



Norman B. Leventhal Map Center
at the Boston Public Library

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Molly Horan
339.793.1840 cell
617.695.0369 office

Leventhal Map Center Announces Connie Chin as New President

Boston, MA – The Norman B. Leventhal Map Center today announced that Connie C. Chin will join the Center as its new President. Ms. Chin was elected to the position yesterday by the Map Center’s Board of Directors after conducting nearly a year long search for an individual to replace Jan Spitz, who retired at the end of 2015.

“I am delighted to be asked to lead the Norman B. Leventhal Map Center at the Boston Public Library. I look forward to continuing the unique and healthy public-private partnership of the Map Center, an independent nonprofit organization, with the City's Boston Public Library. This is a moment when the Map Center is poised for strategic growth particularly in its mission areas of education for young people, and engagement for all ages, through both physical and digitized maps," said Connie Chin.

Connie joins the Map Center with a strong background in non-profit management, having most recently served as the Chief Operating Officer at the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation. In that capacity, Ms. Chin was responsible for managing internal operations, leading the team to produce an historic symposium in Tokyo about JFK's legacy, and developing a strategy to support the digitization of President Kennedy's archives. Previously, she worked for more than a decade as the General Manager of Jacob’s Pillow Dance, located in the Berkshires. Connie grew up in the Boston area and is a graduate of both Harvard University and the Yale School of Management.

“After a robust nationwide search, we are thrilled to welcome Connie Chin as our new President,” said Robert Melzer, Chair of the Map Center’s Board of Directors. “The retirement of Jan Spitz last year left big shoes to fill, but Connie’s management experience and passion made her the absolute best person for the job.”

“We welcome Connie Chin and are confident her work will further the mission of the Norman B. Leventhal Map Center and bring forth enriching educational experiences for all to enjoy,” said David Leonard, Boston Public Library Interim President and ex-officio member of the Norman B. Leventhal Map Center Board of Directors.

Ms. Chin joins as the Map Center is preparing to open a new exhibition, *From the Sea to the Mountains: The Trustees 125th Anniversary*, which will run Saturday, April 2, 2016 through August 28, 2016. The exhibition is a collaboration between the Norman B. Leventhal Map Center and The Trustees, featuring maps, photographs, and historic items from both collections to document the Trustees 125-year history of stewardship, conservation, and access to over 100 properties throughout Massachusetts. The Trustees is Massachusetts’ largest conservation and preservation organization and the world’s first land preservation nonprofit known for caring for cultural, natural, and scenic sites for public use and enjoyment.

About the NORMAN B. LEVENTHAL MAP CENTER

The Norman B. Leventhal Map Center is ranked among the top 10 map centers 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 and teacher training 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. 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. To learn more, visit <http://maps.bpl.org/>.

About BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Boston Public Library has a Central Library, twenty-four branches, map center, business library, and a website filled with digital content and services. Established in 1848, the Boston Public Library has pioneered 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. Each year, the Boston Public Library hosts thousands of programs and serves millions of people. All of its programs and exhibitions are free and open to the public. At the Boston Public Library, books are just the beginning. To learn more, visit www.bpl.org.

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