

# Board of Trustees Meeting

*Please sign up for Public Comment via the CHAT tab by 3:30 p.m.*

*Comments left in the chat will not be acknowledged.*

*Written comments may be submitted to the Clerk of the Board, [pcarver@bpl.org](mailto: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

*Evelyn Arana, Vice Chair*

- Roll call of Board
- Minutes of September 30, 2025



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*David Leonard*

*President*



***Greetings from the Branch!***

**Sheila Scott, West Roxbury Branch  
Librarian**

**Bob Gaudet, Co-Chair of West Roxbury  
Friends**

**Nearly 20,000  
visitors  
welcomed since  
October 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Exhibition runs  
through April 21, 2026**

**Featured in  
*Boston Globe* 10/31**

**WCVB Chronicle  
tomorrow (11/19)**



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



# CAPITAL PROJECTS

NOVEMBER 2025

<b>McKim Fire Alarm</b> Construction/ \$5m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update and replace existing fire alarm system</li><li>• Substantial completion: 23 January 2026</li></ul>
<b>Fields Corner</b> Construction/ \$31m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All new 2 story branch building</li><li>• On track for completion fall 2026</li></ul>
<b>Egleston Square</b> On Hold/ \$31.5m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All new 2 story branch building with large outdoor reading garden</li><li>• Awaiting update on funding from Office of Budget Management</li></ul>
<b>Chinatown</b> Design/\$32m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New 2 story branch within affordable housing development</li><li>• Finalizing the construction document phase of design</li><li>• Construction on the base building has begun with our fitout estimated to begin 18 months from now</li></ul>
<b>South End</b> Design/ \$32m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All new 2 story branch building</li><li>• Finalizing the construction documents and awaiting update on funding from Office of Budget Management</li></ul>
<b>Uphams</b> Design/ \$32m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New 2 story branch within affordable housing development</li><li>• Currently working on the design of our fitout and collaborating with the development team</li></ul>
<b>West End</b> Design/ \$32m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New 2 story branch within affordable housing development</li><li>• Currently working on the design of our fitout and collaborating with the development team</li></ul>
<b>Central Roof</b> Scoping/ \$2m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Repairing and replacing various roof areas on McKim and the Boyslton Street Building</li><li>• Defining the scope and developing a contract with the design team</li></ul>
<b>Central HVAC</b> Scoping/ \$4m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Replacement of HVAC equipment that serves floors 3 thru 7 of the Boyslton Street Building</li><li>• Defining the scope and developing a contract with the design team</li></ul>
<b>Brighton Roof</b> Scoping/ \$1.2m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A full replacement of the branch's roof</li><li>• Defining the scope and developing a contract with the design team</li></ul>

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## Sold out Ruth Carter!

- 275 in-person attendees | 100 virtual
  - *"She presented herself as an average human being. The conversation was real, simple and encouraged us to show our light to our selves and friends"*
  - *The moderator, the tech, the speaker. So professional and well put together."*

## Ken Fulk

- 250 in-person attendees | ~201 virtual

## Branch Catalyst grants finalized

- 41 programs across all 25 branches
- \$76,000 investment
- West Roxbury – Puppet Storytelling and Crafts

## West Roxbury

- Catalyst grant: Puppet storytelling and crafts
- Age Strong Librarian Isabella De Gregorio: Memory Café program
- Author talk: Bill McKibben "Here Comes the Sun: A Last Chance for the Climate and a Fresh Chance for Civilization"



# STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES

## **LIFELONG LEARNING & RESEARCH PARTNER**

- Cataloging the **Founding Research Collection**
- **Children's Musician in Residence**
- **Hello Hatchlings** launching 2026
- Expansion of **Browse | Borrow | Board**

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGER**

- **Civic engagement**
  - Definitional work underway
  - Projects with Simmons and Brown University

# STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES

## TRUSTED RESOURCE

- Training all staff on **Intellectual Freedom**:
  - 75% of staff trained to date; all new staff to receive training within first 60 days
- New **Chromebook lending**
  - Supported from Comcast grant

## WELCOMING DESTINATION

- **Special Connections**
  - Three projects greenlighted for 2026
- Training all branch librarians in **Language and Communication Access protocols**

# STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES

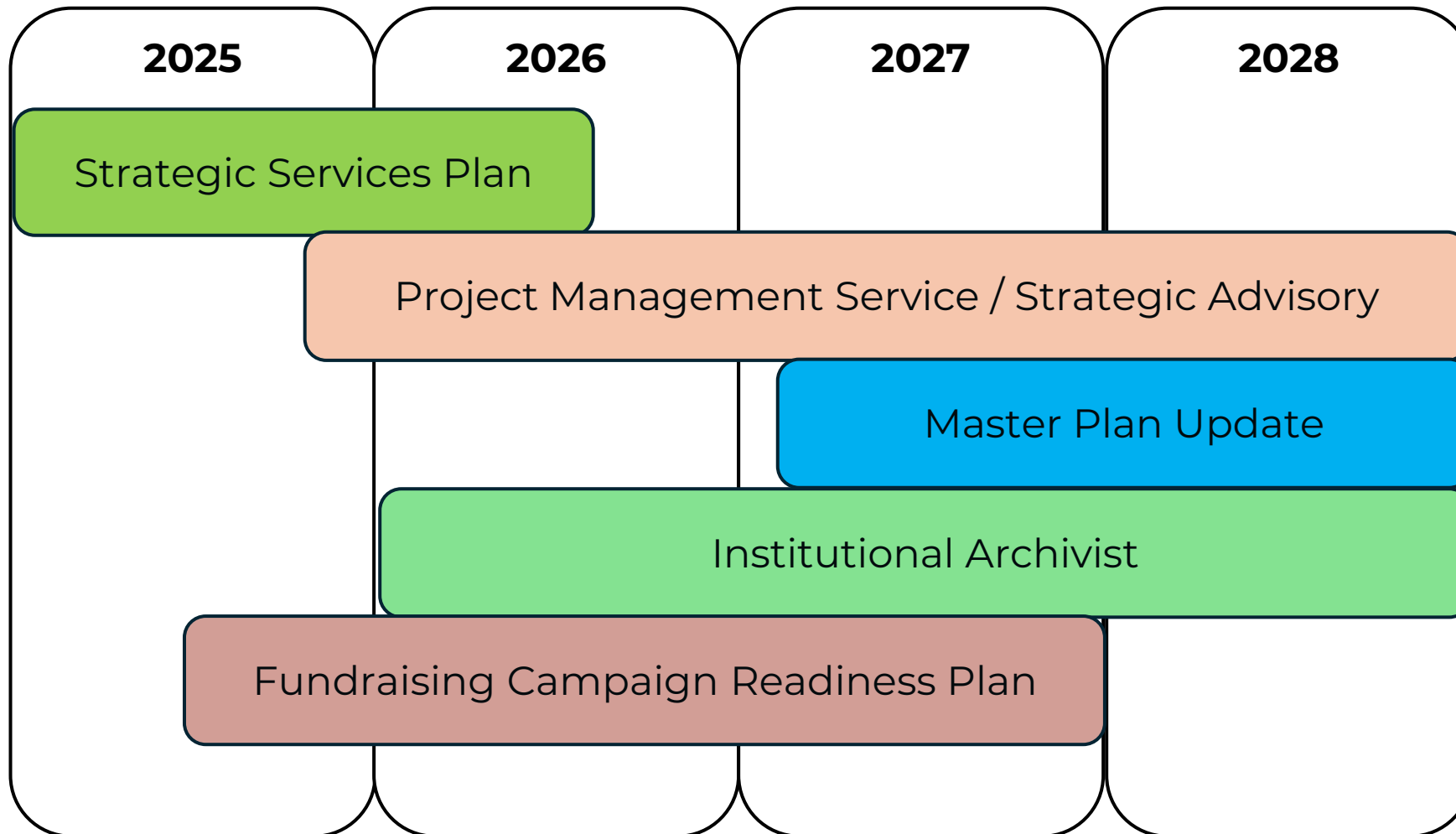
## ORGANIZATIONAL READINESS

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- **Simmons Fellowship** program – 1 Fellow currently and selection underway for 2026 candidate
- **Brown Bag Lunch** series – leverages expertise and lived experiences of staff + internal community building
- Identified a **project management tool** for adoption in 2026
- **Trauma-informed Approaches**

# BRIDGE TO MCKIM

## *Project Timeline & Key Enablers*



# *Visioning: Central Library User Experience & Services Study*

## **GOAL**

Create new experiences by looking at five dimensions of the library.

