

Board of Trustees Meeting

Please sign up for Public Comment via the CHAT tab 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.

CALL TO ORDER & REPORT

Dr. Ray Liu, Chair

- Roll call of Board
- Minutes of June 18, 2025 (Special Meeting)



Board of Trustees Meeting, 9/30/25

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

David Leonard

President

NEW KEY TEAM MEMBERS

Michael Lennon

Assistant Safety & Stewardship Manager



Julius Osula

Facilities Manager-Nights & Weekends



SHATTUCK AWARD WINNER, 2025

Congratulations

TO THE 2025 SHATTUCK
PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

JEFFREY ALKINS

Program Manager
Boston Home Center
Mayor's Office of Housing

ELSIE MORANTUS PETION

Head Nurse Supervisor
BPHC Child, Adolescent
and Family Health Bureau

JOHN CONNORS

Court Coordinator/Inspector
Inspectional Services Department

PETER MOSCARITOLO

Sergeant
Boston Police Department

TAYLOR MCCOY

Teacher/Inclusion Specialist
Boston Public Schools

ALEXA PINARD

Assistant Deputy Director
of Design Review
Planning Department

MARI MCCULLOUGH

Special Library Assistant
Boston Public Library

ERIC PRENTIS

Principal Administration Assistant
Public Works

BRANCH CAPITAL PROJECTS

TWO 2025 GROUND BREAKINGS!

➡ Fields Corner, May 6th

- Target: To Open Fall 2026

➡ Chinatown, Sept 17th

- Library Fit-out to begin in 18 months

➡ Full BPL Active Capital Projects Review at November Meeting



MCKIM RESTORATION & TRANSFORMATION PROJECT:

SERVICES VISIONING & REIMAGINING PROJECT KICKOFF

PRESS COVERAGE

BPL 250TH EXHIBITION



LEVENTHAL MAP & EDUCATION CENTER

➡ An Updated Strategic Vision

➡ Presentation of the Leventhal Map and Education Center (LMEC)
Vision Plan

- *Garrett Dash Nelson, President of LMEC*
- *Charles Cooney, LMEC Board Chair*



Norman B. Leventhal
Map & Education Center
at the Boston Public Library

STRATEGIC VISION 2025-2035

L A B R A D O R

Brief history of the Leventhal Center's development

- 2004: Founded with endowment and map collection from Norman B. Leventhal
- 2004–2016: Initial focus on care of BPL map collections and major exhibitions
- 2016: Renamed “Leventhal Map & Education Center” to emphasize educational mission
- 2019: Increasing investment in digital portfolio, accelerated during pandemic
- 2025 and beyond: a new vision

The Strategic Vision process

- Led by LMEC Executive Committee with TDC (Liz Curtis) as consultant
- Key conversations with:
 - BPL Staff Leadership (*David Leonard, Beth Prindle, Michael Colford, Sarah Zaphiris*)
 - BPL Trustees (*Ray Liu, Christian Westra*)
 - BPL Fund Staff & Board (*Paula Sakey, Jeff Hawkins, Hannah Grove*)
 - Leventhal Center Staff
- Scope: define an ambitious future vision for the Leventhal Center that honors its founding spirit but moves beyond identity as a “room for old maps”

Recognizing existing strengths at LMEC

- Creation of original content, particularly digital tools like Atlascope
- Broad-based exhibition and interpretation portfolio that uses maps as a lens into wider topics (*More or Less in Common on environmental justice, Getting Around Town on public transportation*)
- Comprehensive program of K-12 and university educational programs, including both on-site visits, teacher training, and resource development
- Flexibility and creativity of staff

An “institute” with three “centers”

- Center for the Study of Maps & Geography
- Center for Learning
- Center for Civic Discovery

These names are provisional for the time being!

