



Board of Library Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at 7:00 PM
Raya Stern Trustees Room - Watertown Free Public
Library
123 Main Street, Watertown, Massachusetts 02472

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Secretary's Report
 - A. Minutes of September 4, 2025 Meeting
3. Public Forum
4. Financial Report
 - A. FY26 Budget
 - B. Burke Fund Report
 - C. HATCH Financials
 - D. Consideration and Action on Acceptance of Donations
5. Chair's Report
6. Director's Report
 - A. General Updates
7. Old Business
 - A. Consideration and Action on Hours Adjustment for Yo-Yo Ma
 - B. Watertown Cultural Council Grant
8. New Business
 - A. Consideration and Action on Library as Polling Place
 - B. Consideration and Action on Closure for HVAC Replacement
9. Requests for Information and Responses
10. Date of next meeting
11. Executive Session
 - A. Enter into Executive Session Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, Sec.21(A)(3), To Discuss Strategy with Respect to Collective Bargaining with the Library Union, as an Open Meeting May Have a Detrimental Effect on the City's Bargaining Position. Not to return to open session.
12. Adjournment

FY26 YEAR TO DATE BUDGET REPORT

ORG	OBJ	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANFRS/ADJSMTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD EXPENDED	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	% USED
0161051	510111	FULL TIME SALARIES	2,245,759	0	2,245,759	511,712.78	0.00	1,734,046	22.80
0161051	510112	PART TIME SALARIES	747,380	0	747,380	125,332.96	0.00	622,047	16.80
0161051	510130	OVERTIME	22,000	0	22,000	3,970.82	0.00	18,029	18.00
0161051	510143	LONGEVITY	26,422	0	26,422	5,638.02	0.00	20,784	21.30
0161051	510146	CPR STIPEND	250	0	250	0.00	0.00	250	0.00
0161051		Total 0161051 LIBRARY - PERS. SVCS.	3,041,811	0	3,041,811	646,654.58	0.00	2,395,156	21.30
0161052	520240	OFFICE EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	20,299	0	20,299	2,306.60	4,102.26	13,890	31.60
0161052	520241	BUILDING MAINTENANCE	10,000	10,000	20,000	0.00	10,000.00	10,000	50.00
0161052	520244	COMPUTER MAINTENANCE	67,444	6,196	73,640	6,464.65	36,973.81	30,201	59.00
0161052	530327	REGIONAL LIBRARY SERVICES	91,343	0	91,343	86,354.00	0.00	4,989	94.50
0161052	530342	COMMUNICATIONS - POSTAGE	2,100	0	2,100	0.00	0.00	2,100	0.00
0161052	530383	PROGRAM SERVICES	11,770	0	11,770	1,902.14	422.60	9,445	19.80
0161052	540421	OFFICE SUPPLIES	14,200	0	14,200	336.83	4,281.95	9,581	32.50
0161052	540422	PRINTING & FORMS	12,000	0	12,000	1,196.00	0.00	10,804	10.00
0161052	540425	PROGRAM SUPPLIES	1,300	28	1,328	268.22	328.36	732	44.90
0161052	540430	BUILDING MAINTENANCE SUP.	3,000	1,542	4,542	304.27	1,541.60	2,696	40.60
0161052	550511	BOOKS	512,500	705	513,205	122,801.84	229,953.54	160,450	68.70
0161052	550512	BOOK PROCESSING	52,500	0	52,500	3,429.00	14,580.05	34,491	34.30
0161052	570710	IN STATE TRAVEL	500	0	500	0.00	0.00	500	0.00
0161052	570720	OUT OF STATE TRAVEL	4,000	0	4,000	0.00	0.00	4,000	0.00
0161052	570730	DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	1,710	0	1,710	0.00	550.00	1,160	32.20
0161052	570735	PROJECT LITERACY/TOWN	11,200	960	12,160	1,312.11	2,508.00	8,340	31.40
0161052	570785	COMMITTEE EXPENSES	2,600	0	2,600	425.00	500.00	1,675	35.60
0161052	570786	CONFERENCE EXPENSES	3,050	0	3,050	0.00	0.00	3,050	0.00
0161052	570787	STAFF DEVELOPMENT	3,050	0	3,050	0.00	117.50	2,933	3.90
0161052		Total 0161052 LIBRARY - EXPENSES	824,566	59,213	883,779	227,100.66	345,641.43	311,036	64.80
0161058	580840	BUILDING RENOVATIONS	50,000	27,889	77,889	9,521.04	20,385.42	47,982	38.40
0161058	580870	REPLACEMENT OF EQUIPMENT	75,000	224	75,224	223.83	0.00	75,000	0.30
0161058		Total 0161058 LIBRARY - CAPITAL	125,000	28,112	153,112	9,744.87	20,385.42	122,982	19.70
		Grand Total	3,991,377	87,325	4,078,702	883,500.11	366,026.85	2,829,175	30.60