## **STEERING COMMITTEE:**

**Beth Prindle**

Director, Research and Special Collections

**Michael Colford**

Director of Library Services

**Anna Fahey-Flynn**

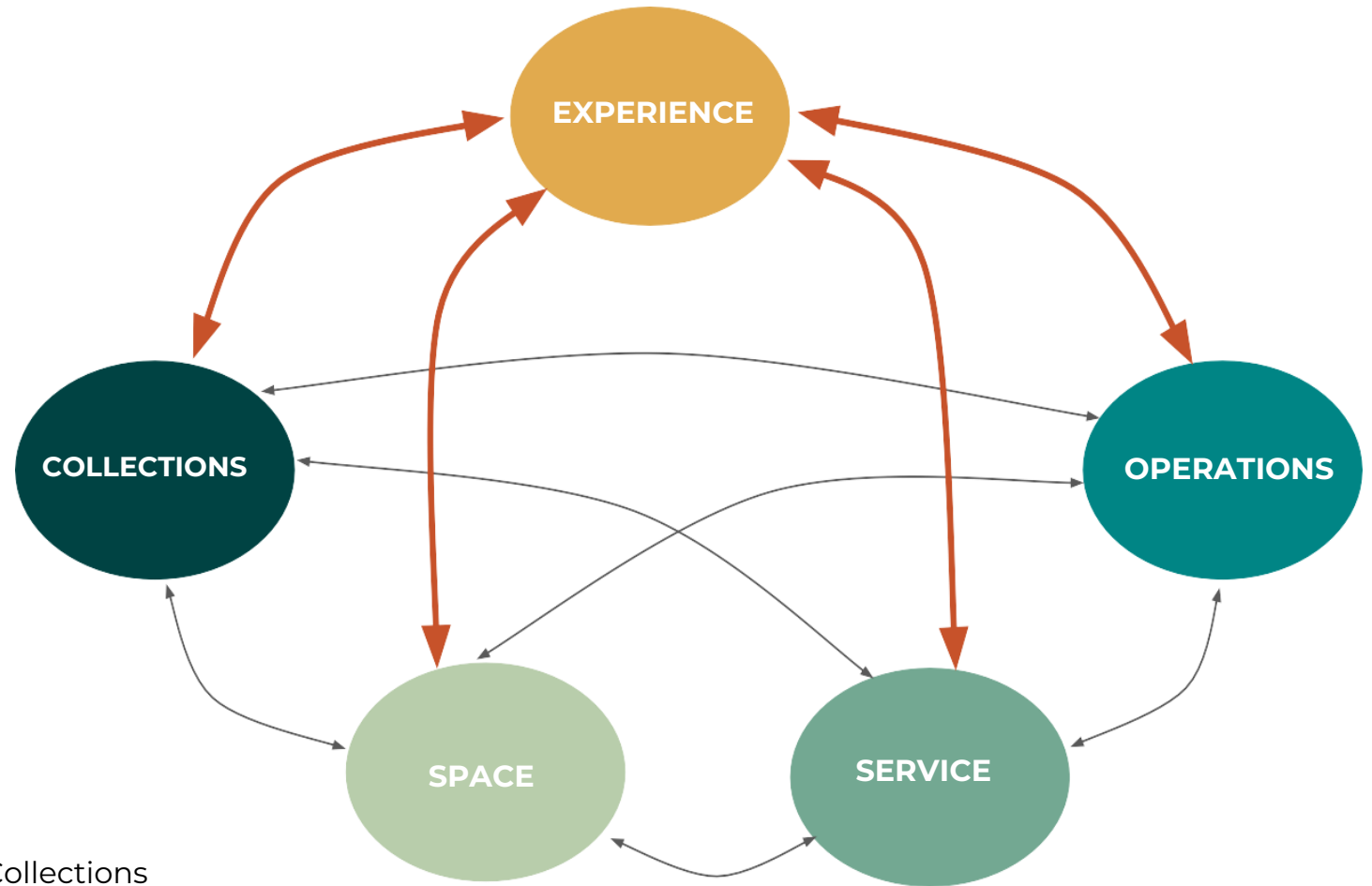
Manager of the Central Library

**Nicole Santiago**

Manager of Research Services

**Jessica Bitely**

Assistant Director, Research Collections





# Boston Sunday Globe

Serving our community since 1872

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025



PHOTO BY JESSICA RENAUD/GLOBE STAFF

At top: Visitors to the Boston Public Library's McKim Building took in John Singer Sargent's mural cycle. At right, a statue sat draped in plastic.