Three focus audiences

- Center for the Study of Maps & Geography
 - Specialists with an interest in space and place, including not only scholars, historians, and researchers but also writers, policymakers, designers, community activists, and so on
- Center for Learning
 - K-12 students and their teachers, with a particular emphasis on BPS, and connections across the curriculum (not just maps)
- Center for Civic Discovery
 - In-person visitors to the Central Library, filling a missing niche of “City Museum of Boston” in an experimental and creative fashion

Alignment with the BPL Strategic Plan

- Life-Long Learning Partner
 - Deeper systematic partnership with K-12 curriculum
 - Center for Learning as a clearinghouse for teacher resources
- Welcoming Destination
 - Activating “city museum” spaces in McKim through Center for Civic Discovery
- Trusted Resource
 - Original content on geography, social studies, civics topics
 - Digital tools that offer new access into broader BPL collections
- Community Engager
 - Collaborations with place-based organizations (e.g., People’s Planning Academy partnership with Planning Department)

What comes next

- Aligning fundraising and governance between LMEC, BPL, BPLF
- Continued input from stakeholders at BPL, Fund, City, external partners
- Staff and Board “task forces” to identify short- and medium-term next steps on spaces and programs
- Branding and identity exercise

Read the Strategic Vision document



dub.sh/lmec-strat-vision

REVOLUTION!

**250 YEARS OF ART+
ACTIVISM IN BOSTON**

McKim Exhibition Hall, Central Library in Copley Square

October 23, 2025 – April 21, 2026

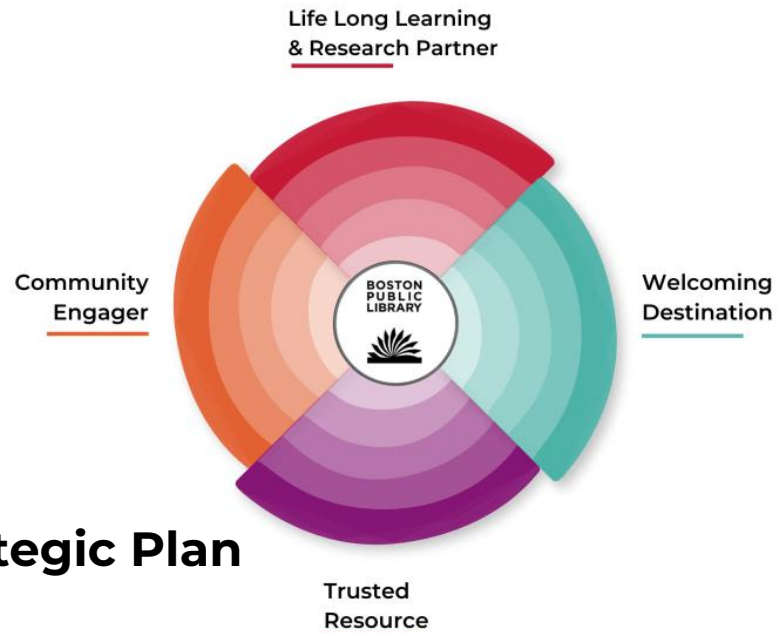


Why now?

BOSTON
250



Bridge to McKim Funding



BPL Strategic Plan



REVOLUTIONARY ART
ART AND SOCIAL CHANGE



More than a year in the making, ***Revolution!*** features **more than 100 artworks and documentary materials** from the BPL's renowned **Special Collections**

Exhibition curated by the Arts Department and supported by multiple teams across the library

Reflecting upon the accepted narrative



Revolution is a continuum.



People work together to enact change.