FY26 Funds and Grants

Fund or Grant	7/1/2026	Available to spend balance as of 7/1/2026	Deposits YTD	Expended YTD	Current available balance	Notes
Book Funds						
Pratt (includes Pratt Stock)	157,208.40	19,578.29	2,632.80	9,812.27	9,766.02	80% of int on periodicals
Whitney	2,980.45	2,980.45	44.63	887.13	2,137.95	book purchases only
Mead	6,826.52	3,826.52	125.08	-	3,951.60	book purchases only
Charles	3,005.33	2,805.33	52.20	-	2,857.53	Armenian History books
Barry	3,904.21	3,904.21	74.05	-	3,978.26	book purchases only
McGuire	3,676.36	2,676.36	81.24	-	2,757.60	book purchases only
W. Pierce	27,209.27	7,209.27	489.32	-	7,698.59	book purchases only
MacDonald	10,569.81	5,569.81	199.43	-	5,769.24	Grief related books
O'Reilly	11,811.86	11,311.86	205.13	-	11,516.99	Fiction
Stone	4,212.58	4,212.58	73.15	-	4,285.73	book purchases only
Campbell	6,161.80	5,161.80	106.99	-	5,268.79	Large print books
Santoro	2,594.95	994.95	45.07	-	1,040.02	Art books only
Brown	2,935.52	1,935.52	51.97	-	1,987.49	Sci-fi books
Keith	4,694.12	3,694.12	81.53	-	3,775.65	Wat history books
Drucker	3,377.65	3,377.65	58.65	-	3,436.30	Humanities books
Special Gifts	89,199.68	89,199.68	5,834.77	764.87	94,269.58	Unrestricted
- Cohen Fund	7,952.90	7,952.90	-	-	7,952.90	Cookbook and Mysteries
- Makerspace Fund	-	-	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	Makerspace expenses
- Bookmobile Fund	7,527.88	7,527.88	1,000.00	-	8,527.88	Bookmobile expenses
- Gallant Fund	8,476.99	8,476.99	-	-	8,476.99	Children's dept
Other Funds & Grants						
Kaveny	42,096.67	13,725.18	731.06	-	14,456.24	Benefit of the library
Masters	4,683.50	1,976.50	81.33	-	2,057.83	Trustees discretion
B. Pierce	775.51	775.51	(2.54)	-	772.97	Trustees discretion
LIG/MEG	550,988.57	550,988.57	-	2,509.50	548,479.07	
Revolving Printing Account	8,012.88	8,012.88	5,270.17	2,190.09	11,092.96	
Friends of Project Literacy Fundraising	61,485.13	61,485.13	-	236.65	61,248.48	
McCall Gift Fund	42,520.90	42,520.90	-	-	42,520.90	For children's dept only

GRIFFIN FUND REPORT

MONTH ENDING	BEG BAL	ADDED	WITHDRAWN	INTEREST / DIVIDENDS	INVESTMENT MKT VAL ADJ	VERIZON DIVIDENDS	VERIZON STOCK MKT VAL ADJ	END BAL	CASH HELD FOR INV	CASH AVAILABLE FOR SPENDING	INV	
FY25 BAL FWD	196,070.02								\$ -	\$ 55,478.30	\$ 113,956.82	-
31-Jul	196,070.02			138.15	(266.12)	(1,649.85)	\$ 194,292.20	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,700.48	\$ 146,177.42	-
31-Aug	194,292.20			2,406.98	1,061.52	4,755.45	\$ 202,516.15	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,924.43	\$ 146,177.42	-
30-Sep							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,924.43	\$ 146,177.42	-
31-Oct							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,924.43	\$ 146,177.42	-
30-Nov							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,924.43	\$ 146,177.42	-
31-Dec							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,924.43	\$ 146,177.42	-
31-Jan							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,924.43	\$ 146,177.42	-
28-Feb							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,924.43	\$ 146,177.42	-
31-Mar							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,924.43	\$ 146,177.42	-
30-Apr							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,924.43	\$ 146,177.42	-
31-May							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,924.43	\$ 146,177.42	-
30-Jun							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,924.43	\$ 146,177.42	-

