



## Key Accomplishments

1. **Collections of Distinction.** The library launched its Collections of Distinction, which includes eighteen initial collections that represent the most outstanding, expansive, and renowned of its holdings of more than 23 million items. Within the collections is an array of books, maps, manuscripts, letters, drawings, and other original works dating back as early as the 10th century.
2. **Library for the Commonwealth, Launch of Digital Repository and Portal.** Boston Public Library expanded its work as Library for the Commonwealth throughout FY14. Key activities include the beta launch of a new statewide digital repository and portal, reaching over 150 partner institutions with free digitization services, and working as a pilot service hub for the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA). The portal will be in general release by the end of March 2014. Over 100,000 items/records were prepared and uploaded to the new system and subsequently harvested into DPLA for national exposure. More than 50,000 maps, photographs, manuscript pages, books, and more were imaged in Boston Public Library labs.
3. **Launch of Mobile App, Digital Magazines, Digital Streaming.** Boston Public Library unveiled its mobile catalog and mobile app in August 2013 which enabled library users to renew books, place holds, and more all while on the go. The library launched a free digital magazine service for download in September 2013. Through a service named Zinio, Boston Public Library cardholders can download and keep digital copies of more than 100 popular magazines. Plans are in place for digital streaming of movies, television, and music to be added to the library collection in March 2014 and made immediately available for download.
4. **Partners-in-Residence.** Boston Public Library has two partners-in-residence at its Copley Square location that represent a continuing, collaborative commitment to expanding information access to all. Internet Archive is a nonprofit digital library offering permanent access for researchers, historians, and the general public to historical collections that exist in digital format. The Digital Public Library of America develops systems to share digital content from American libraries, archives, museums, historical societies, and other community centers in a centralized, online environment.
5. **Branch Facilities.** Several branch locations have improvement projects at various stages of study, design, and construction. The exterior entrance to the Dudley Branch of the Boston Public Library is undergoing enhancements. The project includes an illuminated marquee sign to better

highlight the front entrance, tree pruning, improved lighting on the exterior plaza, the installation of security cameras, and the installation of mechanical shades in the community room. In addition, branch library programming studies were completed for the Roslindale Branch, Dudley Branch, and Jamaica Plain Branch. A programming study is the first step in the process of determining improvements to a branch library.

6. **Opening of the New East Boston Branch.** The new East Boston Branch of the Boston Public Library opened in November 2013 at 365 Bremen Street. At nearly 15,000 square feet in size, the new branch library features an open floor plan with dedicated areas for children, teens, and adults. In the first two months of service, there were more than 23,000 visitors.
7. **Phase I of the Central Library Renovation.** A master planning process for the renovation focused on the following goals: revitalizing program spaces and improving user services, connecting the library to the city, creating an inviting first impression, and strengthening the connection between the Johnson Building and the McKim Building. The first phase of construction is underway on the building's second floor which will feature new children and teen rooms, refreshed and reorganized collections and reference services, and community reading areas and workspaces. There are also several required system upgrades associated with the renovation.
8. **Energy Improvements.** Energy initiatives planned within the Central Library Renovation Project/Johnson Building Improvement project include: air handling unit and HVAC systems updates and wide-ranging electrical systems updates, including a replacement generator and oil tank supply.
9. **Community Engagement.** Boston Public Library continued its commitment to community engagement as highlighted in its strategic plan, the BPL Compass. Through a variety of means, library staff members collect and respond to questions and feedback on an ongoing basis. Recent highlights include: 2014 user survey, which garnered more than 11,000 responses; roundtable discussions, suggestions box slips, email, blogs, social media, interactive display and Q & A boards; and everyday conversation across information desks.
10. **National Public Relations Recognition.** Boston Public Library received national recognition for outstanding public relations efforts at the 2013 American Library Association annual conference. The "Best of Show" awards recognize the best public relations materials produced by libraries in each calendar year. Boston Public Library received top honors in three categories: 1) *Advocacy*: for the BPL Compass strategic plan, the culmination of a two-year public engagement process that created a set of guiding organization principles along with outcomes and strategies for success. 2) *Special Programs, Events, and Exhibits*: for the "Building Boston" brochure. Building Boston was a citywide initiative that celebrated Boston public spaces. It included five unique exhibitions as well as programs, lectures, and special tours. 3) *Calendar of Events/Newsletters*: for the monthly BPL eNews Free to All.

