

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

- Please sign up for Public Comment via Sign in Sheet at the entrance
- or the CHAT tab on Zoom by 9:00 a.m.
- Comments left in the chat will not be acknowledged.
- You will have up to 2 minutes to speak and taken in the order received.

Written comments submitted to the Clerk of the Board (no later than 24 hours in advance) will be included with the meeting materials distributed to Board prior to the meeting.

Tuesday, May 19, 2026
Evelyn Arana, Interim 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

Evelyn Arana, Interim Chair

- Convene the Meeting of the Trustees as a Corporation
- Roll Call of Board
- Governance & Development Committee Report

Governance & Nominating Committee

John Hailer, Committee Chair

**BOSTON
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**



Board of Trustees Updates

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 Garcia**, *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 Garcia

- Marta Garcia is a Principal at Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP in the Intellectual Property Litigation Group.
- Prior to joining Choate, Marta practiced at Finnegan, where her work spanned all areas of patent law, including complex patent and intellectual property litigation, strategic counseling, and patent prosecution across the chemical, mechanical, and biotechnology industries.
- She has experience managing complex patent litigation matters through all phases of litigation, including discovery, trial, and appeals.
- Marta graduated from MIT with a B.S. degree in Materials Science and Engineering and a minor in Biomedical Engineering and obtained her law degree from Stanford Law School.
- Marta lives in Boston with her husband, three children, and bernedoodle.



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, where he focuses on development, asset management, and leasing.
- Prior to founding Faros, Alex served as a Managing Partner of the investment division at Boston Realty Advisors and previously held positions at Jones Lang LaSalle and RM Bradley Real Estate.
- He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Management from Bentley University.
- Alex has been recognized with the Forty Under Forty Rising Star Award by the Business Council of Westchester.
- Alex is also actively involved in several civic and cultural organizations, including the New England Aquarium, Museum of Fine Arts Boston, and the Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center at the Boston Public Library.



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.



NOMINATION AND VOTE FOR THE OFFICERS FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

John Hailer, Committee Chair

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

VOTED: “that, 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 Garcia as Chair, Evelyn Arana as Vice Chair, and Pamela Carver as Clerk.”

ENABLING VOTES

Evelyn Arana, Interim Chair

- Signing of payrolls
- Signing of contracts approved by the Board
- Acceptance of gifts and payments for special services and payments for publications and prints
- Acceptance of gifts to be added to established funds in the general investment account
- Distribution of income
- Trust funds

*****Voted on as a slate***

ENABLING VOTES

Evelyn Arana, Interim Chair

VOTED: “that, the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston approve the slate of Enabling Votes as presented on May 19, 2026.”

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING AS A CORPORATION

Evelyn Arana, Interim Chair

Board of Trustees Annual Meeting

As an Administrative Agency

CALL TO ORDER

Evelyn Arana, Interim Chair

- Convene the Meeting of the Trustees as an Administrative Agency
 - * *Clerk to acknowledge if there is a quorum*
- Approval of Meeting Minutes of 3.24.26



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

David Leonard

President

**CONGRATULATIONS
JESSICA CHAPEL!**

**MOVeRS
& SHaKeRS
2026**

THE PEOPLE SHAPING THE FUTURE OF LIBRARIES

**LIBRARY JOURNAL-
TEAM PLAYERS**



Photo by William Neumann Photography

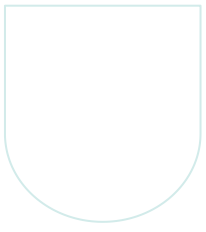


Introducing...

Caroline Tanski

Collections Care Manager

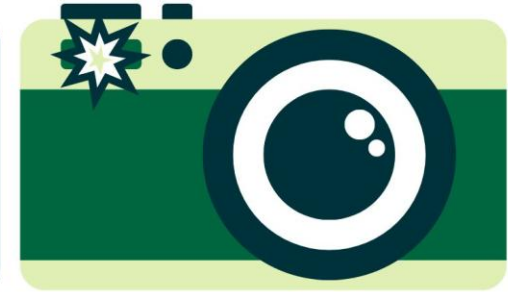
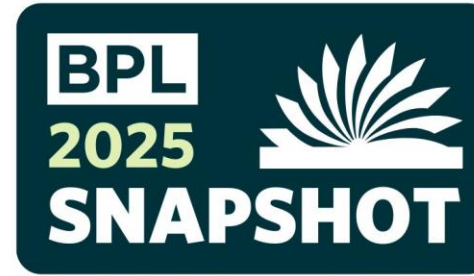
- Reports to the Research & Special Collections Department
- Leads preservation strategies that will protect physical collections and prioritize ongoing use.



