



Submitted by the Robbins Library Board of Library Trustees and the Library Director

We seek your support for Town Meeting Warrant Article 55, “To see if the Town will vote to apply for, accept and expend Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (“MPLCP”) grant funds if approved, and vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$150,000 if said MPLCP grant is approved, said sum to be expended by the Town for library assessment, planning, feasibility and design; or take any action related thereto.”

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ARTICLE 55

The Town of Arlington is in the process of applying for MPLCP planning grant funds to design a new Fox Branch Library, located at 175 Mass Ave. If awarded, the grant will provide state funds of up to \$100,000 for planning and design. Should the project proceed with construction and future town support, an MPCP grant could provide up to 60% of eligible construction costs.

To remain eligible for this significant grant Town Meeting must approve an appropriation for \$150,000 for the planning and design stage of the project. Article 55 is the request for this appropriation.

Why should the Town rebuild the Fox Branch Library?

The branch is an essential destination in Arlington despite the fact that the building is not ADA accessible and doesn’t support the spaces needed for modern library use. **We seek to create a welcoming library that supports the needs of all in East Arlington and beyond.**

How can I learn more about the Fox Branch Library and this project?

- Visit our website [A New Future for the Fox](#);
- Attend one of the [six tours offered at the Fox Branch Library in April](#);
- Take a [4 minute video tour](#).

Has FinCom endorsed this warrant article?

Yes. On March 20, 2024 FinCom voted to take favorable action on Warrant Article 55.

How will this appropriation be funded?

The appropriation is split between a general fund appropriation of \$75,000 and an appropriation split between Library Trust Funds, to be approved by the Board of Library Trustees and, and other funds available to the library.

Why approve this action now?

The MPLCP program last opened a grant round in 2016, and there is no current information about future grant rounds. **If we do not make this appropriation and apply for this grant round now, we will miss out on an opportunity to receive millions of dollars in state funding for a much-needed project in Town.**

4 FACTS ABOUT FOX

1

The Fox Branch Library was last renovated in 1969 and the building is not accessible to visitors using a mobility device. Creating a fully accessible library is our priority.



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2

Residents made 82,000 visits to the Fox Branch Library in FY23. The Library provides collections and services, and spaces for children, teens, and adults.

3

Fox Branch Library has seen huge growth over the past 10 years. In FY23, patrons checked out 121,000 books, AV items, and other library materials, **up 200% from FY13** when library patrons checked out 40,000 items.



4

The Fox Branch Library is an important community space for library programs and community meetings. 347 meetings and events were offered in the Fox Branch Library Community Room in FY23. None of those events were open to anyone using a mobility device.