

Treasures Storing Up In This Space

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Boston's first Youth Poet Laureate

i never loved a library more than the one at the Lee school,
where i discovered self
and passion,
and magic,
and beauty,
and books extended their hands to me
more frequently than other humans.

and i remember the Hyde Park library.
my mama brought me there
and i sat in an aisle,
picked out all the books i could be inspired by
and i fell in love with the smells,
shells of power on every shelf,
the way stories of people who looked, protested and created like me were everywhere.
the only thing separating me from 1940's America and 1960's Beijing was a name or a genre.
the world was literally at my fingertips.

and i remember the first time i went to copley library.
the garden, a metaphor for the seeds of thought planted and all which flourishes here.
young people in the Teen Central space,
a sanctuary, have no limitations besides their own will, and they yield here to curiosity and
plausibility.
there are walls only in the building, but no longer in their minds as they print, read, game, study
create and wonder, just wonder all the ways and reasons and hows and i am compelled
im compelled to reimagine our world with them.

can you gate keep knowledge?
if fake news frightens you
i invite you to the wonder of past and modern
preservation
an idea that has held steadfast for generations
a pillar of knowledge
all its resources, an invitation
to explore, to be curios, to express, to question, to answer, to become.
and all of this, in freedom.
from a position of freedom,
we search the shelves, the archives,
we travel to worlds beyond what our pockets can afford and what our understanding can
fathom.

we learn to humble ourselves, to appreciate, to absorb in the silence as we let our gears churn
and our brains grow.

whether public school or copley, whether fully funded or missing gaps, the library never loses its
charm nor its functionality.

because a moment in the library could spark a movement.
a provision from the library can easily transfer into a purpose.
and an answer into a question and that line of inquiry into activism.

because the library is not a place where anyone should be rejected.
where anyone should be misguided.
its like the biblical verse that says God will give wisdom without finding fault.
so in this space, knowledge is passed down without prejudice.

in this space
the doors of opportunity burst open for all and from all
in this space
democracy exists founded on the basis of truth and nothing below that standard
in this space
treasure is generously split up for all.

and this space
should be loved,
should be invested,
should be expanded,
should be reimagined,
should be protected,
should be sustained.

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