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French Library Appoints Jean-François Ducrest as New Board Chair Native Parisian and 30-year financial executive to succeed Steven Galante

Boston, October 2, 2026

The French Library, a Boston-based non-profit organization founded in 1945 and dedicated to promoting the French language and francophone cultures through high-quality, affordable programming, today announced the appointment of Jean-François Ducrest to the position of Board Chair. Ducrest succeeds Steven Galante, a former journalist and entrepreneur, who is retiring after almost 12 years of service.

Ducrest, a French financial executive, has been a trustee of the French Library since 2005. He was previously Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees and remains Chairman of the Investment Committee, in addition to sitting on several other committees.

"I am honored to succeed Steven Galante, who has accomplished much during his tenure, most notably overseeing the renovation of our Library from 2020 to 2022. Every day, our very talented team of dedicated professionals shares their deep love of the French language and French-speaking cultures around the world in creative ways, and I look forward to partnering with them to reach an even wider audience. It is my goal, with the support of the board, to build on Steven's legacy and consolidate our role as the leading francophone institution in the Northeast, anchored in Back Bay," said Ducrest.

Under Galante's leadership, with Ducrest as Vice Chairman, the French Library underwent an \$8 million renovation of its brownstone building complex at 53 Marlborough Street, which is listed on Back Bay's historic register. The project, which was completed in 2022, rendered the building fully accessible, created new space for programming, a remodeled kitchen where chef Julia Child once cooked meals, and light-filled reading rooms containing the largest private collection of French language books in the United States. The renovation received a Boston Preservation Alliance Award in 2024.

A graduate of l'Institut d'Études Politiques of Paris, Ducrest's career in finance began in 1988 when he joined the Paris office of brokerage house Cheuvreux as an analyst. In 1995, Jean-François became a director in charge of the firm's Institutional Sales Division in the United States. In 2002, he joined the Northern Cross Group, and the following year he became co-founder and portfolio manager of Northern Cross, LLC.



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Today, Ducrest serves on the Board of JC Decaux where he chairs the Audit Committee. He serves as well on the Board of Lytica Therapeutics and is Chairman of the U.S. Sciences Po Foundation.

Jean-François and his wife Nathalie, an Argentinian-born interior designer who serves on the Board of Trustees of the International School of Boston, have two adult children, Gustave and Paloma.



New Chairman Jean-François Ducrest (center) with outgoing Chairman Steven Galante (left) and Gérard Moufflet (right), who was Chairman from 2001 to 2014.