

HARVARD UNIVERSITY LIBRARY *letters*

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# November 2001

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### **On the cover:**

The image of the praying pilgrim comes from the Hedda Morrison Photographs of China, which are among the holdings of the Harvard–Yenching Library. Morrison's 4,800 outstanding photographs document architecture, streetscapes, clothing, religious practices, and handicrafts which, in many cases, have disappeared from modern China.

The collection was the subject of an exemplary collaboration within Harvard's library community. The collection was treated in the University Library's Weissman Preservation Center. Next, it was digitized in Preservation & Imaging Services in the Harvard College Library. The digital images were cataloged using OLIVIA, the library's electronic program for cataloging visual images. Now, Morrison's remarkable photographs are available online through VIA, the Visual Information Access program, which was developed through Harvard's Library Digital Initiative.

Many opportunities exist for similar collaborations within the University Library. For information, contact Peggy Davis Molander at 617.495.8062.

# A Letter from the President of Harvard University



Lawrence H. Summers

Dear Friends,

**I write to you in the aftermath of the terrible and tragic events of September 11. The nation was and remains badly shaken. Our faith in democracy remains strong, just as our faith in the truth—in *veritas*—and our commitment to the work of this great university remains immutable. In the words of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, “It is the part of Harvard and America to stand for the freedom of the mind and to carry the torch of truth.”**

President Roosevelt spoke those words in Cambridge 65 years ago—five years before the tragedy of Pearl Harbor had threatened American security and brought our nation into a second world war. Now, once again, tragedy has struck. For the moment, our own words and concepts seem to fail us. Certainly it is true that we must honor those who died and support those whom they left behind. Clearly we must heed a renewed call for public service, public spirit, and public sacrifice. Beyond any doubt, we must demonstrate openness, tolerance, and good will.

But we at Harvard must continue to do the work that makes us the great institution that Roosevelt described and claimed as his own.

Roosevelt’s words—and his faith in Harvard—comprise no mere exercise in institutional flattery. They articulate the fact that, in times of crisis, the great learning centers of the world have special responsibilities. The importance of knowledge and information—its collection, dissemination, and ultimate preservation—cannot be underestimated. Our nation is struggling for an equilibrium that can return only if our actions and our

pursuits are fully and broadly informed. To understand the events of September 11 and the full meaning of its challenges, we, as a global society, must synthesize huge amounts of often inconclusive and sometimes conflicting data about the present. We must come to grips with the past. And, of course, we must preserve the record of September 11 and its aftermath for the future.

At Harvard, the role of the library system—which forms the largest academic library in the world—is clear.

With regard to September 11, our libraries are continuously gathering the myriad of information that forms the record of actions and reactions. Right now, that record comprises newspapers, magazines, video, audio, and a whole host of materials that are purely digital and as yet quite fleeting. The books and dissertations will follow later.

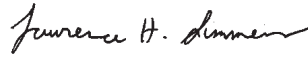
At the same time, our libraries must surpass themselves in the support of pure scholarship and innovative instruction. The backdrop of September 11 notwithstanding, our students are engaged in reading great literature, discovering new states of matter, developing philosophies of ordered liberty, analyzing Renaissance motets. They are here as educated women and men whose intellect, imagination, and humanity make Harvard exactly the civilized, responsible force that Roosevelt described.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Despite a season of dire change and pressing need, the supremely humane enterprise of the Harvard libraries is going forward every day. The work is enormous, challenging, visionary—and deeply gratifying. Traditional spaces, such as Widener Library, are being comprehensively renewed. Programs such as the Library Digital Initiative are strengthening the link between the classroom and the library and ensuring that Harvard’s collections, traditional and non-traditional, printed and digitized, are the best in the world. Today, the library—the Harvard Library—is serving students, scholars, and faculty better

than ever before. The challenges—from the practical to the visionary—are as diverse as the resources that our libraries deliver. Together with my colleagues in Harvard’s library community, I look forward to meeting those challenges with you in the years ahead.