BPL BY THE NUMBERS

Calendar 2025

Most recent full-year data



View the facts and figures at
bpl.org/statistics



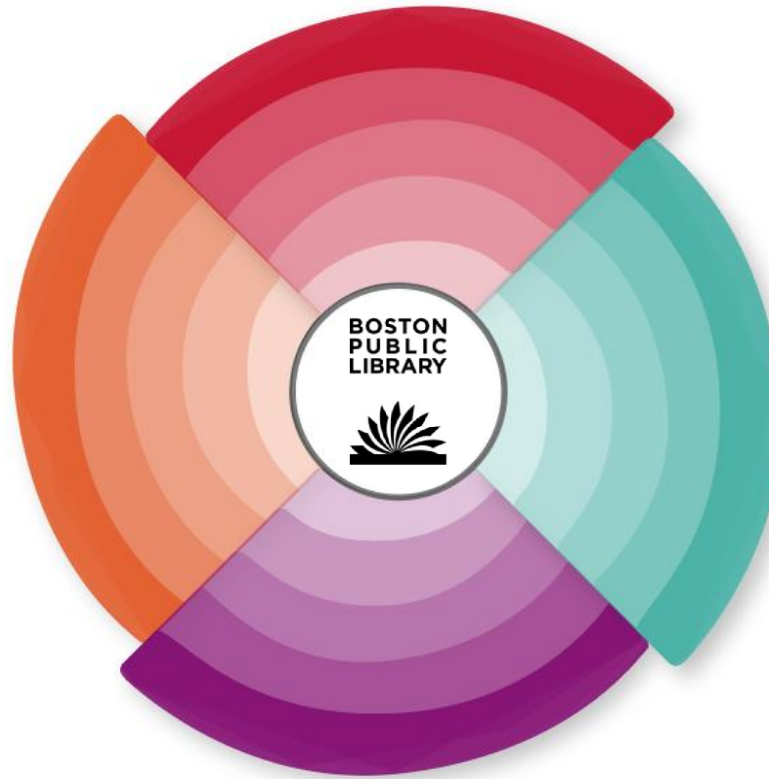
OUR STRATEGIC ROLES

Life-Long Learning & Research Partner

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

Community Engager

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



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.

Ignite Young Minds

Advance Youth Opportunities

Life-Long Learning & Research Partner

Strategic Initiatives

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Created BPL's first-ever **all-ages summer reading program**. Families were able to participate together for the first time.

Accepted into the first library cohort of **LEGO Group's Playful Library Network**

Worked closely with Office of Early Childhood on City's **Boston Reads** program, opening the door to closer collaboration with other City agencies with whom BPL had not previously partnered.

Developed **new onboarding process for Youth Service librarians**, to support new librarians' professional growth, training, and mentorship

All Children's Librarians engaged in training focused on incorporating **early literacy practices** into their storytimes, including sharing early literacy information with parents and caregivers

GOALS

Through LEGO Group's Playful Library Network, Youth Services librarians will collaborate with colleagues worldwide to **develop playful programs** and curricula to enhance services.

Launch the **Hello Hatchlings** program to support new caregivers with early literacy resources, with a goal of reaching six thousand families

Launch "**1,000 Stories Before Kindergarten**" to boost caregiver engagement and better support early literacy by providing professional development for children's librarians

Expand the **Teen Volunteer Program** to include career pathways by offering increased opportunities for career exploration and hands-on learning opportunities

Recruit **ESOL volunteers** who can support **students with learning challenges or impairments** and organize training materials to support these students



Life-Long Learning & Research Partner

Strategic Initiatives

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Support Lifelong Growth

Hired grant-funded **ESOL/workforce specialist** to increase workforce education programming for ELL patrons

CFA Society of Boston offering **one on one financial coaching** sessions

Successfully refocused work to manage unexpected and unprecedented **shifts in the library vendor market**

Preserve & Share our Heritage & History

Opened first major exhibition in almost a decade: **Revolution! 250 Years of Art and Activism in Boston**; more than **95,000 visitors**

Participate in **Boston 250** programming efforts to showcase Boston in the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution

Showcasing BPL's **eight** copies of the **Declaration of Independence**

GOALS

Comprehensive **collection maintenance plan**

Dedicated workforce support to ESL students, with support from new staff person

Recruit partners to offer **workshops** about **changes to US immigration policy**

Recruit **college and university** volunteer tutors for **adult basic education and literacy instruction**

Launch spring and summer **programs to augment Declarations exhibition.**

Revolutionary Ideas programming will run for all of calendar year 2026

Co-develop **“Teaching Boston” pilot**: Boston history and geography themes in partnership with Leventhal Map & Education Center.