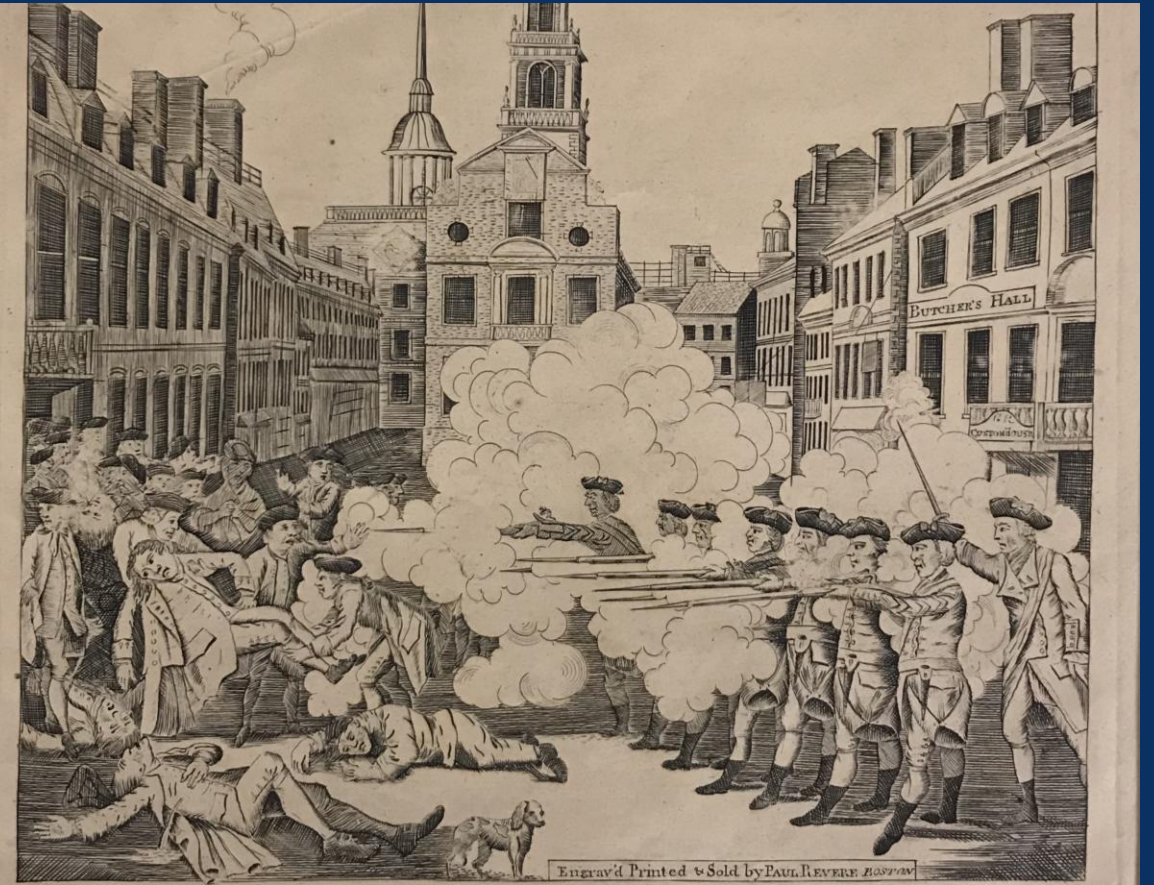


Who and what are missing?

Artists Past and Present in Conversation



Boston Massacre Reboot, Bob Tomolillo, 2020



The Bloody Massacre Perpetrated in King Street, W. Champney, 1856



Artist Michael Thorpe's quilt in progress



Washington at Dorchester Heights, Emanuel Leutze, 1852



Conservation Work

The Trail Itself... A Bicentennial Footnote

Something about lines, words and marks painted on streets and sidewalks has always drawn my attention. I made these photographs as a sort of personal project to preserve my daily interactions with the Freedom Trail (I was working in the neighborhood in 1976).

They are, of course, in every way as unrelated to the events of the revolution as "commemorated" as the subway, mugs, banners, hats, plates, coins and other souvenirs. But on the other hand these pictures are a kind of reversed antiquity - "arch fragments" of the sacred ground they walked on - altered by our contemporary cultural needs.

The lines are all fading away now - interesting the crosswalks, curbs and traffic lines with less and less clarity. And I wonder what this ground will look like in 2076 - and the subway, mugs, banners, hats, plates, coins and souvenirs.

Daniel Ranalli
December 1977

100 "D. Ranalli" 57

Right Hemisphere Publications * 1977

BOSTON FREEDOM

TRAIL

The Trail Itself... A

A Limited Edition Folio Of
Ten Original Photographs

POUCH

Bicentennial Footnote

Daniel Ranalli

Boston Freedom Trail Pouch
The Trail Itself... A Bicentennial Footnote

The photographs were printed directly from the Polaroid SX-70 originals, under the photographer's direction, by the Polaroid Corporation of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Each portfolio contains ten photographs in an embossed fiber pouch secured with a red Woolworth's ribbon.

