
**Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center at the Boston Public Library Announces
Opening of “Homesteads to Modern Cities” Exhibit**

*The exhibition, which forms Part Two of the year-long exhibition “America Transformed,”
covers the period from 1862-1900 and opens November 13*

Boston, MA – The Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center announced today the opening of the second half of its exhibition *America Transformed: Mapping the 19th Century*. The exhibition is a year-long showcase that delves into the intricacies of this transformative century through the history of cartography and geography. Following a successful Part One which focused on early westward expansion, Part Two will cover the modernization of the newly expanded country. The entire contents of the gallery will be replaced with over 60 new items for the second part of the exhibition, including 19th century stereograph reproductions that visitors can experience in a period-style 3D viewer, and additional layers on a unique interactive that displays zoomable historic maps on top of a modern view.

Coinciding with the opening of Part Two will be the release of a catalog for the exhibit. The 220 page catalog, available in hard and soft cover, will include essays from seven authors, full color images of all of the objects from both parts of the exhibition, and Viewpoints from scholars and activists that were included in the exhibit. Viewpoints include perspectives on Westward expansion from Akomawt Education Institute, a Native educational consultancy, as well as voices that highlight the experiences of African Americans and Chinese immigrants. These Viewpoints provide new perspectives on the ways that the experience of transformation and change often looked and felt differently from how it was portrayed on official maps.

“In this second part of *America Transformed* the focus is on actions taken by the federal government such as the Homestead Act, the first transcontinental railroad authorization, and the Emancipation Proclamation and the dramatic impact this had on the nation’s land ownership patterns, transportation networks, and economic development,” said curator Ron Grim. “Most European-American settlers viewed these developments as “progress,” but these actions were detrimental to the physical landscape and Native populations. Numerous maps bear witness to these negative effects including ones showing the diminishing range of bison, the extent of forest cover using 1870 census data, the history of Indian land cessions, or the limited extent of land “reserved” for remaining Native populations.”

“Part One of this exhibition was a tremendous success for us,” said Connie Chin, President of the Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center at the Boston Public Library. “Attendance broke records, and the feedback has been glowing, especially on the inclusion of the Viewpoints. We look forward to continuing this success through Part Two as we provide visitors with a fresh look at this complex portion of our history and explore how issues that arose in the 19th century are relevant to today.”

“The Boston Public Library is proud to continue to host the exhibition, and we are excited to see what Part Two holds. Through our continued partnership with the Leventhal Map and Education Center this exhibition makes objects from our collections accessible to the public and

successfully prompts thoughtful conversation about important historical themes, reanalyzing them through a modern lens” said Boston Public Library President David Leonard.

In a partnership announced earlier this year, Iron Mountain IncorporatedTM (NYSE: IRM), the global leader in storage and information management services, presented Leventhal Map & Education Center with a financial grant for the exhibition and delivered transport and specialized temporary storage services for gallery objects via an existing relationship with Crozier Fine Arts, the company’s art storage and logistics provider. The exhibition consists of two sequential 6-month exhibitions.

“Iron Mountain is pleased to sponsor the ‘*America Transformed: Mapping the 19th 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 Part Two: Homesteads to Modern Cities features objects that depict the changes to land, economy, transportation and people within the United States in the second half of the 19th century. The beginning of this period was marked by three important events: the enactment of the Homestead Act, the authorization and subsequent completion of the transcontinental railroad, and the end of the Civil War and, with it, the end of slavery in the United States. These three factors led to a dramatic shift in the economy and society. A rush of new white settlers flooded west as the government made more land available for settlement and Native tribes were pushed further from their traditional homelands. The economy saw a shift towards the exploitation of natural resources and the industrialization of the Northeast and Midwest, paired with the exploitation of immigrant labor and the conversion of chattel slavery into a regime of functional racial apartheid. Finally, the country’s centers of power shifted ever further towards cities, as metropolitan growth entered a period of unprecedented expansion. All of these changes are not only documented on maps—changes in mapmaking and geographical knowledge also made many of these changes possible in the first place.

A free and public opening event for the exhibition will be held on Wednesday, November 13th from 6-8 PM in the Commonwealth Salon at the Boston Public Library. Titled *Transformation, Crisis, and Reinvention*, it will feature a conversation between Ronald Grim, exhibition curator and Alex Krieger, author of the new book *City on a Hill: Urban Idealism in America from the Puritans to the Present* (Harvard University Press, 2019). A chapter from Krieger's book also appears as an essay in the exhibition catalog. The event is co-sponsored by the Boston Map Society.

America Transformed: Mapping the 19th Century is open Monday–Thursday 10 am–7 pm, Friday and Saturday 10 am–5pm, and Sunday 1pm–5pm in The Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center, located on the main floor of the Central Library in Copley Square. The gallery

will be closed November 4-8 for the installation of Part Two, and is also closed Monday November 11 in observance of Veteran's Day. Visit the exhibition website at leventhalmap.org.

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

The Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center at the Boston Public Library is an independent nonprofit organization that promotes the public use of more than 200,000 maps and 5,000 atlases for the enjoyment and education of all. Uniquely positioned in a public library, the Center offers changing exhibitions and public talks, groundbreaking educational programs that promote geographic and data literacy, and a website with 12,000 high resolution digitized maps.

The Leventhal Center collection is known for its size, significance, and digital engagement. With a regional specialization in Boston and New England but a global scope, the Center is a leader in exploring the study of places, societies, landscapes, and history through the lens of maps and geography.

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. To learn more, visit leventhalmap.org

About THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Boston Public Library enriches patrons' educational, cultural, and civic lives through its collections, services, programs, and spaces. Established in 1848 with a mission to remain "Free to All," the Boston Public Library is a pioneer of public library service. 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.

Today's Boston Public Library has transformed itself for the 21st century. The system now encompasses the newly-renovated Central Library in Copley Square; 25 renovated and historic neighborhood branches throughout Boston; the Norman B. Leventhal Map and Education Center; the Kirstein Business and Innovation Center; and the Archival Center. The library serves more than four million patrons annually, and its 23 million objects, including extensive special collections of rare books, manuscripts, photographs, and prints, along with its rich digital content and online services, rank it among the three largest libraries in the US.

The Boston Public Library is proud to welcome everyone equally, regardless of gender, race, national origin, sexual orientation, faith, or economic status.

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 for more information.