FUNDS USED TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL SHARES

Burke			
	Allocated	Expenditures	Available
Teen Materials	\$ 3,183.00	\$ (133.77)	\$ 3,049.23
Teen Programming	\$ 3,350.00	\$ (760.16)	\$ 2,589.84
Children's Materials	\$ 1,592.00	\$ -	\$ 1,592.00
Children's Programming	\$ 10,423.00	\$ (3,906.17)	\$ 6,516.83
Adult Materials	\$ 1,592.00	\$ -	\$ 1,592.00
Adult Programming	\$ 4,840.00	\$ (1,551.56)	\$ 3,288.44
Museums	\$ 5,000.00	\$ (1,350.00)	\$ 3,650.00
Movie Licenses	\$ 1,850.48	\$ (411.53)	\$ 1,438.95
Total	\$ 31,830.48	\$ (8,113.19)	\$ 23,717.29

FY26 HATCH Summary

	July 1 Allocation	Adjustments (new funds added)	Encumbrances	Expenditures	Available funds
Special Gifts	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
LIG/MEG	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Building Committee	\$ 854.78	\$ 4,157.50	\$ -	\$ (778.90)	\$ 4,233.38
Watertown Commuty Foundation Grant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
City Budget: Equip. Maint.	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,353.05	\$ (1,289.17)	\$ 11,357.78
Burke	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Totals	\$ 15,854.78	\$ 5,157.50	\$ 2,353.05	\$ (2,068.07)	\$ 16,591.16



TO: Library Board of Trustees
FROM: Kim Long, Library Director
DATE: October 2025
RE: Donations

The following donations were received in September:

\$1000 from Evan R. Kantrowitz for HATCH

\$1375 from Fenway Health for Pride (coordinated by 2025 Pride Committee)

Watertown-El Salvador Sister City Project Collection by Suzanne Giroux, Alex Liazos, and John Portz

\$1787.09 transferred from the City Events Department for Pride

TO: Library Trustees
FROM: Kim Long, Library Director
DATE: October 8, 2025
RE: Director's Report

General Highlights

- Staff's adaptability during Sierra's ongoing technical disruptions have been truly commendable this past month. Despite persistent issues, staff remained patient, helped each other with troubleshooting as problems arose, all while continuing to provide excellent patron service. The ongoing Sierra issues impact workflow efficiency, but people are making sure the work is getting done and generally staying positive despite the very real frustration this issue causes.
- The teen study room is getting heavy use. Teens are very excited about the whiteboard we added in the room. With new beanbags on order and repainting the study room painted on the horizon, we continue to make the Teen Room an enjoyable place for teens to hang out.
- Jamie created a detailed marketing proposal for Watertown Pride 2026 with Library and Committee action items. The designs look great and we are excited to share them with the community. There is a Community Kickoff event on October 28. All are invited to give their input on what a meaningful and fun Pride event looks like for 2026.
- Jamie coordinated Zine Fest marketing with street team support from Megan and Emely, and an eye-catching hand mural by Claudia! Extra display help from Michelle Lavelle. This is so eye-catching and amazing- we are so lucky to have so much talent on staff.
- Thanks to some well-timed celebrity visits, our #LibraryCardSignupMonth posts were a big hit on social media. Children's landed a Bluey visit and some Jedi Knights visited Library Insiders. Megan, Emely, and Janet posed with the big library card to great effect.
- Thank you to the Children's Department for their flexibility and patience during the interview process. When a department of 4 is down a person, it means everyone is picking up a lot to make the department run. We're looking forward to a fully staffed department shortly.
- One of our substitutes, Jena Saul, has helped to rid us of our backlog of zines so there are plenty of titles being added to the collection before ZineFest.
- We have added three new zine vendors that accept our payment system in order to avoid staff having to pay up front and receive reimbursements for this collection.



