



January 15, 2026

Ms. Catherine Piantigini  
Somerville Public Library  
79 Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02143

Dear Ms. Piantigini,

It gives me great pleasure to enclose this check from Carnegie Corporation of New York in celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Andrew Carnegie wrote that libraries are “cradles of democracy” and it has been truly inspiring to hear accounts from across America of how the 1350-plus surviving Carnegie Libraries are serving their communities today.

This gift is freely given without conditions or expectations, for the benefit of your three Carnegie or Carnegie-descended branch library, which according to our records is the following:

Central Library   East Branch   West Branch

We ask that you spend the gift on this library; otherwise it is yours to spend as you choose for the benefit of your library and community in commemoration of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The response we have had to our renewed focus on libraries has been overwhelming and overwhelmingly positive. At a time of unprecedented strain to our social cohesion, libraries are among the few public institutions which play a genuinely unifying role. Thank you for all the good work you are doing.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Louise Richardson".

Dame Louise Richardson  
President, Carnegie Corporation of New York