



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

MEDIA ADVISORY

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**LEVENTHAL MAP & EDUCATION CENTER PRESENTS PANEL ON THE FUTURE
OF GREEN SPACES**

*“Olmsted for the 21st Century: Creating Urban Change” brings together panelists to discuss
benefits of greenway networks*

Boston, MA – The Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center at the Boston Public Library announces upcoming programming presented in conjunction with its current exhibition “Breathing Room: Mapping Boston’s Green Spaces.”

Co-presented with the LivableStreets Alliance, “Olmsted for the 21st Century: Creating Urban Change” is inspired by LivableStreets’ Emerald Network initiative. This panel discussion will focus on current advocacy to use open space to promote positive urban change in the 21st century city, much as Frederick Law Olmsted did in 19th century Boston. Panelists will address how a greenway network can increase access to jobs and recreation and improve public and environmental health in the process, helping Boston to be a city for the future. The panelists include Alice Brown of Boston Harbor Now, Tamika Francis of the Boston Alliance for Community Health, Alex Krieger of Harvard University and NBBJ, Jessica Robertson of Utile Design, and will be moderated by Matt Kiefer of Goulston & Storrs.

The panel will take place on Thursday, May 31 from 6 p.m. -7:30 p.m. in Rabb Hall at the Central Library in Copley Square, 700 Boylston Street.

Following the talk, attendees are invited to the Leventhal Map & Education Center gallery for a guided tour of “Breathing Room.”

For details on the panel and to R.S.V.P. please visit olmsted21.eventbrite.com

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 ranked among the top map centers in the United States for the size of its collection, the significance of its historical (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

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.

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