Sincerely,



Lawrence H. Summers

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New Carl and Lily Pforzheimer  
Foundation Director:

## Historian Nancy Cott to Head Schlesinger Library

**Nancy Cott, distinguished historian of American women, has been appointed the Carl and Lily Pforzheimer Foundation Director of the Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe. Cott, who will also serve as professor of history in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, begins her Harvard service on January 1.**

A member of the Yale history faculty since 1975, Cott has chaired the women’s studies and American studies programs and currently holds a Sterling Professorship, Yale’s highest honor. The author or editor of seven books and dozens of articles, Cott helped establish the field of women’s history with the 1977 publication of her book *The Bonds of Womanhood*. Her most recent work, *Public Vows: A History of Marriage and the Nation*, appeared last winter.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Cornell University, Cott earned her doctorate from Brandeis University. She has held fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Charles Warren Center, and Harvard Law School.



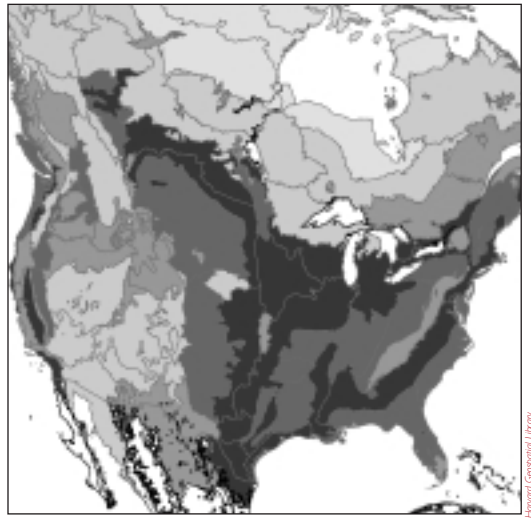
A former Schlesinger Library Visiting Scholar, Cott is a past recipient of the Graduate Society Medal of the Radcliffe College Alumnae Association, now known as the Radcliffe Association.

Located at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, the Schlesinger Library is a national resource open to all. Its holdings of published and unpublished sources document the range of issues, organizations, and activities in which women have been central since the beginning of the nineteenth century.

## The Harvard Geospatial Library

The Library Digital Initiative (LDI) is a five-year, University-wide effort to create a common infrastructure of catalogs, delivery services, and repositories specifically for the burgeoning number of digital materials held in networked collections throughout the Harvard University Library. LDI is operated by the Harvard University Library's Office for Information Systems. The goal of LDI is to ensure that Harvard can provide effective management for the digital materials that form an increasingly critical aspect of Harvard's library holdings. Through its Internal Challenge Grant Program, the LDI works in collaboration with libraries throughout Harvard to develop new systems and services for digital materials.

The Harvard Geospatial Library—or HGL—is among the LDI projects completed through the Internal Challenge Grant Program. An innovative combination of library and analytical laboratory services, HGL is now online at <http://geodesy.harvard.edu>. The goal of the Harvard Geospatial Library (HGL), formerly known as “Geodesy,” is to enable students, faculty, and other members of the Harvard community to perform meaningful geospatial analyses within the strict time requirements of a problem set, a term paper, or a real-world issue. Once the province of astronomers, land-use planners, and geoscientists, geospatial analysis is an increasingly valued tool in many disciplines, including, but not limited to, economics, the social sciences in general, business and marketing, and engineering. In any discipline concerned with geospatial analysis, the challenges of finding relevant and interesting data, obtaining it in a useable form, using analysis tools, and accessing appropriate computing platforms have all been addressed in the Harvard Geospatial Library.



World Wildlife Fund Ecoregions. Darker colors indicate increased threat. White indicates no threat.

Harvard Geospatial Library

### Improved Access to Geospatial Materials

To improve access to geospatial data, HGL provides a catalog of geospatial materials available to the Harvard community. Though HOLLIS (the Harvard Online Library Information System) is an excellent starting point for access to geospatial information, it cannot provide sufficient data or functionality for GIS—or Geographic Information Systems—analysis. Therefore, the Harvard Geospatial Library provides enhanced metadata and database functions specifically designed for geographic information. Using HGL, an undergraduate seeking geospatial information on Afghanistan could search by geography, metadata terms, or coordinates. Results could be sorted by a variety of options.