- All of the Summer Reading books in Children's are being set to storage and will physically be put back into storage until next year!
- Theresa conducted a tour of Hatch and hosted a craft for the Association for Autism and Neurodiversity (AANE) and supervised a program when Alice was out.

City/Community Meetings and Collaboration

- Theresa, Kim, and Leanne staffed the bookmobile for Faire on the Square on 9/13.
- Kim and Theresa met with Maurice Myrie to review status of upcoming tech projects
- Carey coordinated with two high school ESL classes to create For Freedoms signs.
- Theresa attended a CRF Task Force bimonthly meeting.
- Kim met with George for their regular monthly meeting.
- Kim attended Minuteman's Membership meeting (held every other month). Formulas for budgets are projected to stay the same as last year so we will see some increase to our FY27 dues, but it is expected to be a small increase.
- Pauli, Kim, Franny, Emily, Steph S., and Theresa all took the bookmobile out to Arsenal visits.
- Theresa and Kim met with Erin Rathe to discuss the City's 250th programs and how the library can participate next summer.
- Carey set up three co-chairs for the Pride Planning Committee- a program/entertainment co-chair, a finance co-chair and a communications co-chair. This is going to help us manage the workflow for this very large event.

Program Highlights

- Claudia hosted WFPL's first Spanish language author visit at the Club de Lectura with our old WFPL friend and celebrated author María Mayobre! We had 15 visitors and Emely assisted with the visit as well. This is a big milestone for the club, which has only been running since April. We host the only such club in Minuteman! Thank you to Claudia and Emely for making this possible.



- Our recent program Democracy Talks: Your Brain on ChatGPT had 703 registrations on Zoom, and about half that number on the call live. This is a phenomenal turnout! The 1-hour recording is available through Oct. 9 on our YouTube channel in case anyone missed it, and will then be deleted, per our agreement with Dr. Kosmyna:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=35l0ivJsm3g&feature=youtu.be>

- We welcomed Sara Nović to the library on September 30. We had a crowd of 125 attendees. This marks our first collaboration with our awesome neighbors at DEAF Inc.



Group photo with DEAF Inc, Library Staff, and Sara (Sara is third from Left) next to Sara is Darian, DEAF Inc executive director.



- Library Insiders had a special visit from Saber Guild. This was booked by Allie and Deanne made a great program even more stellar for the group by dressing up as Chewbacca's cousin. The Insiders were so happy during the event, it was pure joy. They had excellent questions, saw demonstrations with lightsabers and joined in to use the force. (Note: [Saber Guild](#) is a not-for-profit, LucasFilm-recognized Star Wars costuming group that specializes in choreographed lightsaber show).
- Carey has hired a few teens to run programs for their peers over the next couple of months. We love to see peer led programming continue!
- Kelly is having major successes with Teen Movie afternoons on half days. They are averaging 30 teens in attendance. This is so great for teen engagement.
- Balloon-a-palooza was on a rainy cold Sunday and 100 people played “keepy uppy” while the Bluey soundtrack played.
- A group of 6 kids made Fiber Optic Lamps (circuits)! They decorated them with googly eyes and gave them names.
- Sing Along is going well. We regularly see over 70 people. Baby Time is regularly seeing big groups as well- they had 56 people recently.

Project Literacy

- Janet reported that generally September is the busiest month of the year for Project Literacy and this year it felt busier than usual. Getting the classes ready again and creating opportunities to support our immigrant families, volunteers, and teachers has been the priority.
- There have been a lot of student changes with classes as the year starts. Jacky and Janet are busy keeping up with students' requests to change classes, and keeping teachers informed.
- Many classes are full, but Jacky and Janet are doing their best to keep people off the waitlist because they have been able to open a class led by volunteers teaming up to co-teach. We are so grateful to our volunteers.