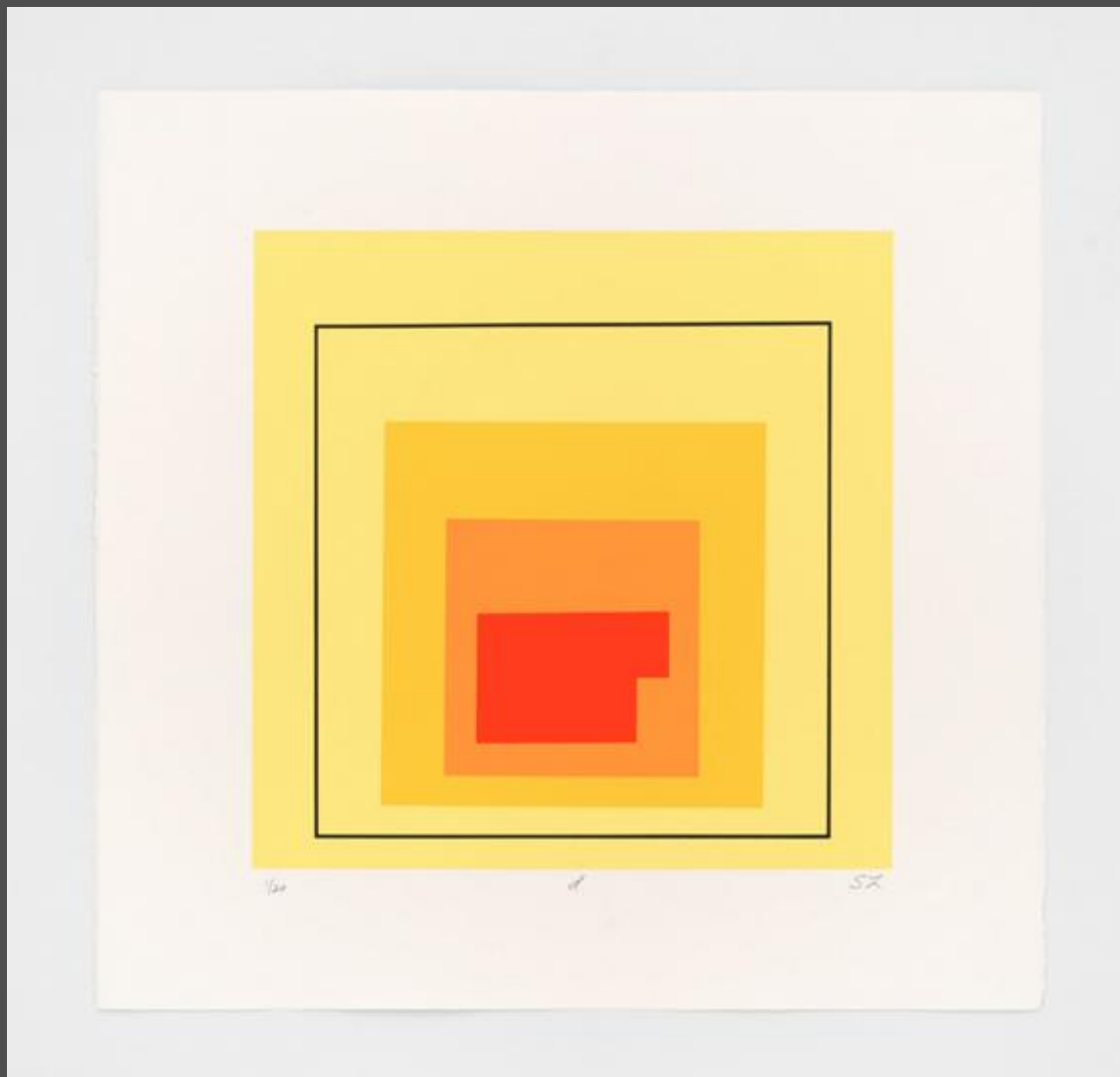
The edition is limited to 100 signed copies.

The Prints:

1. Trail with Spill and Pigwena
2. State House Steps
3. Trail, Curb, Legs
4. Trail, Steps, Foot
5. Trail with Chevrolet Truck
6. Trail over Bricks
7. New Trail, Old Trail De-Capitolised
8. Steps, New Trail, Old Trail, Legs
9. Freedom Trail with Bones
10. Trail, State House, Flags - July 4, 1976



