

**MBLC Director's Report to MLA Executive Board
October 2019**

FY2021 Legislative Agenda: The Board of Library Commissioners adopted the following FY2021 Legislative Agenda requests at their September 5th meeting at the Forbes Library in Northampton:

FY2021 Operating Budget Request

<u>ITEM NO.</u>	<u>ITEM NAME</u>	<u>FY 2020 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY 2021 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA REQUEST</u>
7000-9101	Board of Library Commissioners	\$1,322,130	\$1,579,876
7000-9401	State Aid to Regional Libraries	\$11,516,000	\$11,861,480
7000-9402	Talking Book Library (Worcester)	\$468,217	\$482,264
7000-9406	Talking Book (Perkins)	\$2,665,800	\$2,745,774
7000-9501	State Aid to Public Libraries	\$10,059,081*	\$12,000,000
7000-9506	Library Technology & Resource Sharing	\$4,259,000	\$4,386,770
7000-9508	Center for the Book	\$200,000	\$225,000
TOTAL:		\$30,500,228	\$33,281,164

The FY2021 Legislative Agenda builds on the FY2020 increases that occurred in six of the lines overseen by the MBLC and requests a 21.2% increase for State Aid to Public Libraries (7000-9501). The agenda also requests a 12.5% increase for the Massachusetts Center for the Book, which has been level funded since FY2016.

MBLC Chair Roland Ochsenbein, Mary Rose Quinn, Lauren Stara, Andrea Bunker and I met on September 12 with Rep. Antonio Cabral of New Bedford, Chair of the House Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures, and State Assets, to discuss the possibility of amending **H. 4039, *An Act Financing the General Governmental Infrastructure of the Commonwealth***. The bill currently includes \$100 million for the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP). Chairman Cabral discussed how difficult he thinks it would be for a community like New Bedford to provide the required local match for the MPLCP and asked the MBLC to consider greater support for economically challenged communities in future MPLCP grant rounds. He also indicated support for an amendment to our funding in H.4039, but not necessarily at the requested level of \$250 million. He invited us to testify at the September 26 hearing on H.4039.

On Thursday, September 26, Chairman Ochsenbein and I testified at a **hearing on H.4039** with Eileen Dyer, the director of the Swansea Free Public Library, and Priscilla Foley, the director of neighborhood services at the Boston Public Library, held by the **House Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures, and State Assets** (Swansea is #17 of the 17 projects remaining on our MPLCP waitlist and \$100 million

would not be enough to fund its project if all the other waitlist projects go forward. Boston's Dudley Square branch is also on our waitlist and BPL has indicated an interest in applying for our next grant round.) We were joined at the hearing by library directors/trustees from the public libraries in Westborough, Grafton, Berlin, Lynnfield, Pittsfield, and Gloucester, and we were able to acknowledge them in the audience and asked later to have them be recognized again. Reps. Natalie Higgins and Brian Murray, co-chairs of the House Library Caucus, submitted a letter of support for an amendment, and we also received letters of support from Nahant and Lynnfield. We will continue to monitor H.4039 and have been told that it will next go to the House Committee on Ways and Means (Reps. Higgins and Murray both serve on this committee).

We have scheduled a meeting with the Executive Office of **Administration and Finance** on Friday, October 18 to discuss possible changes to the MPLCP (particularly regarding our waiting list) to better align our program with the Commonwealth's capital budget plan and to hopefully have the annual cap raised for FY2021.

During the week of September 16, Rob Favini, Lyndsay Forbes, and Kate Butler presented on our **LSTA direct grant program** at network meetings held by CWMARS, Minuteman, OCLN, and NOBLE. They introduced our LSTA grant program and reviewed deadlines for the upcoming grant round. The meeting visits were initiated as part of a promotional effort to increase LSTA grant awareness and applications.

Maura Deedy, Liz Babbitt and Rob Favini kicked off the Fall 2019 **Trustee Orientation Workshop** season on September 25 in Sudbury. Commissioners Ochsenein and Ball welcomed the 24 attendees. Upcoming sessions will be held in Westfield (10/9), Chelmsford (10/16), and Williamstown (10/30).

Maura Deedy attended MLTA Board meeting at the Scituate Public Library on 9/6. Commissioner Ball was in attendance. The MLTA is busy planning for their annual program that will focus on library trends and the Census. The annual program will take place on 11/16 at the Shrewsbury Public Library.

Lyndsay Forbes attended the **Association of Rural and Small Libraries conference** in Burlington, Vermont from 9/4 – 9/7. She was joined by five Massachusetts librarians who received funding to attend the conference from the MBLC and MLS. The attendees will serve on an advisory committee to help plan a joint MBLC/MLS Small Library Symposium that will take place next fall. Lauren Stara also attended the ARSL conference and presented a session titled: "Making the Most of the Space You Have."

Evan Knight led the **COSTEP MA Symposium** (Coordinated Statewide Emergency Preparedness), a statewide event for cultural heritage professionals hosted by the Mass Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) at their Framingham headquarters on 9/10. The event attracted public and academic librarians from public and private institutions from diverse types of collections across the Commonwealth.

Evan also launched a **COSLINE** (Council of State Library Agencies in the Northeast) discussion to identify interested members in creating a guidebook for special collections management in public libraries. Barbara Lilley (NY)/Anastasia Matijkiw (NY), Michelle Stricker (NJ), Sarena Dagelin (DE), and Janet McKenney/Adam Fisher (ME) responded and their next step is to explore the creation of a guidebook to distribute widely.

Shelley Quezada continued planning for the **Libraries Respond to the Opioid Crisis** with Michele Eberle at MLS. The event is nearly full (with over 100 registrations) and will take place on 11/15 at the conference center at Devens. A full day of speakers from the library and health care community will take part, including Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan.

Shelley also presented: *Getting Your Grant: An Introduction to the Art and Strategies of Proposal Writing*, the first of six MLS education programs that will be held across the state.

The **Communications team** is currently finishing the final versions of the materials for LEA (Library eBooks and AudioBooks, powered by OverDrive). The team worked with the Networks and with the statewide Public Relations Advisory Committee to develop the name, logo, materials, and webpage to support the new eBook program that is available through the networks. Materials will be translated into Chinese, Hindi, Portuguese and Spanish and libraries will be able to order what they need and have items shipped directly to them at no cost.

The team is also working on the design, revised text, and webpage for the FY2021 Legislative Agenda and contacted all affiliates to update the Legislative Fact sheet for each.

Materials to support LSTA are also being developed. They include: a new brochure, social media to promote the new grant round, and a fact sheet template. The team continues work on the new construction materials as well. The team is also working with Shelley to create materials for the Opioid Symposium and is getting ready for the Boston Book Festival on October 19.

Office Lease: The RFP for our office lease closed on 9/12, and we received ten responses from DCAMM. Unfortunately, our current landlord did not submit a proposal, so we will definitely be moving when our lease expires next June.

DCAMM reviewed the proposals and determined they all qualified for further consideration. We met with DCAMM staff to discuss the proposals and have scheduled site visits over the next two weeks by a small MBLC team.

The proposals include three in Boston (all in our current neighborhood), three in Quincy, two in Malden, and one each in Medford and Revere. Two of the Boston submissions are most likely not in our price range.