



Norman B. Leventhal  
Map & Education Center  
at the Boston Public Library

## **PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release:  
March 1, 2018

Contact: Anastasia Nicolaou  
650.380.9440 cell  
617.695.0369 office

### **Leventhal Map & Education Center announces Three New Board Members Dr. Tommy Chang, Charles Cooney, PhD. and Christian Westra, Esq.**

**Boston, MA** – The Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center at the Boston Public Library announces that Boston Public Schools (BPS) Superintendent Tommy Chang, M.I.T. Professor Emeritus Charles Cooney, Ph.D, and Christian Westra, Esq. have joined its Board of Directors.

The Map and Education Center is excited to welcome Dr. Chang and build upon its existing relationship with the Boston Public Schools. Since his appointment to BPS in 2015, Dr. Chang has implemented a five-year strategic plan for the district, emphasizing focus on the students' needs. Born in Taiwan, he immigrated to the United States at the age of six, and grew up in Los Angeles. He holds an Ed.D in Educational Leadership from Loyola Marymont University, an M.Ed from the Principals Leadership Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), an M.Ed from the Teachers Education Program at UCLA, and a bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

“I am honored to join the Board of Directors and excited for the new possibilities the Leventhal Map & Education Center can provide for Boston Public Schools students,” Dr. Chang said. “Learning cannot solely be contained to a textbook or within the walls of a classroom. The Leventhal Map & Education Center can serve as a strong partner for BPS in providing students innovative opportunities that result in more relevant learning for students.”

Dr. Charles Cooney, Ph.D is currently the Robert T. Haslam Professor of Chemical Engineering, Emeritus at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he founded the Deshpande Center for Technological Innovation and served as its founding faculty director. His research has focused on manufacturing of biotech and pharmaceutical products. He is Trustee Emeritus of Boston Ballet and Overseer Emeritus of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

“As an avid antique map collector, I am thrilled to join the Board of Directors of the Leventhal Map and Education Center,” said Dr. Cooney. “I admire the work done by the Center to prompt curiosity about the history, science, and current events - all through the medium of the map - and look forward to working with the other members of the Board to advance the Center's initiatives.”

Mr. Christian Westra is an associate at Ropes and Gray. His practice focuses on representing private equity firms and public and private companies in mergers and acquisitions, leveraged

buyouts and other investments. He regularly advises private equity sponsors and their portfolio companies on add-on acquisitions, dispositions and general corporate governance matters.

“The Leventhal Map and Education Center is a champion for access to educational tools and resources, and as a father of two young boys and husband to a novelist and writing professor, I am excited to join the Board of Directors to continue to advance the organization’s mission,” said Mr. Westra.

The Leventhal Map and Education Center serves over 4,000 students and 400 teachers annually in educational programming on site, in schools and through an extensive “Tools for Teachers” website. Exhibitions on historical and contemporary topics, public talks and family programming reach over 120,000 people a year. New partnerships with the Snowden International School and Margarita Muñiz Academy, which are both part of BPS will enrich high school students’ learning and build replicable models for education through maps and cartographic technologies.

“From the original vision of our founder, Norman B. Leventhal, to today, education has always been a core mission area.” said Board Chair Robert Melzer. “We are proud to welcome to the Board these three directors with the expertise and commitment that they bring, and we look forward to collaborating with the Boston Public Schools to further our shared missions.”

The Norman B. Leventhal Map and Education Center is located on the main floor of the McKim building in the Central Library in Copley Square and is open to the public Monday-Thursday 10am-7pm; Friday-Saturday 10am-5 pm; and Sunday 1-5pm.

### **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 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).

###