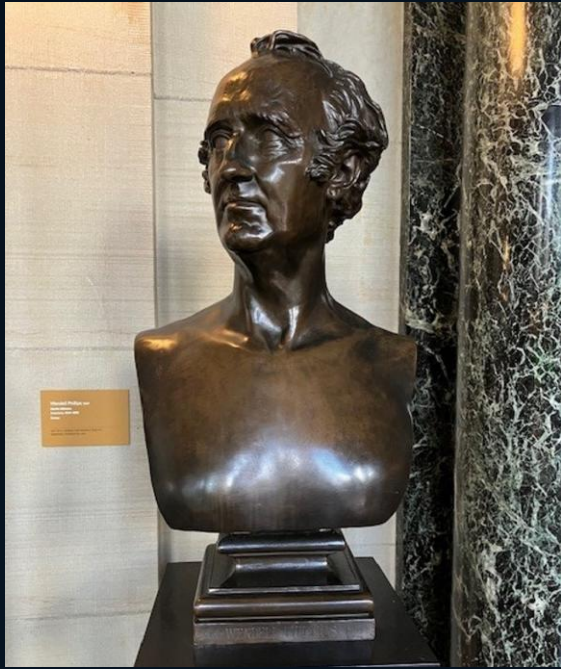
Boston Freedom Trail Pouch, Daniel Ranalli, 1977



Homage to the Auction Block, Steve Locke, 2022



Rejoicings at Faneuil Hall, 19th c.