Pieces from the Joan of Arc collection are being stored in a section of the library that has been closed to the public for more than a decade.



## LIBRARY OF TREASURES, OFF LIMITS

A costly overhaul for BPL rooms with a Narnia-worthy collection

By Malcolm Gay  
GLOBE STAFF

The residence of the Boston Public Library's McKim Building unfolds with each step up the grand staircase.

Past the imposing stone lions, the golden-hued stairwell gives way to an airy gallery of murals, a millennium-spanning celebration of the muses. Nearby, a narrower stairway leads to the hushed third floor, where people wander the opulent gallery to untangle John Singer Sargent's "Triumph of Religion," a monumental cycle of murals the artist left unfinished despite nearly three decades of work.

Inevitably, some will try the leather-clad door at the end of the gallery, which seems to promise yet more wonders beyond.

But the door is locked.

It has been closed to the public for more than a decade, concealing a once-grand enfilade of vaulted ceilings, interior arcades, and elevated walkways that wrap

BPL, Page A20

# BRIDGE TO MCKIM

*Next steps*

## OPM Contract (Jan 2026)

- Existing conditions documentation and gap analysis
- Technical studies
- Storage plan
- Tie everything together to start master plan update (2027)

## Fundraising Campaign Communication Study

- Communication strategies for an unprecedented effort

## Hire institutional archivist (early 2026)

# Finance & Audit Committee

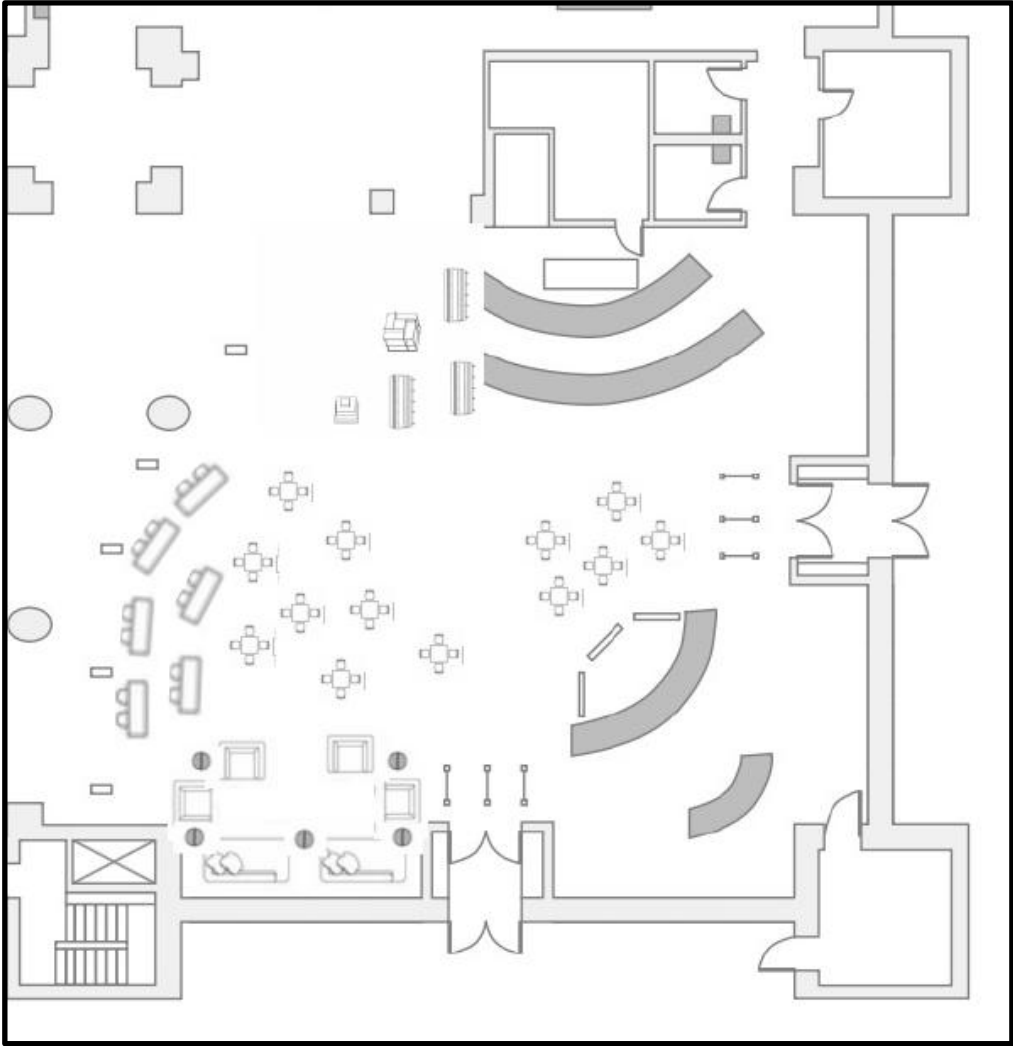
**BOSTON  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY**