Facilities/IT

- Alex and Theresa spent the last month coordinating with Minuteman and City IT to troubleshoot VPN/Sierra issues. HubTech configured a new firewall that the RCN/Sierra traffic can run through and that seems to be working now.
- The City's phone system was changed over on October 3. It went smoothly overall and we thank Maurice Myrie and Alex so much for all their efforts to oversee the library's deployment. We are still getting Local History's phone up and running.
- We are waiting to hear about our HVAC replacement and working with DPB to manage that. We will not be able to determine a date to replace the units on the roof until all the equipment has arrived at DPB- which should be next week. We are thinking the replacement will happen on October 23 or 24.

Personnel

- Kate Lowe retired on September 19, 2025, after serving the library and community with dedication for over 30 years.
- Brooke Eubanks will begin her role as FT Children's Librarian on October 14, 2025.
- We have nearly 100 applications for Library Assistant II as of this writing (October 3).



TO: Library Trustees
FROM: Kim Hewitt, Library Director
DATE: October 2025
RE: Hours Adjustment for Yo-Yo Ma

This memo is to request your approval to adjust the Library's hours on November 21 from 9am-6pm and 7pm to 11:30pm for Yo-Yo Ma's livestream event. Previously Trustees approved 9am-10pm hours for the event. After further discussion with the artist's team, we are asked to adjust the plan. If approved, the Library would be closed from 6pm-7pm to clear the building and then set up for the event. Upon opening at 7pm, only the Watertown Savings Bank Room and first floor restrooms would be available to the public. Other library services would not be available. The event ends at 11pm.



Application To: Watertown Cultural Council

Applicant Information

Applicant Organization Information

Review the applicant information.

****Legal Name:** Watertown Free Public Library

****Doing Business As:**

****Physical Address:**

****Address 1:** 123 Main Street

****Address 2:**

****City:** Watertown

****State:** MA

****ZIP:** 02472-4478

Mailing Address (if different):

Mailing Address 1:

Mailing Address 2:

City:

State:

ZIP:

****If you need to update one of these fields, you can submit a note through the system or [email grants.team@mass.gov](mailto:grants.team@mass.gov)**

If you would like to update your organization's mailing address, please update it in your Organization Profile. Here's how:

- Click Save Draft before navigating away from this page.
- Then click on Home in the upper right corner.
- Click on Organization Profile to update the fields, and then click on Save.
- This application will be in your "In Progress" section of your Home page so you can continue working.

Primary Contact

The Primary Contact is responsible for all communications regarding the application, including questions and contracts. If you need to update the Primary Contact information you can do so in your Profile. Click the Home button in the upper right corner to get to the My Profile button.

Carey Conkey
cconkey@watertown-ma.gov
617-972-6437

Project Information

Amount Requested

\$1,500

Project Discipline

Multidisciplinary

Project Title

Watertown Pride 2026

When will the project take place?

June 6, 2026

Where will the project take place?

Saltonstall Park & Field

Estimated number of people served

Number of People Served - Estimate of the number of individuals that you predict will participate in or benefit from this project. This field only accepts numeric values, not text.

2,000

Does this project primarily serve schoolchildren (grades pre-K to 12)?

No

Project Overview

Summarize the proposed project or program.

Watertown Pride has become a regular staple for the City and attendance is expected to be approximately 2000 this year. City staff and the Planning Committee are committed to growing Pride to be a community-driven event that is committed to diversity and inclusiveness. By getting direct input from the LGBTQIA+ community, the Planning Committee's focus will be to engage quality performers and artists that reflect these goals. Watertown Pride will be welcoming to all ages and family configurations, whatever their identity, wherever they are on the gender spectrum. The event will be supportive, affirming and inspirational for all who attend by bringing joy in these turbulent times.

Who is the target audience for this project?

Target Audience: The specific individuals you are hoping to attract to attend or participate in a project. These individuals may be defined by age, economic status, geographic location, interests, etc.

Our marketing efforts will target all of Watertown's LGBTQIA+ constituencies, with special emphasis on youth, families and seniors. Most attendees will be from Watertown, some from neighboring communities.

What is the cost of participation for attendees (if any)?

All performances and craft activities are free. Non-profit groups will be able to have a free table.

How does the proposed project provide benefit and contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole?