### Facilitated Access to GIS Datasets

The Harvard Geospatial Library facilitates access to maps and GIS data. Researchers need to see, touch, and use the materials. When objects exist in electronic format, data will reside in the Harvard Geospatial Library repository. Researchers can select relevant data, create subsets of data, view them dynamically, refine their subsets, and, if authorized, download the data for further analysis. In some cases, objects described in the HGL may not be in electronic format. In such cases, users will be directed to the holding library and the call number.

### GIS Analysis and Cartography

The Harvard Geospatial Library allows researchers to create meaningful maps. HGL provides a cartography and analysis tool. Using this tool, researchers can render maps with one or more data attributes, modify symbology, and alter color schemes—all functions previously available only with expensive and hard-to-use desktop GIS tools.



Population density by census tract for Greater Boston.

Harvard Geospatial Library

### Geospatial Data Sets in the HGL

Making interesting, relevant, and useful data available to researchers is one of the primary goals of HGL. The Harvard Map Collection (Harvard College Library) and the Frances Loeb Library (Harvard Design School) determined the most frequently requested geospatial data sets. Staff from both libraries have worked tirelessly to create the metadata and to load the data into the Harvard Geospatial Library. The list of data available at the HGL launch includes:

*ESRI Data & Maps*—A global data set that includes geographic features, political boundaries, and demographic data from a number of fully documented sources. The data are more detailed for Europe, Canada, Mexico, and the US. Restricted to use by members of the Harvard community.

*Digital Chart of the World*—A set of 1:1,000,000 scale data for the world, including major road and rail networks, hydrologic drainage systems, utility networks, all major airports, elevation contours, coastlines, international boundaries, and populated places.

*Census TIGER 2000*—The current release of the TIGER (Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing system) data from the Census Bureau. TIGER is a digital database of geographic features, political boundaries, and census boundaries covering the entire United States. It was developed to support the mapping and related geographic activities required by the decennial census and sample survey programs.

*Boston Water and Sewer Commission Database*—This data set includes detailed street and building footprint data for Boston. Restricted to use by members of the Harvard community.

*City of Cambridge Data*—Data from the City of Cambridge GIS division. The data set includes building footprints, road edges and centerlines, railroads and hydrography, as well as two-foot contour lines. This data can be used for detailed cartography or analysis of sites within the city. Restricted to use by members of the Harvard community.

*MassGIS*—Through MassGIS, the Commonwealth has created a comprehensive, statewide database of spatial information for environmental planning and management. MassGIS is the Commonwealth's office of geographic and environmental information, within the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs.

### Coming Next

The next phase of the HGL, expected to be completed in late 2001, will include a geospatial cataloger's workstation to facilitate metadata creation and data loading. Improvements and additional functionality will be added to the public catalog—projection manipulation, extended cartography features, additional subset manipulation. HGL's functionality will be extended into the future thanks to support from the Rasmussen Fund, which will enable the Harvard Geospatial Library to store, search, display, and manipulate data. In HGL's second year, it is anticipated that nine additional GIS data sets will be available. These include: the India Pollmap, providing detailed census information for India; planning data from the Town of Brookline, Massachusetts; North Korea base data; additional TIGER and census files; and Digital Map database of China.

*For a full report on the Library Digital Initiative, visit <http://hgl.harvard.edu> or request a copy by calling 617.495-3650.*

## A Magnificent Gift: Reflecting with HCL's Charles Warren Bibliographer for American History



Charles Warren, Class of 1889.

Harvard University Archives



Alison Scott

Brian Smith

Alison Scott is the Charles Warren Bibliographer for American History in the Harvard College Library. She is a key member of the collection development team that is based in Widener Library. Her named position reflects—and links!—a number of generous benefactions made to Harvard through the Charles Warren American History Fund. Established by Warren's widow in 1954, this fund supports chairs in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and in the schools of law and education. Significantly, the Warren Fund underwrites the American history collection in the Harvard College Library (or HCL) and fully funds Scott's position.

During a recent interview in her Widener office, Alison Scott provided an overview of the Warren Fund—and its particular importance to the libraries. “For the Library,” Scott explains, “the Warren gift means that Harvard’s American history collection can be the collection that we ought to have—rather than the collection that we can have. It ensures that the resources that faculty, students, and visiting researchers need are here—if they are available at all. The Warren

benefaction is a magnificent gift that, over time, has helped make the Harvard College Library one of the greatest in the world.”

