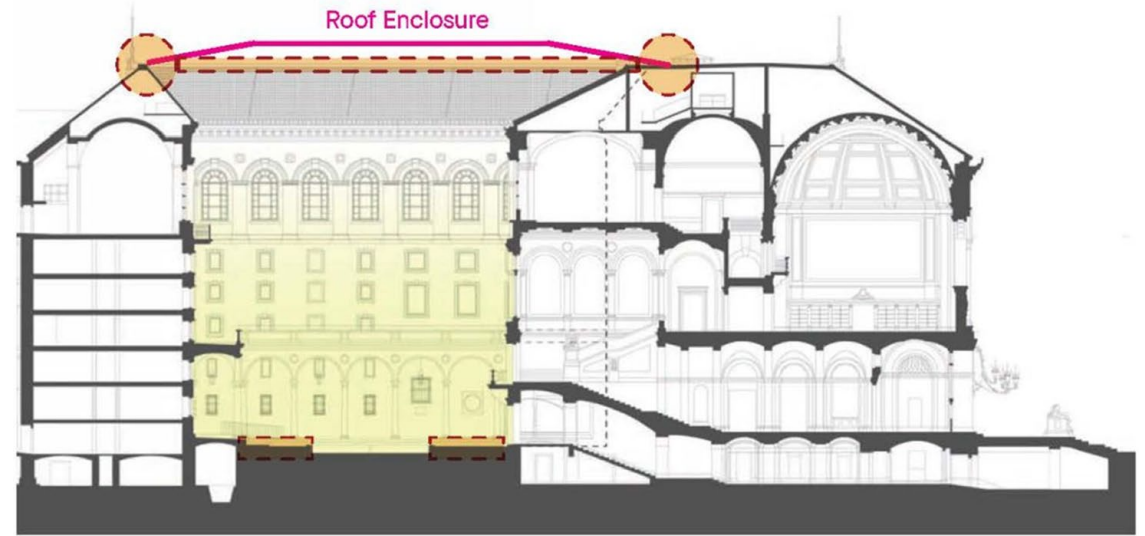
- Preservation
- Circulation
- Year-round usage



Courtyard, 2020



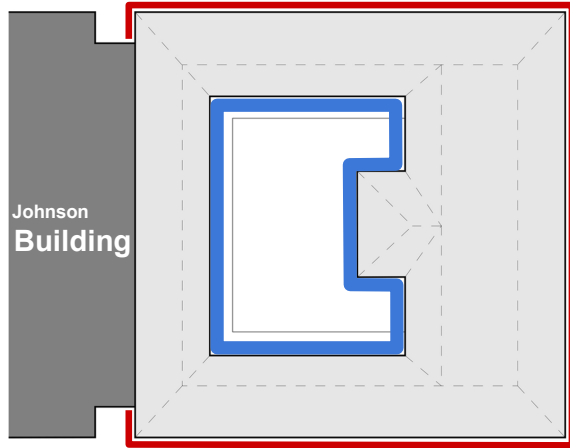
Connections at Roof Ridge Line



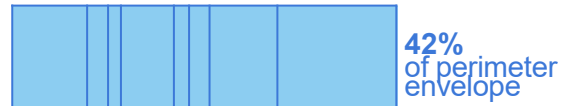
McKim Building Section

Courtyard Enclosure

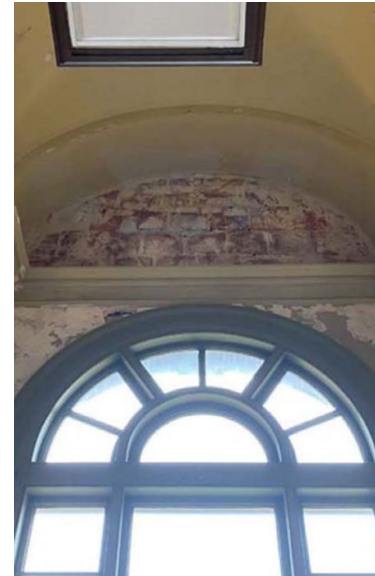
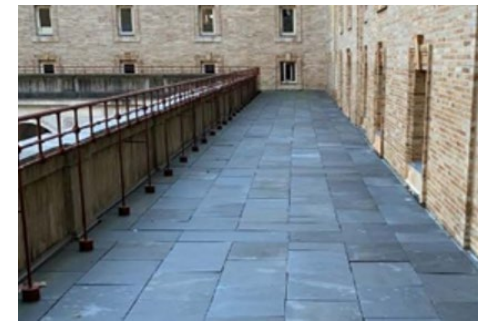
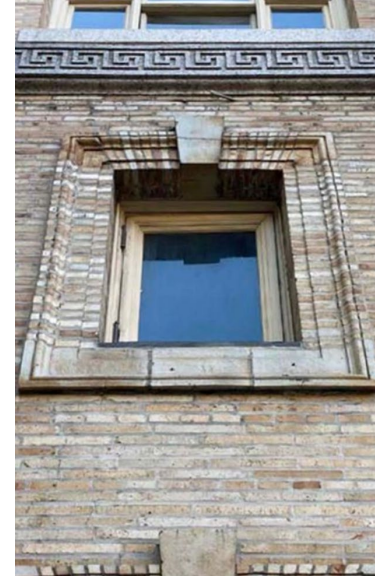
Protect Courtyard Facades



Exterior Facades (710 LF)