Welcoming Destination

Strategic Initiatives

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Create Inclusive Spaces

Completed **strategic review of Central Library tour program**

“Ask Me” shifts; volunteers stationed in high traffic locations to engage visitors

Increased bandwidth, replaced network firewalls, and replaced WiFi access points across the system

Embrace Diversity

Created **accessibility checklist** of improvements needed at all BPL locations

Conducted series of **listening sessions with disability community**; hosted Disability Commission listening tours in multiple locations

GOALS

Implement recommendations to identify **additional seating opportunities** in the Central Library

Using data from pilot program, offer more **frequent and accessible tours** of Central to more patrons.

Roll out revised, **new interpretive signage** that more directly engages with the history of the McKim builds as library space.

Prioritize and identify funding **for accessibility improvements**

Finalize three-year plan to outline **phased implementation of accessibility devices, equipment, building features, assistive technology**



Welcoming Destination

Strategic Initiatives

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Reimagine McKim

Used **Bridge to McKim grant funding** to begin preparations for renovation:

Institutional Archivist to organize historic records and plans related to the library's buildings and construction projects.

Launched **Central Library User Experience Study** to identify ways to address needs of operations, service, space, and collection management.

Build Sustainable Communities

Construction underway on new **Fields Corner Branch**, the first branch built to the City's Fossil Fuel Free standard

Construction started on first full size branch in **Chinatown** in more than 50 years. The branch is part of a larger housing development, a first in BPL history.

GOALS

Continue building readiness activities including **photography and 3D modeling** initiatives

Incorporate findings of Central Library User Experience Study with technical assessments to begin **developing the vision for the Master Plan Update**.

Waiting for FY27 capital budget to ascertain upcoming goals



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

GOALS

Trusted Resource

Strategic Initiatives



Deliver Reliable Information

Continued participation in **Books Unbanned**, with more than 24,500 signups and 102,000 items borrowed

Continued to offer **Intellectual Freedom training** to all BPL staff

Recast Browse | Borrow | Board as **Why Wait?**, providing magazines, newspapers, games and more.

Expand Books Unbanned, **ensuring the right to read**, to a full collection with no holds

Ensure that Annual Book List Working Groups **complete intellectual freedom training and apply EDI best practices**

Develop **new media literacy workshop** about S.I.F.T. -- a new framework to evaluate digital information

Empower Digital Access

Expanded **scope of digital instruction** to highlight high interest topics, online safety, and AI

Launched **Palace app** to expand digital offerings

Improved digital reading options while managing the growing costs of digital materials

Completed **Community Learning user study** to optimize digital resources for patrons

Develop **vendor neutral in-app experience** for reading and listening to digital books

Build out **curation and discovery opportunities** showcasing print and digital collections.

Simplify descriptions of community learning programs to make them **more accessible** to less **digitally literate patrons**

Connecting to Human Services

Trusted Resource

Strategic Initiatives

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Secured partnership with **Trial Court Law Libraries**, which enables patrons to access resources on immigration, general research, and landlord/tenant law.

Secured grant funding to **assess social service needs of housing insecure patrons**, and how the Library can serve them.

GOALS

Enhance outreach in support of our legal resources; explore **creation of a physical space**

Expand AI instruction for patrons new to tech; seniors; and job seekers

Pilot first **Computers4People technology literacy program**

Introduce **“Silver Chat”** to Mattapan’s “Silver Tech” classes



Center Community Needs & Input

Amplify Community Voices

Community Engager

Strategic Initiatives

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Increased **block programming to all 25 branches**

Partnering with local organizations to provide **complementary services** alongside BPL programming

Developed additional ways to service communities while **branches are closed for renovations.**

Planned and implemented **Community History programs** including:

- Community scanning days
- Sidewalk stories listening party
- Boston Black Women Lead Wikipedia edit-a-thons
- Roxbury Art Walk
- “Finding My Neighborhood History” program in partnership with LMEC