Wendell Phillips
Martin Milmore, 1884



Harriet Tubman
Fern Cunningham, 1999

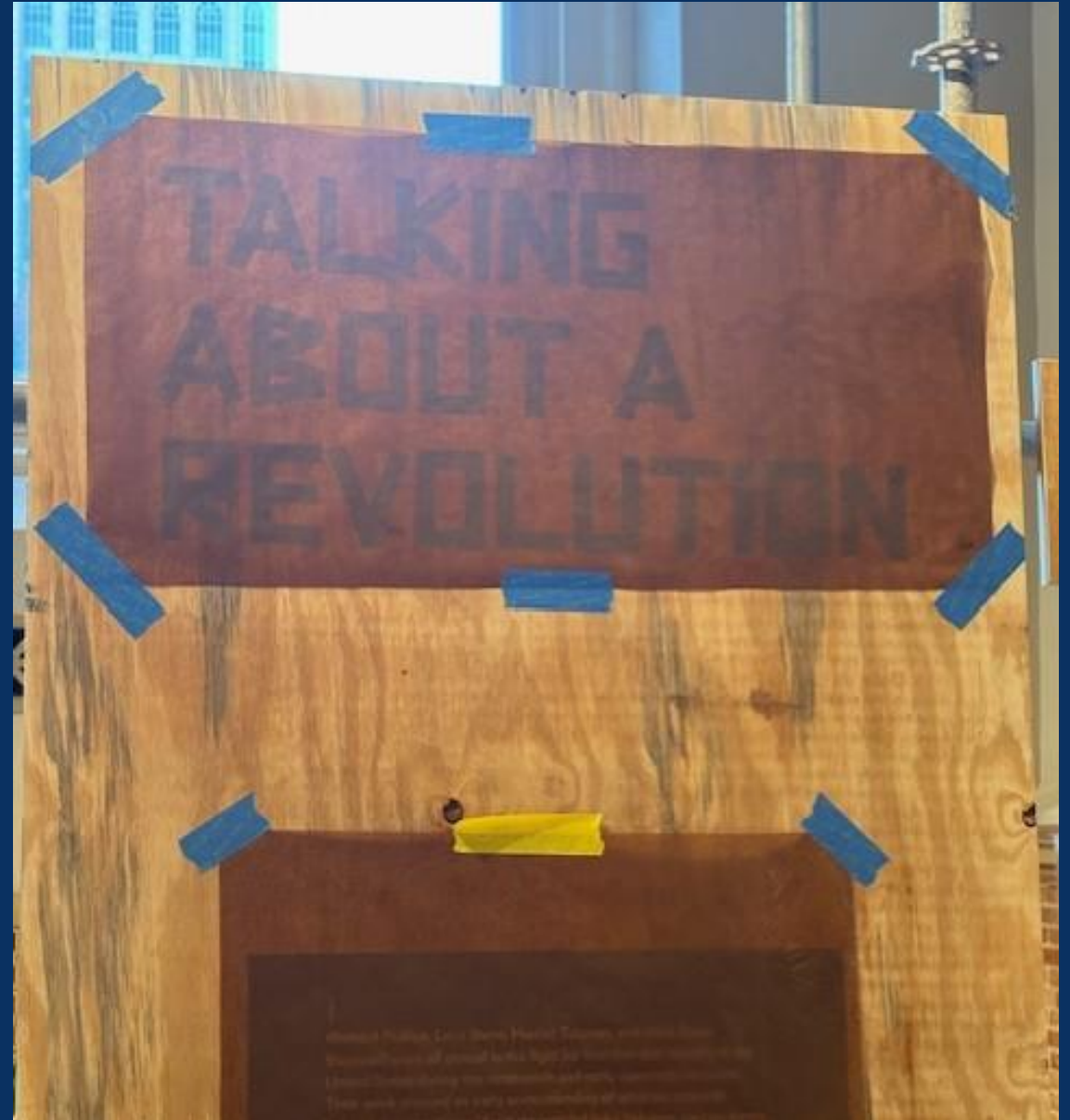


Lucy Stone
Anne Whitney, 1892



Alice Stone Blackwell
Frances L. Rich, 1960

Opening to the public October 23rd ! bpl.org/revolution



BPL STRATEGIC PLAN

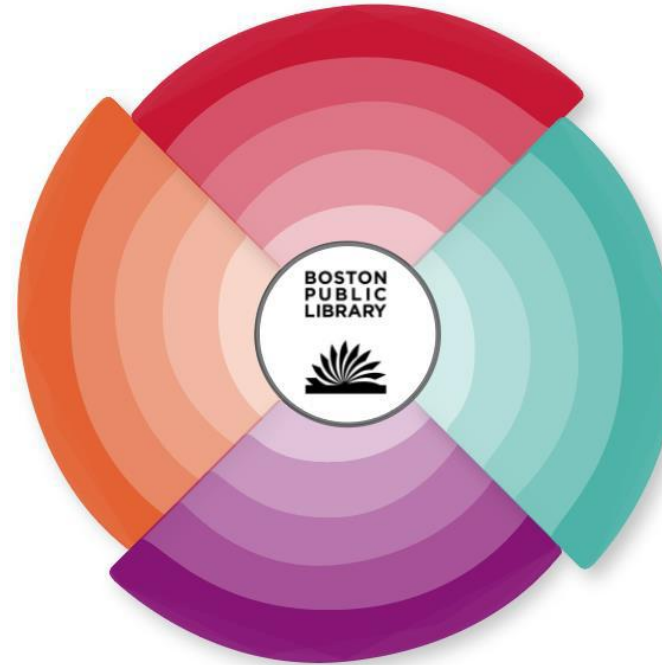
Our four key roles

Community Engager

*Expanding the reach of
the library beyond its physical
walls so we can meet and
engage communities where
they are.*

Life-long Learning and Research Partner

*Empowering curiosity and a
love of reading, discovery,
and scholarly exploration for
all.*



Welcoming Destination

*Creating active, inclusive
third spaces where every
person can chart their own
path.*

Trusted Resource

*Connecting all people to reliable
information and services that
meet their needs and enrich their
lives.*