While generous endowments and book funds cover more than 50% of the HCL acquisitions budget, the Charles Warren Fund is unusually comprehensive. The key is simple and elegant: the Warren Fund provides for a professional bibliographer who is dedicated to that collection and its long-term development. The Charles Warren Fund is also unusually flexible. Acquisitions made with income from the Warren Fund are not limited to printed books and periodicals, but can include a full range of research materials. This includes the digital resources, so vital to today’s research, that had not appeared on the scholarly horizon when Warren died in 1954.

“It certainly is a dream come true for me, as a professional opportunity,” Scott states. “But for the Library, it means that there’s a position fully dedicated to the American history collection—to pursuing the collection, again, that we ought to have. I have regular contacts with scholars who are working with these materials. They help me to establish where we need to go with this collection. So rather than building up the collection out of my mind—or out of what I think might be important—I can work in collaboration with scholars, teachers, and students who use it.”

Charles Warren was born in Boston in 1869. He graduated from Harvard College in 1889 and was a member of the Institute of 1770,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

the Hasty Pudding Club, the Pierian Sodality—a precursor to the Harvard–Radcliffe Orchestra of later generations—and Phi Beta Kappa. After earning his Harvard law degree in 1892, Warren joined the Boston firm of Story and Thorndike.

Firmly committed to public service, Warren chaired the Massachusetts Civil Service Commission for eighteen years. In 1914, Woodrow Wilson appointed him assistant attorney general, a position he held through World War I. He is the author of two pieces of World War I-era legislation—the Espionage Act of 1917 and the Trading with the Enemy Act. Warren won the Pulitzer Prize in 1922 for his book, *The Supreme Court in History*. He found the time to serve as president of the Harvard Alumni Association and as a founder of the Harvard Club of Boston. During the 1930s, Warren served on Harvard’s Board of Overseers—and on its Library Committee. His interests were broad ranging. He was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and of the American Philosophical

Society. He served as a trustee of New England Conservatory. His wife, the former Annie Louise Bliss, came from the family that gave Dumbarton Oaks to Harvard University.

Charles and Annie Louise Warren shared a lifelong commitment to Harvard’s students. Their commitment lives on in the use of the fund to support undergraduate research. According to Scott, “The Warren Fund is one of those rare funds that lets us do a great deal for students in terms of specific collecting to support student use and various curricular and research needs.” Scott cites undergraduate history classes that require original research. “With the support of the Warren Fund, we can ensure that ample materials are available for original undergraduate inquiry.”

As the Charles Warren Bibliographer, Alison Scott can ensure that Harvard’s remarkable holdings in American history have enviable depth. Her links to students, faculty, and Warren Center scholars bring added life to the collections that she shepherds. And her remarkable work is just one facet of the living legacy provided nearly half a century ago in commemoration of Charles Warren.

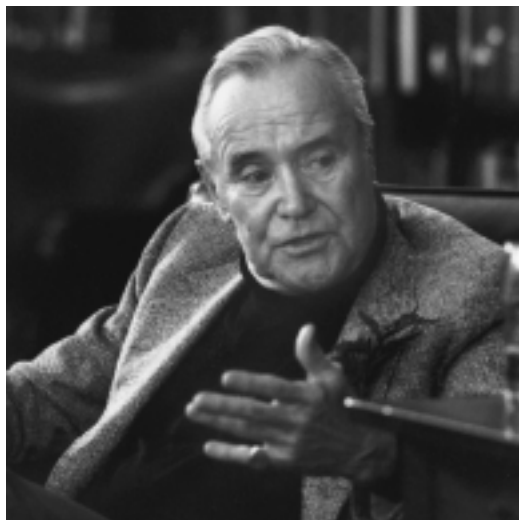
In the Harvard Theatre Collection:

## The Jack Lemmon AB 1947 Memorial Fund

When Jack Lemmon died on June 27, the *Boston Globe* described him as “the screen’s Everyman.” Over the course of a career spanning five decades, Lemmon appeared in more than 90 films, ranging from Billy Wilder’s *Some Like it Hot* to David Mamet’s *Glengarry Glen Ross*. His roles ranged from the prankish Ensign Pulver in *Mr. Roberts* to the haunted James Tyrone in a television film of *Long Day’s Journey into Night*. His contributions to a distinctly American culture were recognized officially during the Kennedy Center Honors of 1998.

