1. The Schematic Design phase ended and Design Development began. The Building Committee began to meet weekly, in order to quickly (by the end of February 2023) make several final decisions including the layout of the garden level all gender rest room, the interior/exterior colors/finishes, and the landscaping design.
   A. The OPM and Architects provided weekly updates on the schedule, budget, and designs.
   B. Both the sustainability goals and value engineering cuts were reaffirmed.
   C. The initial landscape design was presented by Berkshire Landscape Design. Issues to be addressed are the preservation of the large trees out back; the dumpster location, and an outdoor space for children on the front lawn.
   D. The Outreach Subcommittee hosted two public forums on all gender restrooms, including examples from across the country. Public comments were collected over the period of a month and discussed by the JLBC.

2. A handful of representatives from our “ARPA libraries group” met at this year’s Massachusetts Municipal Association conference in order to discuss our initiative to secure additional state funding for these MBLC projects affected by COVID.

3. Senators Comerford and Rodriguez met with the MBLC about the COVID cost overruns and encouraged the MBLC to “look at possible solutions within their program, but outside of ARPA funding.”

4. Received our first email from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regarding our $1,110,661 Community Project Funding Grant, 1/23/23.

5. Our Capital Campaign Committee has reached:
   A. 65% of its $7 million November 2023 goal (from all sources)!
   B. 33% of its $6 million December 2025 goal (from the community)!
   C. 33% of its $14 million December 2025 goal (from all sources)!