

OPEN HOUSE: On Saturday, April 21 from 1:00 to 4:00pm, the Norman B. Leventhal Map Center at the Boston Public Library will host an OPEN HOUSE. The afternoon will include hands-on activities for children and tours of the new exhibition, *America Votes* by Curator Ronald Grim at 1:30pm and 2:30pm.

On October 22, 2011 the Boston Public Library in Copley Square opened a new space for the Norman B. Leventhal Map Center. The 5,760 square foot renovation features a new exhibitions gallery, a public learning center, and a reading room for rare map research. Other elements include a custom stained glass reproduction of a 1776 map of Boston, exploration areas designed for children, and a world globe three feet in diameter.



The Leventhal Map Center, created in 2004, is a nonprofit organization established as a public-private partnership between the Boston Public Library and philanthropist Norman Leventhal. Its mission is to use the Boston Public Library's permanent collection of 200,000 maps and 5,000 atlases and a select group of rare maps collected by Mr. Leventhal for the enjoyment and education of all through exhibitions, educational programs, and a website that includes thousands of digitized maps at maps.bpl.org. The map collection is global in scope, dating from the 15th century to the present, with a particular strength in maps and atlases of Boston, Massachusetts, and New England.

The Leventhal Map Center is ranked among the top 10 in the United States for the size of its collection, the significance of its historic (pre-1900) material, and its advanced digitization program. It is unique among the major collections because it also combines these features with exceptional educational programs to advance geographic literacy among students in grades K-12 and enhance the teaching of subjects from history to mathematics to language arts. The collection is also the second largest in the country located in a public library, ensuring unlimited access to these invaluable resources for scholars, educators, and the general public.

Facts about and features of the Norman B. Leventhal Map Center at the Boston Public Library:

- 5,760 square feet of total space
 - 1,120 square feet gallery for changing exhibitions
 - 650 square feet of new research space
- New climate control storage for thousands of maps and atlases
- New reading room for rare map research
- A 3' foot diameter world globe
- Stained glass window reproduction of a 1775 map of Boston, designed by Lyn Hovey
- Kids Map Club in window niches with puzzles, books, memory games, and map-related activities

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- Space designed by the global design, planning, and strategic consulting firm Gensler. Gallery exhibition design by C & G Partners, LLC.