Executive Director David Tebaldi and the Board of Directors of Mass Humanities invite you to the 2016 Governor’s Awards Dinner to support the public humanities in Massachusetts.

Sunday, November 6, 2016, 6:30 pm

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
McKIM BUILDING
700 Boylston Street, Boston

The 2016 Massachusetts Governor’s Awards in the Humanities will be conferred upon:

FRIEDA GARCIA
ATUL GAWANDE
LIA POORVU

in recognition of their public actions, grounded in an appreciation of the humanities, to enhance civic life in the Commonwealth.

Mass Humanities is a private, nonprofit organization that uses history, literature, philosophy, and the other humanities disciplines to enhance and improve civic life throughout the Commonwealth. For more information, go to: www.masshumanities.org.
Mass Humanities will confer the 2016 Massachusetts Governor’s Awards in the Humanities upon three individuals whose public actions have been grounded in an appreciation of the humanities and enhanced civic life in the Commonwealth.

In addition to highlighting the important role of the public humanities in our society, the goal of the awards is to inspire all of our leaders and institutions to advance the values expressed in the mission of Mass Humanities by spotlighting the achievements of a few.

**Frieda Garcia** is a tireless activist and leader who has worked to ensure equal opportunity and access to programs that educate and inspire. A native of the Dominican Republic, she was the founding director of *La Alianza Hispana* in 1971 and became president of United South End Settlements in 1981. For the next twenty years, she oversaw development of new programs in adult education and training, housing services, computer technology and cultural enrichment.

Garcia has contributed to countless efforts to improve civic life in the City of Boston, most notably as board member and chair of The Boston Foundation and life trustee of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. She has served on over 70 non-profit boards, including as a founding director of the Mass Humanities board from 1974-1976.

As chair of the Friends of the Harriet Tubman Park on Columbus Avenue, she oversaw the park’s redesign in 1999, including the first statue to a woman on City of Boston property—a 10-foot sculpture of Harriet Tubman. Among her many other awards and honors, in 2013 a new park at Clarendon and Stanhope streets was named Frieda Garcia Park.

**Atul Gawande** champions humanism in healthcare through his work as a surgeon, writer, and public health researcher. He practices general and endocrine surgery at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. He is a professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and the Samuel O. Thier Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School. He is also executive director of Ariadne Labs, a joint center for health systems innovation, and chair of Lifebox, an organization making surgery safer globally.

Gawande has been a staff writer for *The New Yorker* magazine since 1998 and has written *four New York Times* bestsellers: *Complications*, *Better*, *The Checklist Manifesto*, and most recently, *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*. Since 2003, hospital workers participating in Mass Humanities’ Literature & Medicine program have read his essays from the *Annals of Medicine* and *The New Yorker*, as well as excerpts from his books. Among other awards, Gawande has won two National Magazine Awards, a MacArthur Fellowship, and the Lewis Thomas Award for Writing about Science.

**Lia Poorvu** has worked as a teacher, volunteer, and organizer to improve dozens of cultural institutions in and around Boston. She taught French for 40 years, the last 25 at Tufts University. She chaired the Friends of both the Wellesley College and Harvard libraries. She has been a proponent of preservation of historic collections at the Boston Public Library, the Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe, and the Massachusetts Historic Society. At Facing History and Ourselves, the French Library, the Jewish Historic Society, the Museum of Fine Arts, and WGBH, as well as several small classical music organizations, she has encouraged the preservation and interpretation of our culture.

As a trustee of Wellesley College, Poorvu has championed its commitment to the humanities as part of a strong liberal arts curriculum for women. She was decorated twice by the French Government for connecting Boston public school students in exchanges with the Council of Europe and Boston’s sister city, Strasbourg. For 10 years, she was president of the Adolescent Consultation Services.

Poorvu draws inspiration from her idol, Eleanor Roosevelt, whose life she works to commemorate.

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**The Awards Dinner follows the Mass Humanities 2016 Fall Forum:**

The Politics of Hope: Four Historians Take on the Obama Presidency

In the BPL’s newly-renovated Rabb Auditorium

4:30 – 6:30 PM / Free and open to the public.

**Ellen Fitzpatrick**, political historian, University of New Hampshire; author of *The Highest Glass Ceiling: Women’s Quest for the American Presidency*

**Annette Gordon-Reed**, historian and law professor, Harvard University; author of *“Most Blessed of the Patriarchs”: Thomas Jefferson and the Empire of the Imagination*

**David Greenberg**, journalist; professor of history, Rutgers University; author of *Republic of Spin: An Inside History of the American Presidency*

**Heather Cox Richardson**, professor of American history, Boston College; author of *To Make Men Free: A History of the Republican Party*

**Meghna Chakrabarti**, host of WBUR’s acclaimed weekday show *Radio Boston*, will moderate the forum.

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**PHOTO OF LIA POORVU BY KRIS SNIBBE**