



2019 WARRANT ARTICLE 39 UPDATE

We are excited to update you on the status of the Winfield Robbins Print Collection and 2019 Town Meeting Warrant Article 39. Please reach out to Library Director Anna Litten at 781-316-3201 or alitten@town.arlington.ma.us with any questions.

1911

Winfield Robbins Leaves \$25,000 to the Robbins Library to be "devoted to the care, preservation and increase" of the collection of 150,000 art prints previously gifted to the library.

1950–2018

The Board of Library Trustees seeks advice regarding the collection. Multiple reports demonstrate that the library is not an appropriate depository for the collection and appraisals show that the collection is losing value.

2019

Town Meeting votes to approve Warrant Article 39, "To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Library Board of Trustees to deaccession and/or dispose of by sale, donation, or other means, the Robbins Art Print Collection; or take any action related thereto."

2022

After delays due to COVID, the Board of Trustees solicited responses to an RFP "seek[ing] a long term contract with an art consultant to coordinate the process of selling, auctioning, or otherwise deaccessioning the Winfield Robbins Art Print Collection." The Library Board voted to enter into contract with Museum and Collector Resource (MCR) in June, 2022.

2022–2024

MCR began work at Robbins Library in Oct, 2022. MCR's timeline includes a period of setup, organization, updating inventories, sales, and donations. The first receipt of sales were received in Dec, 2022. The Deaccession project is slated to be completed in April, 2024.

2024

After the collection is no longer held by the library, Town Counsel will begin the process with the Attorney General's office to review the gift bequest language and determine if the original purpose has been frustrated, with the aim of freeing the original gift, now valued at \$942,105.10.

We are hopeful that we can access these funds to help reduce the capital burden on the Town as we look to needed improvements at Robbins Library. We believe that this use would still be well aligned with Winfield Robbins' desire to support the Library and the community.