## Additional Accomplishments

### Programs and Services

- Boston Public Library offered just over **10,000 programs** during FY13 and is on track to do the same in FY14. The offerings spanned story times to movie nights, author talks to art programs. Special series include the Lowell Lecture Series, which focused on children, reading, and literacy. Lowell speakers include Marc Brown, the creator of *Arthur*; Jeff Kinney, author of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*; and Norton Juster, author of *The Phantom Tollbooth*.
- The library featured a broad selection of **gallery exhibitions** at the Central Library and throughout the branches. Exhibitions included a collaboration with the Art Institute of Boston to celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary; exhibitions organized by the Norman B. Leventhal Map Center (*The Atlantic Neptune, Made in Boston*); rare book exhibitions focusing on Daniel Defoe and emblem books; and multiple showcases of local Boston artists.
- The Fields Corner, Codman Square, and West Roxbury branches offered computer classes by **partnering with Tech Goes Home**. All eligible participants received a laptop through the program and designed a product by using electronic databases, resources, and software accessed in the library.
- The Central Library welcomed nearly 10,000 visitors on **art and architecture tours**, with over 500 tours (private and public) provided. The library now has 32 active tour guides and is in the process of training eight additional guides, with the goal of reaching 40 active guides by the beginning of FY15 to meet with increasing demand.
- The **Concerts in the Courtyard series** was a success at the Central Library this year. Over the three-month period between June and August, the library hosted fifteen concerts with a total attendance of over 3,000 listeners of all ages and backgrounds. The BPL partnered with several community organizations including American Century Music, Berklee College of Music, Boston Lyric Opera, and JazzBoston.
- Boston Public Library has been selected as a **partnering library system for Lifetime Arts Affiliate Library Network**, a national peer network of libraries and librarians dedicated to providing arts programming for older adults. The Creative Aging program piloted last year at seven BPL branches provides visual arts, music, and dance programming to seniors. Four BPL branches will participate in the next phase of the program, which kicks off in summer 2014: East Boston, South End, Adams Street, and West End.

- In-depth **literacy services** were expanded from a single service point to three locations: Dudley, East Boston, and Central Library in Copley Square. This is in addition to English as a Second Language conversation groups at nine library locations.
- **Public technology training** and other instruction courses were expanded to include new, ongoing series on Computer Basics, Internet for Beginners and Gmail, and Teaching iPads in English & Chinese. Course highlights in the last year include successful trainings on LinkedIn and the changes to the GED.
- The library completed its multi-year effort to **install self-check machines** at all of its locations across the system. Library users now have a consistent option for self-service borrowing throughout the system.

### Partnerships and Collections

- Boston Public Library **developed and expanded its youth outreach** to partners like the Boston Medical Center bWell Center, family shelters, detention centers for youth, housing developments, and other youth populations. Since 2010, the Boston Public Library has performed outreach to the 8 schools for incarcerated youth being served through the Department of Youth Services. Each month, two teen librarians bring in 10 books per school and talk about the books and engage with the teens about library services and programs.
- There has been continued successful collaboration with the Associates of the Boston Public Library providing **conservation, cataloging, and digitizing of the library's special collections**. Highlights include the conservation and digitization of the *True Copie of the Court Booke of the Governor and Society of the Massachusetts Bay in New England (1628-1645)* and selections from the library's extensive collection of Shakespeare.
- With support from the Associates and the Yale Class of 1955, Boston Public Library completed **cataloging and digitizing the Revolutionary War manuscripts** reflected in the 1968 G. K. Hall publication, *Manuscripts of the American Revolution in the Boston Public Library: A Descriptive Catalog*.
- With the support of the Associates and the Boston Foundation, the library **cataloged and digitized close to 6,500 individual manuscripts from the library's large collection of Anti-Slavery materials**. All of the letters written by William Lloyd Garrison have been cataloged, digitized, and made discoverable online.
- Boston Public Library is partnering with a consortium of downtown organizations – including Grub Street, the Boston Athenaeum, and the Boston Book Festival – to create and launch the **nation's first literary cultural district** with maps, walking tours, signage, readings, plays, events,

and more. The first phase of this project has been funded by a planning grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