STRATEGIC PLAN - TIMELINE

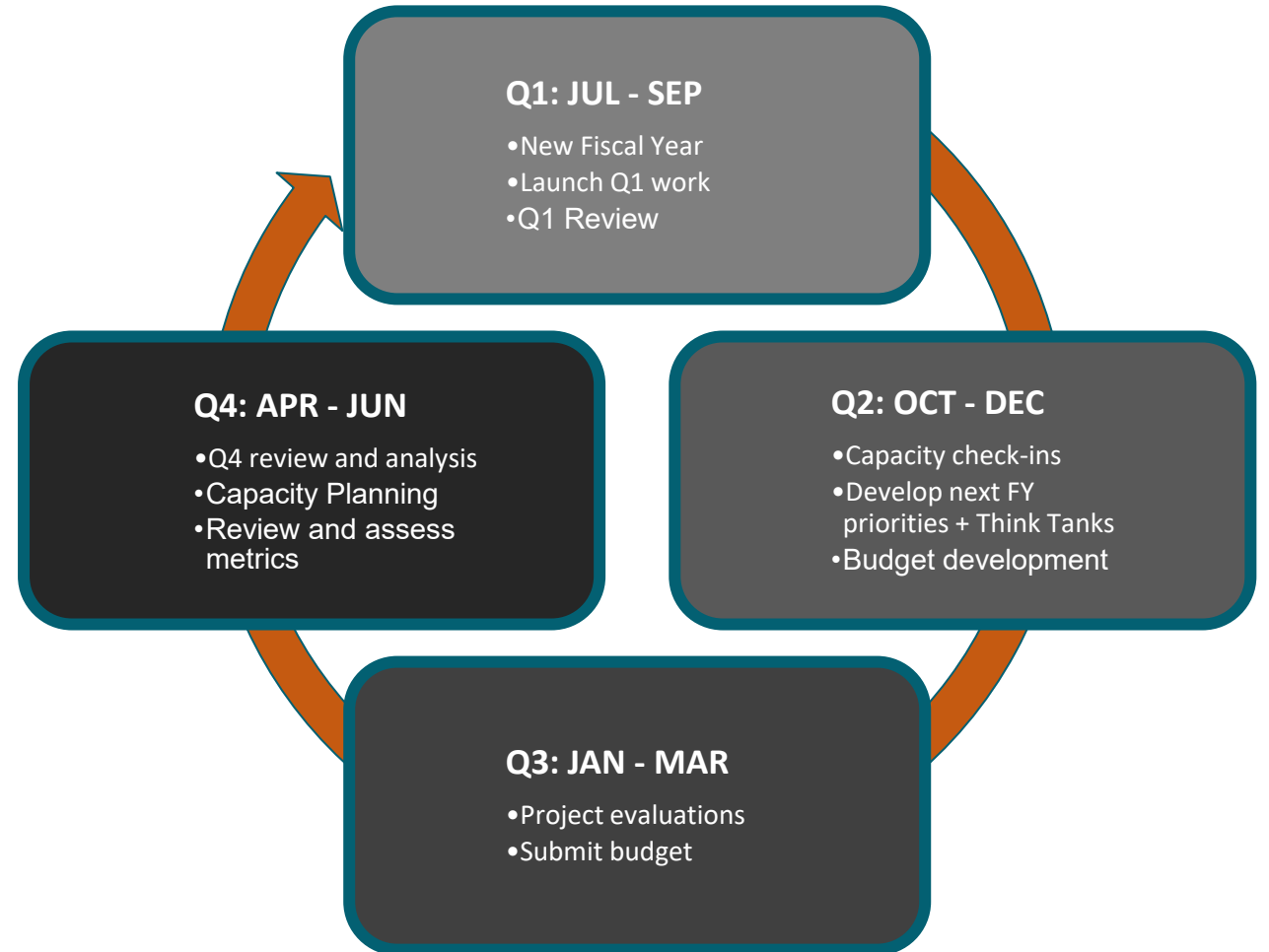
- ➡ Approved, Dec 2024
- ➡ Implementation Planning Work Jan - June 2025
- ➡ Year 1 (a test year) (FY26 is July '25 to June '26)
- ➡ Year 2-5 FY27-FY30
- ➡ Trustee Engagement Planned:
 - One on Ones
 - Executive Committee for Progress & Priorities Review

STRATEGIC PLAN – PROCESS UPDATES

- ➔ Lean into the Iterative process
 - Setting clear measurable success metrics (KPI-like)
 - BPL Staff SharePoint Site - Initiative & Task Tracker Tool
 - BPL Project Management Training
- ➔ Mapping Goal & Initiative activities
- ➔ Plan: Measuring & Reporting on Progress
- ➔ Ensure, owner, timeline, deliverables and success measures, and capacity barriers/needs.

SP IMPLEMENTATION WORKFLOW

*Annual planning
process map*



Upcoming:

Trustee One on Ones

Executive Committee Progress Review and Priorities

Review

BPL EXHIBITION

➔ Revolution! 250 Years of Art & Activism in Boston

- Beth Prindle, Director of Special and Research Collections



FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE

Evelyn Arana, Committee Chair

Emily Tokarczyk, Chief Financial Officer

Approval of Boston Public Library Draft Audited Financial
Statements for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025.

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,
2025.”

FELLOWES ATHENAEUM TRUST FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Evelyn Arana Ortiz, Committee Chair

- Update of new structure
- Review of FY26 Program Grant Selections

Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Fund 26FY Grant

Prepared by Deandra Williams (BPL's Programs Supervisor)

***The FATF supports supplemental programming at the Shaw-Roxbury Branch in Nubian Square*

- The Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Fund Committee (FATC) reviewed 34 applications from 33 applicants.
- 17 grants were awarded to 16 applicants. They approved grants with reductions totaled **\$110,801.50**.
 - This figure include the Shaw-Roxbury branch program budget of \$6,400.
 - The branch librarian submitted program proposals to support the Roxbury area community and residents.
- Total FATF 26FY budget (including 25FY carryover) is **114,333.00**.

