

**Norman B. Leventhal Map Center at the Boston Public Library Announces Year-Long  
Exhibition Exploring America’s Westward Expansion**  
*Part I of “America Transformed” opens May 4*

**Boston, MA** – The Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center announced today the opening of its new exhibition *America Transformed: Mapping the 19th Century*, a year-long showcase that delves into the intricacies of the time period through cartographic pieces. The exhibition explores the United States’ westward legacy and the drastic alterations to both the land and culture. Visitors are invited to explore the immense collection of historical maps and interactive displays that depict the different narratives from the century.

“With this new exhibition, people can dive into the transformation of America’s 19th-century landscape and challenge themselves to examine how that transformation continues to shape our lives today,” said Ron Grim, Curator at the Leventhal Map Center. “The way our landscape has changed, both physically and culturally, is striking. The installation challenges us with different accounts of the United States’ westward expansion, and it is my hope that visitors come away with a better understanding of the complexity of our nation’s history.”

“This is a unique way to learn about westward expansion and its impacts,” said Connie Chin, President of the Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center at the Boston Public Library. “With our many maps and images from the time period itself, visitors can cartographically view and explore the substantial shifts that have led America to where it is now. We hope that people will learn more about the 19th century as they explore it through a unique medium.”

“The Boston Public Library is thrilled to see this new exhibition from the Leventhal Map and Education Center. We share a mission to bring moments from history alive and to examine how they fit into today’s discourse, and we look forward to seeing how this exhibition informs current events and issues,” said Boston Public Library President David Leonard.

Announced earlier this year, [Iron Mountain Incorporated](#)<sup>TM</sup> (NYSE: IRM), the global leader in storage and information management services, presented Leventhal Map & Education Center with a financial grant for the showcase, and delivered transport and specialized temporary storage services for exhibition items via an existing relationship with Crozier Fine Arts, the company’s art storage and logistics provider. The exhibition will open in two separate 6-month exhibitions, with the first half of the exhibition, “The U.S. Expands Westward,” details the beginning of America’s westward legacy and the transformation that the country experienced. The second half of the exhibit will open later this year.

“Iron Mountain is pleased to sponsor the ‘*America Transformed: Mapping the 19<sup>th</sup> Century*’ exhibition,” said Ted MacLean, executive vice president and general manager, Adjacent Businesses, Iron Mountain. “Maps, like diaries, books and letters, are opportunities for

sociological scholarship, telling us stories about where we have been and the lives we led. This exhibition explains the history of tremendous growth and change in our country through land settlement, transportation and industry. It fits the mission of Iron Mountain's Living Legacy Initiative, allowing us to apply our services and expertise to preserve and share the significant historical maps and artifacts that make up our shared cultural history."

*America Transformed* features over 125 objects that depict the changes to land, economy, transportation and people within the United States in the 19th century. Visitors will learn how the advancement of one theme depended on the others, beginning with the settlement of western land that displaced native peoples. As new settlers occupied these lands, the country's economy diversified through coal and iron mining as well as plantation agriculture, all of which were impacted in the 1850's by the rise of industrialization. The exhibition will also illustrate the construction of roads, canals, steamboats and railroads that allowed for the vast expansion westward to occur. Through each of these events, the population demographics experienced substantial changes in growth, diversity, and density due to immigration and the desire to purchase lands in the west.

Individuals can engage with selected maps from the collection through an interactive format, "[Zooming in on History](#)" both within the showcase and online. The format includes a few visualization tools that allows people to compare maps from the 1800's to present day. A virtual version of the exhibition will be available on the Leventhal Map & Education Center's website, with full catalog information, photographs of the gallery, and even educational activities created for the exhibition.

A formal Family Day opening for the exhibition will occur on May 18, 1-4 p.m. and will include a talk from Curator Ron Grim, additional speakers, hands-on activities for students and kids, interactive tech demonstrations, and tours of the exhibit and the gallery. Refreshments will be provided courtesy of the Boston Map Society.

*America Transformed: Mapping the 19th Century* is open Monday-Friday 8:30am-5pm in The Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center, located on the main floor of the Central Library in Copley Square. Visit our exhibition website at [leventhalmap.org](http://leventhalmap.org).

###

## **About THE NORMAN B. LEVENTHAL MAP & EDUCATION CENTER AT THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

The Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center is ranked among the top map centers in the

United States for the size of its collection, the significance of its historic (pre-1900) material, its advanced digitization program, and its exceptional exhibitions and educational programs.

The Center's mission is to use its extensive map collections to inspire curiosity and learning among people of all ages, illuminating history, geography, world cultures, science, and contemporary issues. The Center offers a robust selection of K-12 education programs for students of all levels, develops and disseminates lesson plans, and trains teachers to use maps effectively and creatively in the classroom. Public programming includes changing exhibitions, lectures, workshops, classes, and family programs. An extensive website offers free access to nearly 10,000 high resolution digitized maps of historical significance, virtual exhibitions, geo-referencing capabilities, and a Tools for Teachers section with map sets and classroom activities.

The Center was established by philanthropist Norman Leventhal as a public-private partnership with the Boston Public Library and was incorporated as a nonprofit organization in 2007. The Center stewards 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. The collection, the second largest in the country located in a public library, is freely available for academic and public research. To learn more, visit [leventhalmap.org](http://leventhalmap.org)

#### **About THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Boston Public Library provides educational, cultural and civic enrichment, free to all, for the residents of Boston, Massachusetts and beyond, through its collections, services, programs, and spaces. Established in 1848, the Boston Public Library is a pioneer of public library service in America. It was the first large free municipal library in the United States, the first public library to lend books, the first to have a branch library, and the first to have a children's room. As a City of Boston historic cultural institution, Boston Public Library today features a Central Library, twenty-five branches, a map center, business library, archival center; extensive special collections of rare books, manuscripts, photographs, and prints; and rich digital content and online services. The award-winning renovation of the Central Library in Copley Square, completed in 2016, together with new, renovated and historic branches, provide a transformed library system for the next generation of users. Boston Public Library enriches lives, hosting thousands of free educational programs and exhibitions, and providing free library services online and in-person to millions of people each year.

To learn more, visit [bpl.org](http://bpl.org)

#### **About IRON MOUNTAIN**

Iron Mountain Incorporated (NYSE: IRM), founded in 1951, is the global leader for storage and information management services. Trusted by more than 225,000 organizations around the world, and with a real estate network of more than 90 million square feet across more than 1,450 facilities in over 50 countries, Iron Mountain stores and protects billions of valued assets, including critical business information, highly sensitive data, and cultural and historical artifacts. Providing solutions that include [information management](#), [digital transformation](#), [secure storage](#), [secure destruction](#), as well as [data centers](#), [cloud services](#) and [art storage and logistics](#), Iron

Mountain helps customers lower cost and risk, comply with regulations, recover from disaster, and enable a digital way of working. Visit [www.ironmountain.com](http://www.ironmountain.com) for more information.