*Evelyn Arana, Committee Chair*

*Emily Tokarczyk, Chief Financial Officer*

# Central Retail RFP: Studio 700 *(vision board images)*





**STUDIO SIPS**  
BEVERAGE + BITES BAR  
INSIDE STUDIO 700

<b>beverages</b>	<b>iced</b>	<b>hot</b>	<b>COMING</b>
HARMONY SPRINGS SODAS 4.25	JIM'S ORGANIC COLD BREW LATTE 4.25	JIM'S ORGANIC COFFEE LATTE 4.25	<b>SMOOTHIE BAR</b>
CANNED SODAS 2.75	AMERICANO 3.25	AMERICANO 4.00	FRUIT + CHEESE BOX 3.25
BOXED WATER 2.50	MATCHA LATTE 4.25	CAPPUCINO 4.75	VEGGIE BENTO BOX 5.25
<b>COLD-PRESSED JUICES</b>	CHAI LATTE 4.25	MATCHA LATTE 5.25	PROTEIN BENTO BOX 3.00
BACK BAY BLISS (VITAMIN BOOST) 6.00	HOUSE-MADE LEMONADE 3.50	CHAI LATTE 5.25	
BOSTON BEET (VITAMIN BOOST) 6.00	ICED TEA (BLACK OR GREEN) 4.25	HOT CHOCOLATE 4.75	
	ICED TEA (HERBAL) 3.75	MEM'S TEAS 4.75	
		ESPRESSO 2.75	

<b>bakery</b>	<b>bites</b>	
ASSORTED TEA BREADS 4.25	VEGETABLE BOWL XXX	
BAAGELS 3.75	POWER BOWL XXX	
SCONES 4.25	GREEK CHICKEN WRAP XXX	
CROISSANTS 5.00		

<b>wine</b>	<b>beer</b>	
SPARKLING WINE XXX	BEER XXX	
WHITE WINE XXX	SPIKED CIDER XXX	
RED WINE XXX	CANNED COCKTAIL XXX	



## VOTE FOR BOARD APPROVAL

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### 1. BPL Central Library Retail Tenant

***VOTED: "that, the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston approve a contract with The Catered Affair, 70 Ledgewood Place, Rockland, MA 02370 for a term of five years beginning August 2026, contingent on successful contract negotiations."***

## DELEGATION OF APPROVAL

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1. Bridge to McKim Owners Project Manager (OPM) contract

***VOTED: "that, the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston vote to delegate approval of the McKim Owners Project Manager (OPM) Contract to the Finance and Audit Committee."***

# Time Sensitive Collections Acquisition Approval Process

## NEW PROCESS:

- If an item becomes available outside of the F&A committee meeting window, BPL will send a purchase request and proposal to F&A committee chair. Proposal will include:
  - BPL bidding limit, and funding source
  - Special Collections Manager reasoning behind selection, assessment of rarity, pricing comps
  - Assessment rubric based on [BPL's current Collection Development Policy](#)
  - **For any item exceeding \$100,000**, purchase request and proposal must be sent to F&A Committee Chair AND Trustee Board Chair for approval
  - For any item exceeding \$200,000, standard purchasing approvals apply
- If approval is granted and BPL successfully acquires the item, purchase will be included on the following F&A meeting agenda

# New Business & 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 January 20, 2026  
Central Library at 8:30am*

*\*See website for details, subject to change*