Public Benefit: Local council funds may only be used to support activities that contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole, rather than benefitting any private individual or group. However, this does not mean that a large crowd of people needs to participate in order to satisfy the public benefit requirement. An important component of public benefit is advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

The LGBTQ+ community is experiencing extreme stress and intolerance especially with direct harm aimed at trans youth. We will endeavor to have Pride be joyful & affirming for this group, a place for allies to show their support, and connect people to resources and each other. As in the past we will have drag emcees, trans BIPOC speakers and entertainment provided by youth. The event will also have components such as ASL interpretation at performances, program booklets that are brailled for those that have limited sight, and a sensory tent for those that need a reprieve the day's activities. Middle and high school students are being offered leadership opportunities in the planning process, such as serving on the Pride Planning Committee.

Please describe the qualification of key artists, humanists, interpretive scientists or organizations involved with leading the cultural component of this project.

The event is seven months away so artists and other performers are to be determined. Our current outline: a drag king/queen emcee(s); we will have a well-known BIPOC trans motivational speaker; we are going to enlist a poet/spoken word performer; a local youth musical group such as School of Rock. For the younger crowd we hope to have Circus Up! from Jamaica Plain that provides "social circus" performed by 8-18 year-olds. The parade will include the Watertown HS band as well as an activist band that performed at the regional Honk! festival. The Watertown Public Arts and Culture Commission will be working with middle school students to offer attendees a craft suitable for all ages. A BIPOC Zumba instructor will get the crowd moving.

If there are any other individuals or organizations that will be involved in the project as planners, partners, or collaborators, please list them below. If applicable, please distinguish between those who have made a firm commitment to the project and those with tentative or potential involvement.

Firm Commitment:

The City of Watertown; Watertown Public Schools, including the Anti-Bias Coalition and Diversity and Belonging Caregiver Groups; Watertown Library's building Committee; Watertown Public Arts and Culture Committee; Wayside Youth and Family Network.

Tentative/Potential involvement:

Watertown Savings Bank & other Watertown Business Coalition members; the Mosessian Center; local open and affirming churches; and the Watertown's Senior Center and Commission on Disability.

How are you planning to promote the project to the community and your target audience?

This month there are holding a Pride Community Kickoff event where people can share what they would like to see in June. Staff will attend school events to reach youth and attend GSA meetings. We will promote Pride through the Library's newsletters, social media and website. The Planning Committee is promoting through their own social media channels and putting up physical flyers. We will enlist Watertown MA News and WAC-TV and pay for advertising in local LGBTQ+ publications and newspapers.

Budget

Project Budget

Cash Expenses	Description	Amount
Salaries/Fees: Artists/Humanists/Scientists	Estimates based on prior years: trans speaker (\$1000); Emcee(s) (\$575); Honk! Band (\$500); DJ (\$500); Circus Troupe (\$1500); Zumba (\$300); youth band (\$575)	\$6,375.00
Equipment Rental	Sound system + sound engineer	\$800.00
Equipment Rental	portable toilet/washing stations	\$800.00
Ensuring Access (ex: costs for ASL interpreter)	2 ASL interpreters, brailled programs	\$1,250.00
Marketing/Promotion	Marketing budget includes Facebook/Instagram postings; poster & banner printing and other signage	\$775.00
Supplies and Materials	Office supplies, staff shirts, supplies for parade, supplies for engagement at City tables (e.g., face painting and other crafts)	\$2,000.00
		\$12,000.00

Projected Income: Please briefly describe the other sources of projected income needed to complete this project.

Will be applying for a Watertown Community Foundation Community Engagement grant (~\$4000 in previous years)

Table registration for commercial/for profit vendors (we rec'd \$2700 at last year's Pride)

Corporate/business sponsorships (unknown);

Watertown Human Rights Commission/World in Watertown sponsorship (unknown)

Building Committee, WFPL (up to \$2000)

Individual Donations (est. \$300)

Fenway Health Grant (last year received \$1375)

In-Kind Support: If applicable, please briefly describe any in-kind support you are getting for this project.

Commander's Mansion/City Events team: use of 50 tables/200 chairs; Library staff time for marketing and planning; Library staff working the day of the event; DPW, Police and EMT support;



Application Summary:
FY26-LCC-115290

How will you adjust the project if the council cannot fund the entire amount you are requesting? (For example, how will you raise additional funds or scale the programming back?)