As a Harvard undergraduate, Jack Lemmon’s talents were clearly in evidence—both as a pianist, performing with his classmate John Hilton Knowles ’47, and as an actor in the Hasty Pudding Theatricals. In recent years, Lemmon served on the advisory board of the Harvard Film Archive. In 1995, he received the first Harvard Arts Medal.

In his memory, a generous alumnus of Harvard College has established an endowed fund benefiting the Harvard Theatre



Jack Lemmon '47 participating in a 1995 “Learning from Performers” seminar, which was sponsored by the Office for the Arts and held in the Eliot House Library.

Collection of HCL’s Houghton Library. Income from the fund will be used to purchase and to maintain library materials relating to the modern American theatre.

*Contributions to the Jack Lemmon AB 1947 Memorial Fund will be gratefully received. For more information, contact Peggy Davis Molander in the Harvard College Library at 617.495.8062*

Update:

## The Gifts of Henry N. Ess III Enrich Special Collections at Harvard's Law Library

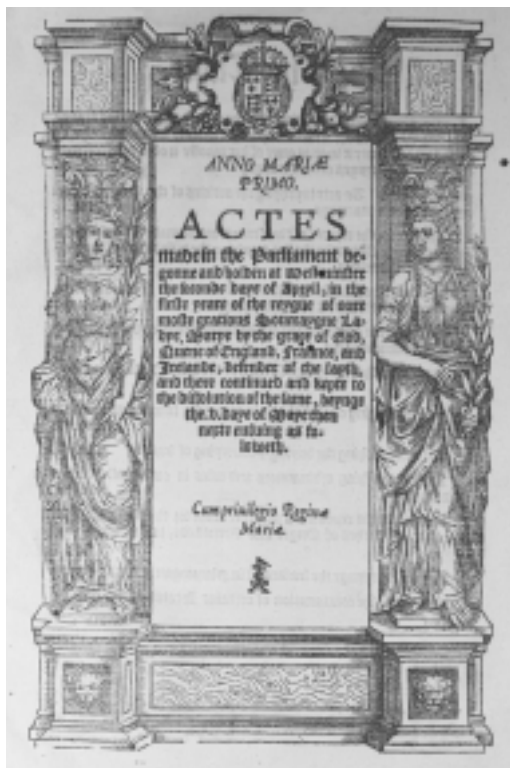
In April, the Harvard Law School Library received a generous bequest from the late Henry N. Ess III, a 1944 graduate of the Law School and a partner in the New York law firm of Sullivan and Cromwell. Henry Ess was a renowned collector of rare books—particularly rare, pre-1601 books of English law. The Ess bequest adds more than 500 books to the Law Library's existing holdings—approximately 1,100 volumes—in this area. As a result, the Harvard Law School Library now holds the largest single collection of pre-1601 English law books in the world.

Recently, *Library Letters* talked with David Ferris, the Law Library's curator of rare books and manuscripts and viewed his exhibition of representative works from the Ess collection. Ferris is clear that this generous bequest is significant for more than the content of the books. "For Mr. Ess to have added a book to his collection," Ferris notes, "there needed to be something special about the copy itself—its binding, its annotations, its prior owners."

We turned our attention to a pocket-sized, illuminated manuscript copy of the *Magna Carta*—the text of which is obviously located in countless works throughout the Harvard University Library system. "This manuscript copy of the *Magna Carta*, from around 1330, is very informative. First, the size of the volume"—approximately five by three inches—"tells us that this was a pocket edition—small enough to be carried in a sleeve. The fact that it has illuminations tells us that the owner of the book was wealthy. The annotations inside tell us about interpretations of the *Magna Carta* and about legal questions being raised at the time."



David Ferris



FROM THE ESS COLLECTION: Mary I. Anno Mariae primo: Actes made in the Parliament (London: John Cawood, 1554). A copy of the first edition of the first acts of the reign of Mary I.