GOALS

Expand and enhance **civics-based education for ESOL students**

Expand outreach to the **Returning Citizens** population by collaborating with **Norfolk Sheriff’s office**

Expand KBLIC workshops to better serve **Boston’s arts community**

Launch **McKim Memory Program** in Bates Hall

Strengthen collaboration among member libraries by expanding opportunities for staff to **share best practices and participate in statewide policy groups.**



Community Engager

Strategic Initiatives

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Foster Civic Participation

- Created definition for **what civic engagement will mean** for BPL
- Launched **Civic Engagement Staff Interest Group**
- Engaged Simmons and Brown University students to help **workshop definitions.**
- Continued to develop and update **curriculum focusing on news and media literacy topics**

Expand Digital Reach

- Completed **user research study** that included staff interviews, community focus groups, and one on one user interviews.
- Analyzed peer library systems and UX **best practices for lower literacy and vulnerable populations**
- Identified patrons' **technical barriers, language challenges, and accessibility gaps**

GOALS

- Test new definition for civic engagement** with patron and staff **focus groups**; strategize current and future civic engagement offerings.
- Roll out **Community Agreement best practices for** public programing and staff interactions
- Work with **Election Commission** to develop engagement around the midterm elections
- Continue **“Unraveling the News”** conversation groups

- Conduct **user study focused on core library patrons** to understand how they discover and access collections and services online.
- Use findings **to inform catalog improvements and website priorities.**
- Implement recommendations to **reduce barriers to web site usability, including plain language gaps, mobile accessibility, and registration complexity.**



Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Workplace Culture

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Expanded **translation and interpretation** services
- Gathered data in preparation for developing EDI 2.0 plan, in alignment with the strategic plan.
- Implemented staff suggestions for **more physical accessibility** in BPL spaces
- Began regular cadence of meetings with Disability Commission and **re-launched Accessibility Working Group**

Implement recommendations from **Trauma-Informed Approaches** Committee

Built capacity within the Social Work department by hiring a social worker and peer navigator supervisor.

Piloted staff **community of practice meetings** facilitated by social work interns, providing space for staff to discuss challenges of public library work

GOALS

- Ensure front-line staff are confident using Lionbridge for **on-demand interpretation**;
- Train and support BPL's new **Language & Communication Access (LCA) Points of Contact**
- Ensure staff at locations with **assistive listening technology** are confident offering it to patrons
- Develop toolkits and best practices to support staff

Continue search process to hire a **Peer Navigator Supervisor**.

Onboard new Social Worker and **create regular rotation of social work services** (drop-in hours, appointments, and Coffee program) at 3 branches.

Organizational Readiness

Strategic Initiatives



Staff Development

Collaboration & Communication

Organizational Readiness

*Strategic
Initiatives*

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Strengthened the Library's **onboarding process** so new staff members have a focused 12-month program of learning and development in their first year of employment

Ensure staff are fully aware of **professional development** funds available to them for higher education, certifications, and skill building.

Roll out the Day 2 model of onboarding where new employees get a **second check in moment** with HR and Leadership during the second half of their first year of employment.

Published **Orientation Tasks checklist for Managers** on HR BPL Hub Site.

Made overall **data collection more streamlined**, user-friendly, and accessible to all staff.

Established **transparent process for evaluating funding needs** as they relate to strategic plan and operational priorities

Developed & deployed "**SnAPIcat**" custom application, to dramatically improve efficiency of cataloging workflows.

Improve data collection by socializing new dashboards, developing patron survey templates, identifying individualized success criteria for programs and services

Review appropriate ways to ensure the **Extended Leadership budgeting process** is gathering information from all levels of staff and departments.

GOALS



Capacity Building

Organizational Readiness

Strategic Initiatives

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Develop **flexible and responsive ordering practices** to de-centralize ordering and increase ordering from one vendor across print and digital landscapes

Began phasing out paper- and e-mail-based procedures. Provide clear updates and guidelines to staff using BPL's new intranet platform.

GOALS

Build appropriate capacity in **Communications** to better inform residents of critical services available at BPL

Evaluate findings from current Dolt data evaluation and implement recommendations, **reducing shipping backlogs, collection transit time, and staff touchpoints.**

Build the infrastructure needed for **long-term stewardship** of our digitized and **digital collections.**



Thank you, Michael!

Michael Colford will be retiring as Director of Library Services on July 10th, 2026.

He has dedicated 22 years of service to the City of Boston and the patrons of the Boston Public Library.