Categories

Audience: Intergenerational= 10 Adults= 2 Seniors=1 Youth= 4

Instruction

- Community Guide to Using AI (Rooted in Black Traditions of Innovation)
- Sewing 101 Bootcamp
- Portraits of Spirituals
- The Chess and Crafts Project
- Piano Lessons for kids

Art & Culture

- Boston Public Quartet
- The Latino Pioneers in Boston Project #2
- Roxbury Concert Series
- Makanda Concert Project
- Body Language: Through the Lines
- Drumming across the African Diaspora
- MassQing Workshops
- Roxbury Makes Comics

Community Engagement

- The Greater Roxbury Book Fair
- Black Education Experiences in Boston- Conference

Health & Wellness

- Take Back the Kitchen
- Chair Yoga

Name	Individual or Organization	Program Title	Program Description	Final Approved Budget
Betsy Hinkle	Organization	Boston Public Quartet	Four educational concerts exploring diverse musical history and compositional styles, focusing respectively on Women Composers, Black Composers, Immigrant Composers, and LGBTQ+ Composers	5000
Blanca E. Bonilla	Individual	The Latino Pioneers in Boston Project #2	Multimedia presentation celebrating Latino heritage in Boston through film, art, and print	8000
Carlos Vargas	Individual	Roxbury Concert Series	Multidisciplinary performances through music	3,250
Carlos Vargas	Individual	Roxbury Piano Program	High-quality music education program serving students ages 5 to 14	8000
Castle of Our Skins	Organization	Portraits of Spirituals	Four interactive and intergenerational literacy-based workshops that dives into the rich history and cultural significance of Black History.	8000
Cliff Notez	Individual	Body Language: Through the Lines	A three-day, community-centered dance series a that connects Black social dance traditions across generations.	8000
Cornell Coley	Individual	Drumming across the African Diaspora	Six interactive cross-cultural workshops with facilitated drumming that illustrate cultural contexts and social development of Brazil, Carribean countries, West Africa and the USA.	4976
Daniel Callahan	Individual	MassQing Workshops	A series of four Indigenous art technique workshops that uses paint and the human face to create MassQs-revealing one's identity instead of concealing.	8000
David Hirschberg	Haley House	Take Back the Kitchen	Saturday workshop series that offers healthy eating cooking classes and empowering community engagement	3,937.50
The Greatest Minds	Organization	Black Education Experiences in Boston - A Multigenerational Conference for Black Bostonians from Kindergarten To College	A three-day conference that offers workshops, panels, and networking. The conference location will take place throughout the Nubian Square area, including the Shaw-Roxbury Library Branch.	5000
Gina Gagliano	The American City Coalition (TACC)	The Greater Roxbury Book Fair	The fair connects the community to books, authors, and artists.	5000
Horace Bowens	Individual	The Chess & Crafts Project	Teaches chess through art and allow students to design games.	3150
Joel Mackall	Individual	Community Guide to Using AI (Rooted in Black Traditions of Innovation)	Teaches and traces the lineage of innovation from African learning systems to modern digital creativity while learning AI fundamentals	5888
John Kordalewski	Organization	Makanda Project Concert	Two Saturday evening concerts in the community room in Spring 2026, featuring the Makanda Project 13 piece jazz ensemble	8000
Leslie R. English	Individual	Sewing 101 Bootcamp	An all-day Saturday Sewing workshops that teaches the sewing basics	8000
Michelle Coleman	Individual	Intro to Chakra and Chair Yoga	A workshop series that introduces students to the chakras system and chair yoga	6200
S.Matt Read	Organization	Roxbury Makes Comics	A comics-making intensive for youth ages 10 to 16 which focuses on core comics curriculum during April 2026 school vacation	6000
Shaw-Roxbury Branch Allocation				6,400
Total				110801.5

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Ray Liu, Chair

A. Appoint temporary appointment of Clerk of the Board

VOTED: "that, the Trustees of the Public Library approve the temporary appointment of Audrey Wynne as Clerk of the Board in the event that Pamela Carver is not able to attend a meeting."

Public Comment

*Participants will be called by the Clerk in the order they were received and allowed up to two minutes to speak. All comments or questions given at this time will be documented and/or answered accordingly at a later time.
(Comments left in the Zoom chat will not be acknowledged)*



Adjournment

*Next Meeting on 11.18.25
West Roxbury Branch at 3:00pm*

**See website for details, subject to change*