As stated above, we are applying to multiple grants and partnering with City departments. If we have to scale back we would not be able to host as many performers, perhaps not have the parade.

If you have applied to other Tribal or Local Cultural Councils for funding for this specific project, please list the names of those councils below.



Watertown High School

Watertown High School
27 Westminster Avenue
Watertown, Massachusetts
Phone: (617) 926- 7760

Joel Giacobozzi
Principal

Brian Brewer
Assistant Principal

Adrienne Eaton
Assistant Principal

To the Watertown Cultural Council,

It is with great pleasure and sincerity that I share my support for Carey Conkey-Finn's grant application for Watertown Pride 2026. My name is Sean Morris, and I have been teaching at Watertown High School for the past nine years and have been an advisor to the school's Gender-Sexuality Alliance (GSA) for the past seven. I have been working with Carey in helping to plan and organize the high school's presence at Watertown Pride since its inception, and have gotten to know her extremely well.

In organizing Watertown Pride, Carey goes above and beyond. The Pride Planning Committee's top priority is planning an inclusive event for everybody. The performers and speakers have reflected diversity across every spectrum: something for all ages, representation for all members of the LGBTQ+ community, and content that respects and uplifts families of all configurations.

The members of the Pride Planning Committee are all from the Watertown community. Carey is the liaison between the city, the library, and this group. The process of planning Watertown Pride is, by design, community-driven. The committee has been working on getting student representation on board as well, as younger voices are critical to help select performers and to assist with marketing the event to middle and high school students and faculty.

Every year that the high school has had a presence at Watertown Pride has been an absolute highlight of the school year. It is a day of pure joy for everybody from all walks of life. I have had students and parents tell me that they had no idea just how much support there was in Watertown until they attended Watertown Pride. Especially in these turbulent political times,

being able to see their friends, their neighbors, and even their firefighters and police officers attending Pride has really driven home the fact that they have allies everywhere.

If you have any questions at all for me, please feel free to contact me at any time. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sean Morris
Special Education Math Teacher
Watertown High School
(617) 926-7760
sean.morris@watertown.k12.ma.us

Dear Carey, below please find my letter to the Watertown Cultural Council. Would you kindly forward it along. Thanks, Nicole

Dear Members of the Watertown Cultural Council,

I am writing to offer my strong and enthusiastic support for funding next year's Watertown Pride Celebration. Although I was unable to attend the 2025 event due to medical reasons—much to my disappointment—I've heard overwhelmingly positive feedback from neighbors, friends, and constituents who were present. Over and over, I've been told what a joyful and uplifting celebration it was for our entire community. In conversations with a couple of members of the planning committee including a 2026 co-chair, I've been especially impressed by this year's commitment to inclusion in every sense—across age, identity, and family structure, including those that may be less visible to the broader public. This kind of thoughtful inclusivity is something we should continue to strive for, not only in this celebration but throughout all aspects of civic life. I'm also deeply encouraged by the intentional involvement of youth in planning the event. From the library's For Freedoms sign project, Anti Bias Coalition's summit on raising youth voices coming later this fall, to two student-led initiatives I'm trying to support—(immigrant support and the creation of a permanent volleyball court) it's clear that engaging young people is key to building the future of our community. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important and meaningful initiative. Watertown Pride is not just a celebration—it's a reflection of the kind of community we are and aspire to be.

Best regards, Nicole Gardner nicole.n.gardner@gmail.com



TO: Library Trustees
FROM: Kim Hewitt, Library Director
DATE: October 2025
RE: Support for Library as Polling Place

This memo is to request your support for using the Library as a polling place on November 4. The City Clerk would staff the Watertown Savings Bank Room and direct polling staff to block access to the rest of the building until we officially open at 9AM. This would not require additional library staff to be present before normal shifts begin.



TO: Library Trustees
FROM: Kim Hewitt, Library Director
DATE: October 2025
RE: Authority to Close for HVAC Replacements

This memo is to grant authority to close the library to the Director of the Library when required to run and complete the HVAC unit replacement project. If the HVAC project requires more than 3 days of closure to the public, the Director will consult the Trustee Chair. This project is being managed by the Department of Public Works who will determine when it is safe to be open to the public and when we need to close for public safety until the project is completed.