You will be sorely missed!



TRANSITION UPDATE

- Job posted
- Committees in formation
 - Ideal candidate profiles
 - Direct reports
 - Screening
 - Interviewing
- Estimated timeline

Made possible by the Irene Haney Creative Enrichment Fund through the BPL Fund

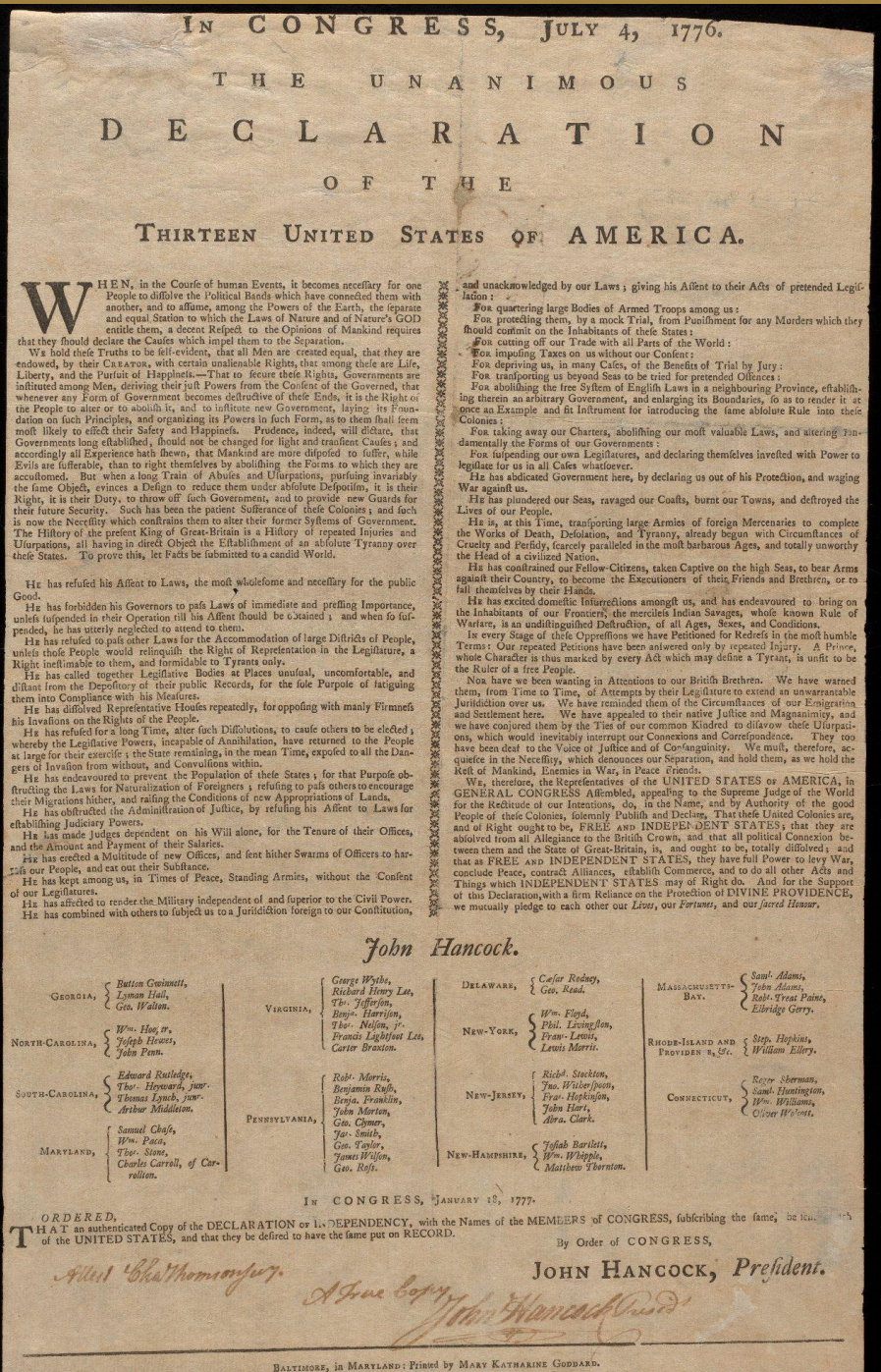
Declarations PRINTING A NEW NATION

OPENED
CLOSES
LOCATION

Saturday, April 11, 2026
Sunday, September 13, 2026
Leventhal Center Gallery, McKim Building

BPL's eight rare printings of the Declaration of Independence are displayed together with rare maps, early printings, books, and other visual materials—inviting visitors into the moment when American independence was still taking shape.

co-presented by the Boston Public Library & Leventhal Map & Education Center



IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

THE UNANIMOUS DECLARATION OF THE THIRTEEN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

WHEN, in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's GOD entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the Causes which impel them to the Separation.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed, by their CREATOR, with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate, that Governments long established, should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The History of the present King of Great-Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the Right of Representation in the Legislature, a Right inestimable to them, and formidable to Tyrants only.