Ferris estimates that with the Ess bequest, Harvard's Law Library holds copies of between 80 and 85% of the English law books published between 1481 and 1601. "We now have a superb copy of William de Machlinia's 1481 *The Abridgements of the Statutes*—it competes with Machilinia's edition of Littleton's *Tenures* for the distinction of being the first printed book of English law."

*Ferris's exhibition, which also included copies of early statutes, reports, English canon law, and practice manuals, was on view in the Caspersen Room of the Law School Library until late November.*

# Giving to Harvard's Library

Harvard's library has grown from John Harvard's 400 books in 1638 to a world-renowned collection today, including not only 14 million books and journals, but also millions of other manuscripts, maps, photographs, recordings, and digital images. The primary mission of the Harvard libraries has always been and remains today the support of teaching, learning, and research at the University. The libraries must work together not only to build, preserve, and house their collections, but also to provide access to them regardless of their formats.

To ensure a strong financial base for the library to move into the 21st century, over \$82 million was raised in the recent campaign. The success of the campaign, especially in the areas of collections, preservation, and technology, revealed the scope of challenges Harvard faces, and fundraising in the future must focus on addressing these needs. Five areas have been identified as priorities for the future:

- Preservation and Conservation
- Access and Technology
- Collections
- Positions
- Renovations and Capital Projects

You have the unique opportunity to combine your area of significant interest and your giving level to create a gift that is meaningful to you and important to the library and to the University.

## Tax Benefits

You may receive tax benefits by making a gift of securities. For more information, contact Melissa Baran of the Harvard University Recording Secretary's Office. The toll-free phone number is 1.866.845.6598.

## Planned Gifts

You may achieve greater tax savings by making a planned gift. To learn more about planned gifts or including the Library in your will, contact University Planned Giving at 1.800.446.1277 or [www.haa.harvard.edu/pgol](http://www.haa.harvard.edu/pgol).

## Memorial Gifts

Memorial gifts to the library are a thoughtful way to honor a friend or relative while providing meaningful support to the Library. Please make your check out to Harvard University, noting the name of the person you wish to honor. If you want us to acknowledge your gift (not the amount) to the honoree's family, please include the appropriate name and address.

## How to Contribute

You may send your gift or pledge commitment to:

Development Office  
192 Widener Library  
Attn.: Peggy Davis Molander  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, MA 02138

Checks should be made out to Harvard University.

*For more information, contact Peggy Davis Molander in the Harvard College Library at 617.495.8062.*

# After Word

*Shortly after the tragic events of September 11, Sidney Verba, the Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and Director of the University Library, sent a message to Harvard's library community. An excerpt from Professor Verba's text follows.*

Libraries are gentle, benevolent. They celebrate the best of what we are. True, they do contain the history of human folly and of human evil, as they will contain the history of recent weeks. Terrorism is one of the most inhumane and uncivilized of all acts. But capturing the history of it—like capturing the history of all we humans do (good and bad)—is one of the most humane and civilized of activities. It allows us to remember, to learn, and to pass on that memory and learning to new generations.

Memory and learning are two of the most cherished of human abilities. In the midst of our sadness we must remember that. The terror attack tore our world apart, but it also connected us to many people we did not know. “Only connect.” Never forget.

We will preserve the connections and the memories.

*Sidney Verba*

*Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and Director of the University Library*

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## Harvard University Library Letters

is published in November and May by the Office of the Director of the Harvard University Library. Its purpose is to provide important information for the many individuals—alumni/ae and friends—who provide critical financial support to the University and its libraries.

Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and Director of the Harvard University Library  
Sidney Verba

Associate Director of the University Library  
for Administration and Programs  
Barbara S. Graham

Director of Publications and Communications  
Peter Kosewski

Development Associate  
Peggy Davis Molander

Editorial Assistant  
Melissa Groff

Design Consultants  
Sametz Blackstone Associates, Boston

Contributors  
David Ferris, Wendy Gogel, Melanie Halloran,  
Stacy Kowalczyk, Raymond Lum, Sylvia McDowell

Special Thanks  
Beverly Sullivan; Tom Lee, Office for the Arts

E [peter\\_kosewski@harvard.edu](mailto:peter_kosewski@harvard.edu)  
T 617.495.7793  
F 617.495.0370

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