



## Massachusetts Center for the Book (MCB)

is the Commonwealth's affiliate of the Library of Congress and operates as an outreach and programming organization working to enhance library impact regionally and nationally.

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- **We represent Massachusetts in national initiatives spearheaded by the Library of Congress.** MCB is one of 55 affiliated centers for the book which operate in each of the 50 states, as well as in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, Guam, and the Northern Marianas. In this capacity, MCB brings the literary and cultural resources of Massachusetts to a national audience, organizing the Massachusetts component of National Book Festival, participating in regional as well as national reading initiatives, nominating commonwealth organizations for national literary and literacy recognition, and coordinating outreach and programming from Library of Congress for our Commonwealth.
  - **We leverage the expertise and resources of Massachusetts libraries to support and expand the impact of literary (and literate) life in the Commonwealth.** We administer and promote the annual Massachusetts Book Awards, the largest state book awards program in the country, the student reading/writing initiative "Letters About Literature," and special programming across communities and regions that helps to deliver on the promise of broad-based literacy for civil society. This past Fall, for example, we partnered with the Board of Library Commissioners to develop a "Commonwealth Conversation" about race and class that drew on the resources of the Library of Congress as well as on commonwealth expertise to open dialogue about diversity, equity, and inclusion. We registered nearly 1,000 seats for the program.
  - **We facilitate community partnerships to expand the impact of programming that advances the cause of life-long literacy in Massachusetts.** We partner with literary and book arts festivals throughout the Commonwealth and working with community-based organizations, we have created, to date, 10 local walking tours and 4 commonwealth trails which present the literary-cultural life of Massachusetts cities and towns to interested visitors in communities as varied as Salem, Centerville, Concord, and Wilbraham. Commonwealth residents and visitors can do armchair tourism of our 26 literary museums, our African American literary heritage, our Gateway City Libraries network, and more. *Emily Dickinson* said it best: "There is no frigate like a book to take us lands away."
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