He has called together Legislative Bodies at Places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the Depository of their public Records, for the sole Purpose of evading them in Compliance with his Measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly Firmness his Invasions on the Rights of the People.

He has refused for a long Time, after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise: in the State remaining, in the mean Time, exposed to all the Dangers of Invasion from without, and Convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the Population of these States; for that Purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their Migrations hither, and raising the Conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the Tenure of their Offices, and the Amount and Payment of their Salaries.

He has erected a Multitude of new Offices, and sent hither Swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their Substance.

He has kept among us, in Times of Peace, Standing Armies, without the Consent of our Legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For quartering large Bodies of Armed Troops among us;

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States;

For cutting off our Trade with all Parts of the World;

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent;

For depriving us, in many Cases, of the Benefits of Trial by Jury;

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended Offences;

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries, so as to render it at once an Example and fit Instrument for introducing the same abominable Rule into these Colonies;

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments;

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with Power to legislate for us in all Cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection, and waging War against us.

He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People.

He is, at this Time, transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the Works of Death, Desolation, and Tyranny, already begun with Circumstances of Cruelty and Rapidity, scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous Ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized Nation.

He has constrained our Fellow-Citizens, taken Captive on the high Seas, to bear Arms against their Country, to become the Executioners of their Friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic Insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the Inhabitants of our Frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known Rule of Warfare, is an undistinguished Destruction, of all Ages, Sexes, and Conditions.

In every Stage of these Oppressions we have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble Terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated Injury. A Prince, whose Character is thus marked by every Act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the Ruler of a free People.

Now have we been wanting in Attention to our British Brethren. We have warned them from Time to Time, of Attempts by their Legislature to extend an unwarrantable Jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the Circumstances of our Emigration and Settlement here. We have appealed to their native Justice and Magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the Ties of our common Kindred to disavow these Usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our Connections and Correspondence. They too have been deaf to the Voice of Justice and of Consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the Necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the Rest of Mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the Rectitude of our Intentions, do, in the Name, and by the Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly Publish and Declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES; that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political Connection between them and the State of Great-Britain, is, and ought to be, totally dissolved; and that as FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which INDEPENDENT STATES may of Right do. And for the Support of this Declaration, with a firm Reliance on the Protection of DIVINE PROVIDENCE, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

John Hancock.

GEORGIA, {	DELAWARE, {	MARYLAND, {
Batton Chew, Esq., Lyman Hall, Geo. Walton.	Cesar Rodney, Geo. Read.	Saml. Adams, John Adams, John Treat Paine, Elbridge Gerry.
NORTH-CAROLINA, {	NEW-YORK, {	RHODE-ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE, {
Wm. Hoar, sr., Jesse Hawes, John Penn.	Wm. Floyd, Phil. Livingston, Fran. Lewis, Lewis Morris.	Step. Hopkins, William Ellery.
SOUTH-CAROLINA, {	NEW-JERSEY, {	CONNECTICUT, {
Edward Rutledge, Tho. Howard, junr., Thomas Lynch, junr., Arthur Middleton.	Robt. Morris, Benjamin Rush, Benja. Franklin, John Hart, Geo. Clymer.	Roger Sherman, Saml. Huntington, John Williams, Oliver Wolcott.
MARYLAND, {	PENNSYLVANIA, {	NEW-HAMPSHIRE, {
Samuel Chase, Wm. Paca, Tho. Stone, Charles Carroll, of Car- rollton.	Robt. Morris, Benjamin Rush, Benja. Franklin, John Hart, Geo. Clymer, Jas. Smith, Geo. Taylor, James Wilson, Geo. Ross.	John Bartlett, Fran. Wilson, Geo. Ross.

IN CONGRESS, JANUARY 18, 1777.