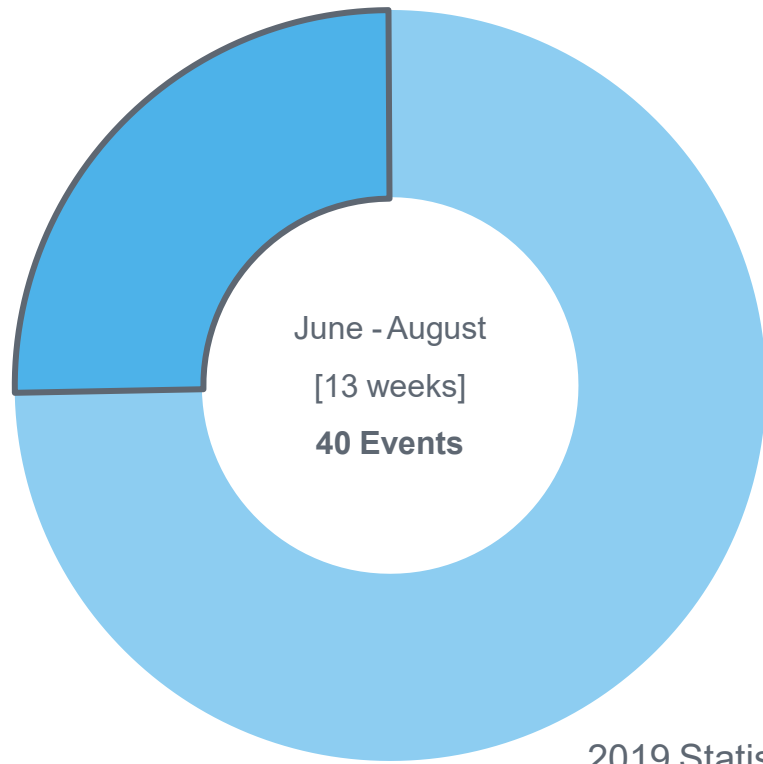


Courtyard Facades (515 LF)



Courtyard Enclosure

Year-round usage



2019 Statistics



Courtyard Enclosure

Precedents

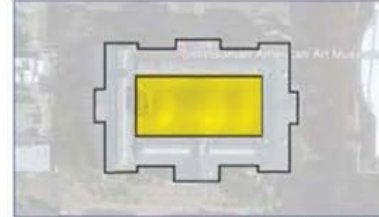


Boston Public Library
Boston, MA



120ft x 154ft

Smithsonian American Art
Museum
Washington, DC



Roof completed in 2007
130ft x 280ft



Isabella Stewart Gardner
Museum
Boston, MA



Roof completed in 1903
43ft x 70ft

Museum of Fine Arts
Boston, MA

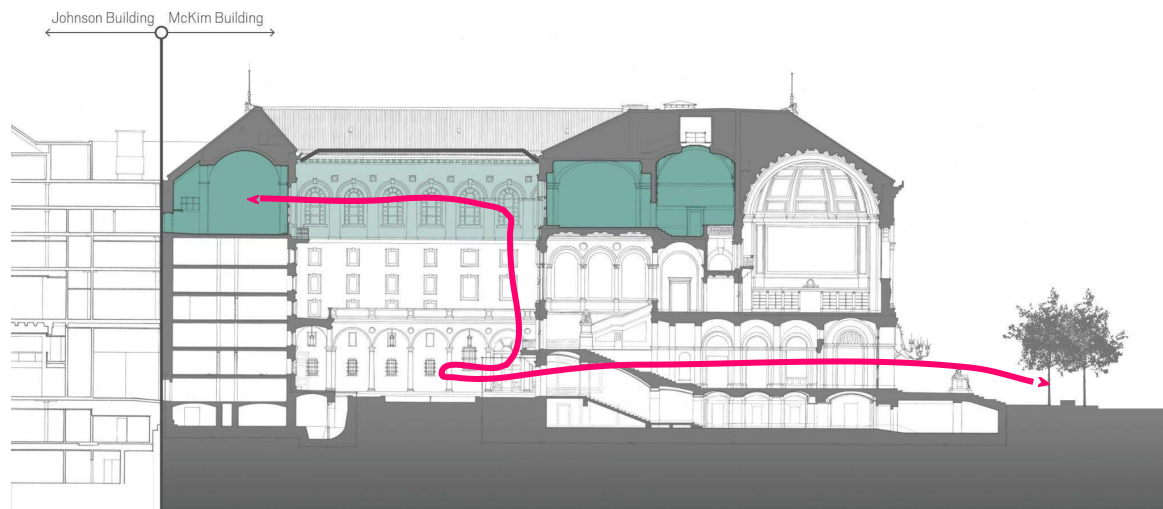


Roof completed in 2010
270ft x 105ft



Implementation Options

- Option to keep McKim operational during construction
- A series of phased projects from \$40-\$100m
- Estimated budget to complete all recommendations: \$325m if completed all at once in today's dollars
- Projected Capital Budget Minimum: \$375m
- Funding Sources TBD



Next Steps

- Stakeholder Presentations
- Socialization of Ideas
- Determine City funding Request, Approach and Timing
- Determine State funding Request, Approach and Timing
- Prep for informal & formal Capital Feasibility Work
- Identify National, Federal (& International Funding Opportunities)
- Identification of Possible Lead Private Funders.

New Business

**BOSTON
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**



Public Comment

**BOSTON
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**



- 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.