- By **partnering with the Boston Youth Fund's** afterschool and summer employment programs, Boston Public Library hosted over 50 eligible youth who worked in neighborhood branches and at the Central Library. Also, the BYF Summer Job Fair held at the Central Library in February for the past two years has been successful with soaring attendance as youth participated in resume writing workshops and registered online for the BYF Hopeline.
- The library's youth services team **established partnerships with Thrive in 5**. In addition, new partnerships with **Head Start** will receive early literacy services through outreach by the Boston Public Library's youth services team.
- The library's collection team **developed partnerships with vendors and local bookstores** to improve the BPL's world language collections.

### **Facilities and Finances**

- The library is partway through a multi-year systemwide energy improvement project. **Building management systems are being updated and deployed** at several branch locations which allow greater monitoring and control as well as remote management capability. These upgrades build upon initial activities that replaced old high energy-consuming lighting fixtures at the Jamaica Plain and Dudley branches with energy efficient fixtures. In addition, meters for cooling towers and lawn sprinklers at multiple branches have been added to reduce water and sewer costs.
- Various **energy improvements at the Central Library in Copley Square** are underway. A series of projects to replace fixtures and bulbs continues, as does the addition of motion sensors in stack and office areas to reduce energy consumption when areas are not in active use. This is in addition to low flow faucets and plumbing fixture updates that are reducing water consumption and corresponding utility costs. The Central Library cooling tower replacement project not only replaces a decaying system but also increases efficiency and reduces costs.
- Boston Public Library **implemented solutions** to address recommendations made by auditors over the past two years. Highlights include: all journal entries are now electronically approved by the accounting manager, monthly management sign off of bank reconciliation was instituted, and a review of investment policy was completed by the Administration and Finance Committee.

### **Recognition**

- A November 2013 **Staff Recognition Ceremony** honored nine Boston Public Library staff members who achieved 25 years of service to the BPL.

- Superintendent of Facilities **Jim Meade** was honored with Boston Municipal Research Bureau's Henry L. Shattuck Public Service Award for outstanding public service.
- Codman Square Branch librarians Judith McGee, Janice Knight, and Christopher Strunk and branch library assistants Yolanda Ortiz, Marie Samson, Lorraine Screen, and Theoni Solano received the **Neighborhood Leadership Award** from the Codman Square Neighborhood Council.
- **Laura DeBonis** was named to the Boston Public Library Board of Trustees.
- BPL President **Amy E. Ryan** was named to the board of the Friends of Copley Square.
- Boston Public Library received an award honoring its digitization work for Massachusetts' Digital Commonwealth at the Griffin Museum of Photography's eighth annual Focus Awards ceremony. The Focus Awards recognize contributions to the promotion, curation, and presentation of photography. Boston Public Library received the **Commonwealth Award**, which is given to an organization that brings prominence to the local photographic scene.
- Boston Public Library received the **2013 Beta Award** at the Polaris User's Group Conference in Portland, Oregon, for its efforts as an outstanding Polaris NCIP Integration Beta Partner. NCIP, which stands for NISO Circulation Interchange Protocol, enables systems to perform the functions necessary to lend and borrow items and provide controlled access to electronic resources.
- Boston Public Library became the first public library member of the **New England Regional Fellowship Consortium** (NERFC). The library will host its first NERFC fellow in the fall of 2014.
- Boston Public Library received an honorable mention for its September 2012 "**Get Carded**" **social media campaign** which encouraged Massachusetts residents to sign up for a library card during national library card sign-up month. The recognition was conferred at the 2013 American Library Association annual conference
- Chief of Communications & Strategy **Gina Perille** published several articles for the Public Library Association on topics ranging from social media to strategic planning.
- The Central Library in Copley Square was voted by members of the public as the Boston landmark to be constructed out of **LEGO® bricks** and displayed at LEGOLAND® Discovery Center Boston in the spring of 2014.
- Boston Public Library received a **Best of Weddings** award from the Knot for 2013.