ORDERED, That an authenticated Copy of the DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCY, with the Names of the MEMBERS of CONGRESS, subscribing the same, be printed, and that a true Copy of the same be put on RECORD.

By Order of CONGRESS,
John Hancock, President.

BALTIMORE, in MARYLAND: Printed by MARY KATHARINE GODDARD.

**FINANCE
& AUDIT
COMMITTEE**

**BOSTON
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**



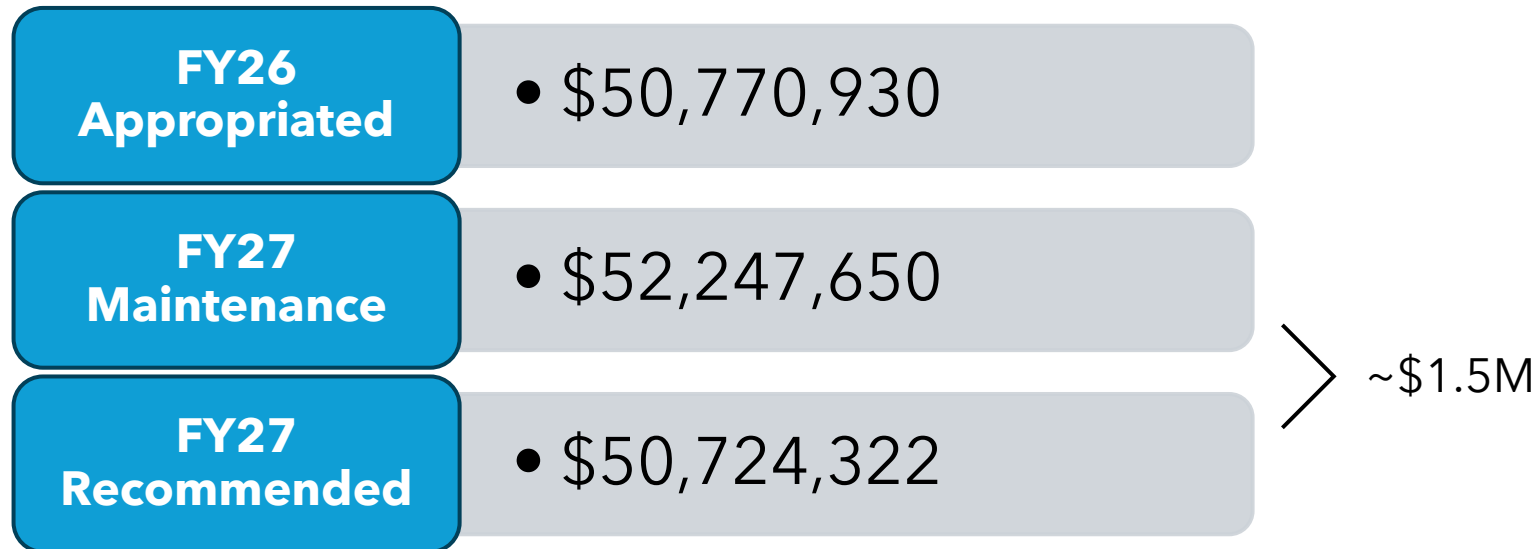
Evelyn Arana, Committee Chair

Emily Tokarczyk, Chief Financial Officer

Mayor's Recommended FY27 Operating Budget

FY27 Budget Submission

- All City departments to outline a **2% reduction**
- BPL FY27 Maintenance Budget: \$52,247,650
- 2% Reduction Total: \$49,755,511



Mayor's Recommended FY27-FY31 Capital Budget

Project	
Brighton Library Roof	\$1,200,000
Central Library: Roof & HVAC	\$6,000,000
Central Library: McKim Master Plan	\$50,000,000
Chinatown Branch Library	\$32,000,000
Connolly Branch Library	\$575,000
Egleston Square Branch Library	\$31,510,000
Fields Corner Branch Library	\$30,900,000

