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Concord Free Public Library was recently awarded a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant for \$7500 from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC). "We're excited about the innovative local library projects being developed with the help of these grants," said Cindy Roach, Head of Library Advisory and Development at the MBLC. They benefit local residents and communities."

The LSTA grant titled Full STEAM Ahead: Supporting Science, Technology, Engineering, Math and the ARTS will expand hands on STEAM activities at the Main and Fowler Libraries. The libraries will offer an array of learning experiences that engage the preschooler's curiosity of the concepts of science and that introduces how arts and science intertwine with each other.

The STEAM grant activities will be based on the life and philosophy of Henry David Thoreau with activities based on natural and applied sciences: building, growing, cooking, constructing, and creating. The STEAM theme will be literature based with the addition of StoryWalks, book bags, storytimes, and puppet shows. PreSchoolers will be greeted in the children's area by our STEAM owl mascots, Henry T and Weezie, who will encourage children to join them in a yearlong exploration of STEAM activities. Town organizations will join us in a Scarecrow Festival on the front lawn of the Concord Free Public Library, 129 Main Street from October 17<sup>th</sup> – October 24<sup>th</sup>. The scarecrows will highlight how we use STEAM skills in our daily lives. The Full STEAM Ahead grant will give children and their caregivers the opportunity to play and explore together at the library, indoors and outdoors, for hours and days outside the school setting.

For more information call (978) 318-3358 or visit [www.concordlibrary.org](http://www.concordlibrary.org). LSTA is administered on the federal level by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and in the Commonwealth by the MBLC. More information about LSTA can found at [www.mass.gov/mbc](http://www.mass.gov/mbc).

