



# City of Cambridge

## Executive Department

**YI-AN HUANG**  
City Manager

CMA 2026-94  
**IN CITY COUNCIL**  
April 27, 2026

To the Honorable, the City Council:

I am writing to recommend the following five reappointments of members to the Library Board of Trustees for a term of three years, effective May 26, 2026:

1. James Roosevelt (reappointment)

Jim is the longest-standing member of the Board of Trustees and became Chair in 2024. As Chair of the Trustees, Jim's goal is to help create the Library's strategic plan that is carried out by Cambridge Public Library leadership and staff. He also is committed to advocating for large issues and projects such as the renovation of the Central Square Branch. His close attentiveness to detail enables the Board to better plan, and ultimately deliver, expectational quality Library services.

2. Elisabeth Werby (reappointment)

Liz was a practicing lawyer for more than 15 years at Alaska Legal Services, the Women's Rights Project of the ACLU, and in a private labor and employment practice. Author of a National Coalition Against Censorship Briefing Paper on Libraries in the Internet Age, a past consultant to the then New York City Science Industry and Business Library, and a weekly visitor to the CPL Main, she is a passionate advocate for libraries of all kinds and for the right to read.

3. Risa Mednick (reappointment)

In Cambridge, Risa has served on many city-wide commissions and steering committees to address community needs. She has received honors for her work from Eastern Bank, the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, and the YWCA Cambridge. Risa is a dedicated and thoughtful member of the Board.

4. Michael Baenen (reappointment)



Michael Baenen is Senior Consultant for Strategic Priorities at Harvard Library. His prior career in higher education includes service as Chief of Staff at Tufts and Special Assistant to the President at MIT. He was previously a Director and Vice President of the Board of the Portsmouth (NH) Athenaeum. He brings valuable experience to the Library Board.

5. Karen Kosko (reappointment)

Karen Kosko is a retired librarian and educator with first-hand experience in kindergarten through high school. She was manager of the Collins Branch Library for 7 years and followed that with 18 years as Library Media Specialist at the Haggerty Elementary School in Cambridge. Karen brings her unique experience as a former Cambridge Public Library employee to the Board.

The Cambridge Public Library Board of Trustees are volunteer representatives and are a vital link

between the library staff and the community and work to ensure high quality library services, collections, and programs, and to make certain that the Library reflects and is relevant to the community. Library Trustees are advisory positions.

I appreciate the willingness of these community members to continue to serve on the Library Board of Trustees, and with your approval, look forward to their reappointments.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yi-An Huang". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Yi-An Huang  
City Manager



# City of Cambridge

Agenda Item No. 16  
**IN CITY COUNCIL**  
April 27, 2026

**ORDERED:** That the recommendation of City Manager, Yi-An Huang, on the reappointment of the following people as members the Library Board of Trustees for a term of three years, effective May 26, 2026 be approved:

- James Roosevelt
- Elisabeth Werby
- Risa Mednick
- Michael Baenen
- Karen Kosko