

Governance & Nominating Committee Meeting

Monday, May 11, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

*Please sign up for Public Comment by 4:30 p.m.
via the CHAT (on Zoom)*

Comments left in the chat will NOT be acknowledged.

Written comments may be submitted to the Clerk of the Board, pcarver@bpl.org

John Hailer, Committee Chair

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.

COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT

John Hailer, Committee Chair

- Welcome remarks
- Roll Call
- Approval of Meeting Minutes from 5.16.25

Board of Trustees Updates

**BOSTON
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**



Outgoing Trustees

- Navjeet Bal
- Cheryl Cronin
- Christian Westra

Resignation of Trustees

- Jim Canales, *term expires 2028*
- Dr. Ray Liu, *Chair, term expires 2028*

Reappointed Trustees

**BOSTON
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**



- 1. Joseph Berman**
term of 2025-2030 -served a holdover year
- 2. Jose C. Masso III**
term of 2026-2031
- 3. Senator Michael Rush**
term of 2025-2030-served a holdover year

Newly Appointed Trustees

**BOSTON
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**



1. Marta Daneshvar, *term of 2026-2028*
2. Meredith DeWitt, *term of 2026-2028*
3. Alexander Leventhal, *term of 2026-2030**
4. Paul Lee, *term of 2026-2030**
5. Wadi Muhammad, *term of 2026-2030**

**Trustees serve the remainder of the term of their predecessor*

Marta Daneshvar

- Marta Daneshvar is a Principal at Choate in the Intellectual Property Litigation Group.
- Most recently worked as an Associate at Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, LLP where she practiced all areas of patent law, including patent prosecution, strategic counseling, and litigation at Finnegan/
- She is a member of Global Prior Art which provides support to leading law firms and companies in the areas of intellectual property management and strategic business decisions.
- She graduated from MIT with a B.S. degree in Materials Science and Engineering and obtained her Law degree at Stanford University.
- Marta lives in Cambridge with her husband and three children.



Meredith DeWitt

- Principal of DeWitt Consulting, providing clients with focused strategic counsel, aligning their public interactions with personal and organizational goals.
- Meredith has worked in national democratic politics, speechwriting and fundraising for over 20 years, including work on five U.S. presidential campaigns and six years as a congressional legislative advisor in Washington, D.C. She served as an aide to President Clinton, Vice President Gore, Senator Hillary Clinton, and Senator John Kerry.
- Meredith also served as Executive Director of Corporate Outreach for Wenner Media where she was responsible for developing and implementing advertising sales strategy for Wenner Media's three magazine properties - Rolling Stone, U.S. Weekly and Men's Journal.
- She serves on the Board of the Better Angels Society, a foundation dedicated to support the making of historical documentaries by Ken Burns and other American documentary filmmakers. Meredith also serves on the Advisory Board of the Camp Harbor View Foundation, which helps provide a summer camp experience for children from Boston's at-risk neighborhoods as well as Opportunity Nation, a bipartisan campaign working to expand economic opportunity in the United States.
- Meredith received her B.A. degree in Government from American University in Washington, D.C. and her J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law at Austin.



Paul Lee

- Paul W. Lee is a retired partner at Goodwin Procter LLP in Boston where he was a corporate transactions lawyer and one of the first Asian American partners at a Boston law firm.
- Born in Boston Chinatown, Paul has devoted himself to serving the Asian American community as well as all communities of color in MA and nationally.
- He is Co-founder and Chair of the Asian Community Fund at the Boston Foundation which is working to unite the AAPI community in MA to build a stronger collective voice and the Asian Business Empowerment Council which assists AAPI owned small businesses in MA.
- Co-founder and first President of the Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts
- Co-founder and past Board President of the Asian Community Development Corporation which develops affordable housing in Chinatown and other Asian American communities.
- Nationally, a past President of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association and past Board Chair of Asian Americans Advancing Justice- AAJC, the leading national Asian American civil rights organization.
- Paul is a member of the Boards of the Conservation Law Foundation, WGBH and the Coalition for Anti-Racism and Equity in Education (CARE) and a past Board member of the Boston Foundation and Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence.



Alexander Leventhal

- Alexander D. Leventhal is the Co-Founder and Managing Partner of Faros Properties.
- He is focused on development, asset management and leasing.
- Prior to founding Faros, Alex served as a Managing Partner of the investment division at Boston Realty Advisors.
- His earlier experience includes positions at Jones Lang LaSalle and RM Bradley Real Estate. Alex holds a B.S. degree in Management from Bentley University.
- In recognition of his leadership and accomplishments, he was honored in 2013 with the Forty Under Forty Rising Star Award by the Business Council of Westchester.
- In addition to his professional pursuits, Alex is deeply committed to civic and cultural engagement, serving on several Boards including the Norman B. Leventhal Map and Education Center at the Boston Public Library and the Advisors Council at WGBH Boston.



Wadi Muhammad

- Wadi Muhammad is a seasoned business executive serving as principal at MTK Development and CEO of Bioclean Boston, with over a decade of experience in enterprise software sales.
- He is a Corporate Advisor at Amazon Business.
- Deeply committed to community impact, Wadi serves as treasurer and board member of the Daddy and Me Literacy Program
- Has held leadership roles including chair of the board for Greater Grove Hall Main Street, Deputy Political & Field Director for a Boston mayoral campaign, and public engagement lead for Youth, African American, and Faith Based organizations at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS

John Hailer, Committee Chair

VOTED: “that, the Governance and Development Committee of the Public Library of the City of Boston approve the appointments and reappointments of Mayor Michelle Wu for the Boston Public Library Board of Trustees as discussed and reviewed.”

NOMINATION AND VOTE FOR THE OFFICERS FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

John Hailer, Committee Chair

- A. Marta Daneshvar, *Chair*
- B. Evelyn Arana, *Vice Chair*
- C. Pamela Carver, *Clerk*

VOTED: “that, the Trustees Governance and Nominating Committee recommend the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston approve the nomination for the slate of officers for the Board of Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston at the Annual Trustees Meeting on May 19, 2026, for a 1-year term beginning May 2026-May 2027. The officers include Marta Daneshvar as Chair, Evelyn Arana as Vice Chair, and Pamela Carver as Clerk.”

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.



Adjournment