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

- Arts Department (Prints, Photos, Fine Arts, Music)
- Special Collections Renovation
- Conservation Lab
- Rare Books & Manuscripts Stacks
- Digital Services
- Leventhal Map & Education Center
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
2022 Achievements – part 1

Special Collections Renovation & Reopening

• Planned and mapped 7 miles of collection shelving
• Returned and reshelved 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

**Improve DISCOVERY**
- Launch Collection Space for prints, paintings, and photographs
- Launch Archives retroactive accessioning project
- Continue Rare Books retroactive cataloging work

**Enhance RESEARCH**
- Continue hiring: expand staffing capacity for in-person support
- Explore expansion of public service hours & offerings
- Analyze data and user needs for reference services

**Document PROCESSES**
- Rewrite Collection Development Policy
- Generate processes and documentation for workflows:
  - acquisitions, deeds of gift, digitization, exhibition loans, conservation priorities

**Build ENGAGEMENT**
- Evaluate user needs and new audiences
- Develop capacity for classes, programs, and fellowships
- Explore plans for 2024 programming initiative and explore partners
- Expand promotion of collections and services
Project Scope – Master Plan Update
McKim Building & Dartmouth St. Plaza

Aerial View

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
Third Floor
Reference, Education, and Collaboration

PATRON SEATING
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
CLASSROOM

NEW ELEVATOR
 Third Floor
Reference, Education, and Collaboration

PATRON SEATING
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
CLASSROOM

NEW ELEVATOR
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
First Floor Renewal
Convene and Explore

COMMONWEALTH SALON
CURRENT CONDITION

COMMONWEALTH SALON
MULTI USE
PROPOSED

GUASTAVINO ROOM
FLEXIBLE PATRON SEATING

UPGRADE MCKIM
EXHIBITION HALL
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 Enclosure

Protect Courtyard Facades

Exterior Facades (710 LF)

Courtyard Facades (515 LF)

58% of perimeter envelope

42% of perimeter envelope

Johnson Building
Courtyard Enclosure
Year-round usage

2019 Statistics

June - August
[13 weeks]
40 Events
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
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.