

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

Tuesday, January 20, 2026
Dr. Ray Liu, Chair

OPENING STATEMENT

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

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.*"

CALL TO ORDER & REPORT

Dr. Ray Liu, Chair

- Roll call of Board
- Approval of Minutes of November 18, 2025



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

David Leonard

President

INAUGURATION



- Mayor again chose **Aitken Bible** from Special Collections for her second swearing-in ceremony.
 - First Bible containing the Old and New Testaments printed in English in the United States.
- Hosted inaugural celebration at Central Library
- “Make Way for Ducklings” storytime as part of week-long inaugural events

EXHIBITION UPDATE



- Visitor Count: **50,000+** since October opening; very high holiday traffic
- Collecting visitor data through surveys
- Open through April 21, 2026
- Special Tours
 - Fund has supported 3 close-looking sessions
 - Local schools and groups including Urban Achievers and Beacon Hill Village.
- What's Next
 - February 26 Drawing session in the gallery with Nicole Santiago, Manager, Research Services
 - March 4 Rotation of the *Out of Order: Fortification of Dorchester Heights* quilt commemorating the 250th anniversary of the event
 - March 5 Exploring the Boston Massacre prints, Curator Emily Bibb (on the anniversary of the 1770 massacre)
 - April 4 + 9 *Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness* printmaking sessions with artist Crystalle Lacouture, in partnership with Community History

CAPITAL PROGRESS

FIELDS CORNER

Construction/\$31m

- All new, two-story branch building
- On track for completion Fall 2026

CHINATOWN

Design/\$32m

- New, two-story branch in an affordable housing development
 - Finalizing construction documents
 - Construction has begun on base; fitout estimated in 18 months
-



STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW

Approved Dec 2025

Implementation Planning: Jan- June 2025

- Year 1: FY26 July 1-June 30th
- Key Organizational Principles:
 - Mission/Vision/Values
 - Roles
 - Goals
 - Initiatives
 - (Tactical/ Tasks)

STRATEGIC PLAN FY26 SUMMARY

Active Projects: 39

- Green 21
- Yellow 14
- Red 1
- Completed 1
- Not Started 2

STRATEGIC PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

Lifelong Learning & Research Partner

- Identified 2 partners for 1:1 financial coaching sessions
- 2026 Programming, including author NK Jemisin*
- Expansion of **Browse | Borrow | Board**

Community Engager

- Civic engagement
 - Working definition and Interest Group kickoff

STRATEGIC PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

Trusted Resource

- Digital Literacy – slate of public workshops*
- Additional tech partner Computers4People

Welcoming Destination

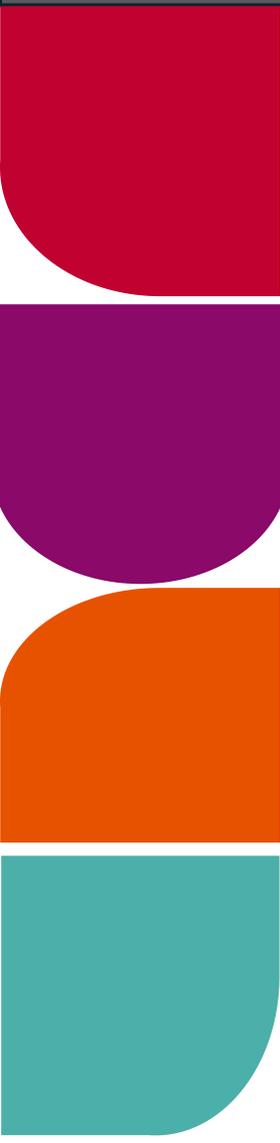
- **Declarations Exhibit** opens in April with a preview in March

STRATEGIC PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

Organizational Readiness

- Manager-Supervisor ½ Day Professional Development in March
- EDI Training Roadmap
- AUP training underway – full calendar shared out with staff.

STAFF INTEREST GROUPS

- 
- **Reader's Advisory/Curation**
 - Julie Roach and Veronica Koven-Matasy
 - **AI**
 - Jessica Chapel, Jenn Adams, and Erica Husting
 - **Civic Engagement**
 - Gianna Gifford
 - **Workforce Development**
 - Jess Elias

FY27 BUDGET PROCESS

Guidance to all City departments:

- 2% reduction from FY26 budgets

BPL Snapshot

FY26 APPROPRIATED

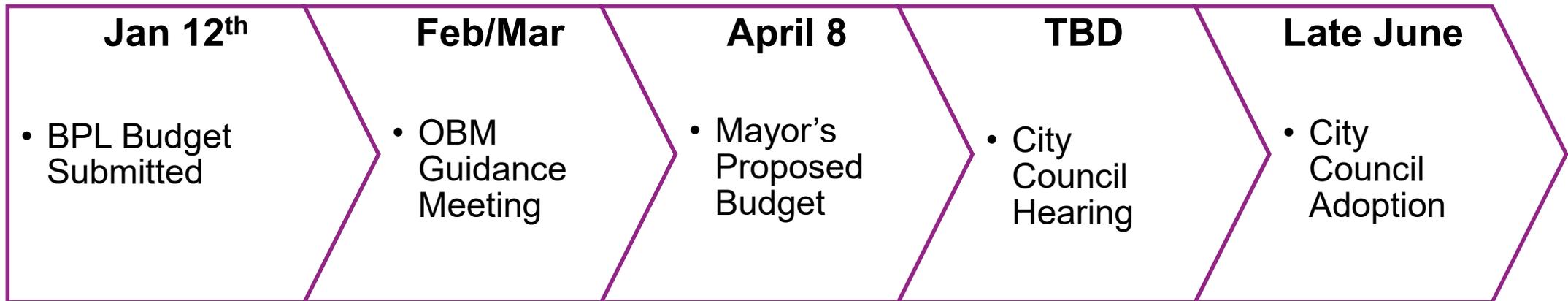
\$50,770,930



FY27 REDUCTION TARGET

\$49,755,511

FY27 BUDGET TIMELINE



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:

Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 3:00pm

Codman Square Branch

*See website for details; subject to change