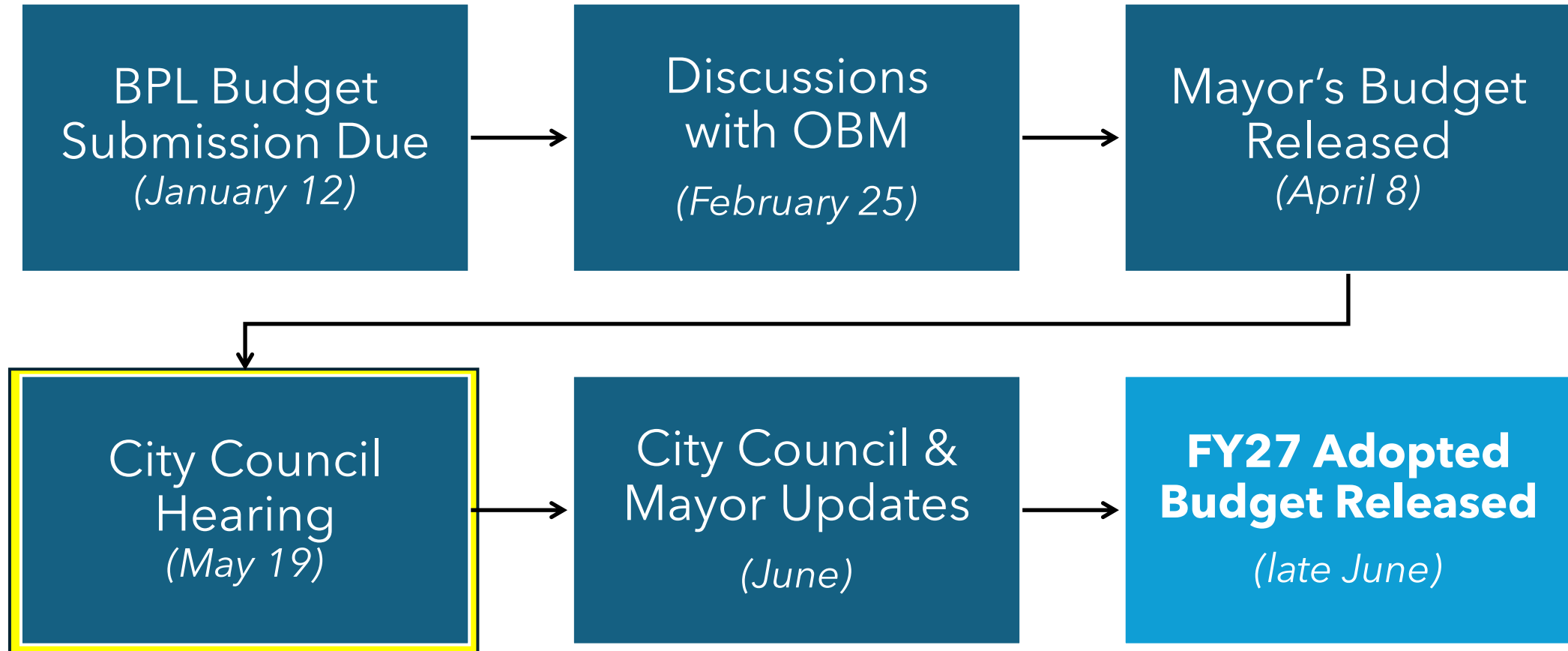
Hyde Park Branch Library	\$500,000
North End Branch Library	\$1,475,000
South Boston Branch Library Study	\$250,000
South End Branch Library	\$32,650,000
Uphams Corner Branch Library	\$32,000,000
West End Branch Library	\$32,000,000

Total Recommended Capital for FY27-FY31:

\$251,060,000

Mayor's Recommended FY27 Operating Budget

Anticipated Timeline



Mayor Wu's FY27 Recommended Operating & Capital Budget

VOTED: “that, the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston vote to accept Mayor Michelle Wu’s FY27 Recommended Operating and Capital Budget.”

Award of Contracts

Vote to approve as a slate as presented

1. Contract or Contracts for Various Goods or Services relating to the Critical Repair Operating Budget for FY27
2. Contract for the Purchase of Books and Certain Other Library Bibliographical Acquisitions Materials
3. Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee/Trust Fund FY26
Estimated Expenditure of \$108,335.11
4. Review of delegation of certain contract approvals for the Board of Trustees
May 2026 – September 2026

VOTED: “that, the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston voted to approve the slate of Award of Contracts as presented on May 19, 2026”

NEW BUSINESS

Evelyn Arana, Interim Chair

A. City Council Ways & Means Hearing 5/19 at 2-5pm at City Council Chambers for BPL Budget review.

***If you are unable to join in person, the hearing can be streamed via Boston City Council television on Xfinity Channel 8, RCN Channel 82, and Fios Channel 964. You can also watch online through the livestream (you can find on Boston.gov website)*

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 Full Board Meeting:

Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at 8:30am

Central Library

*See website for details; subject to change