

**Chief  
Executive  
Officer's  
REPORT**

**December 9**

**2010**

## A Review of the Library's Finances

For the three-month period ending 9/30/2010, we have expended and encumbered a total of \$1,572,871 which represents 16.8% of total revised budget of \$9,383,811. These results can also be shown by corresponding source of revenue as follows:

	<b>Adopted</b>	<b>Revised Budget</b>	<b>Y-T-D Actuals</b>	<b>% Spent</b>
Fund 2012 (Operating Budget):	\$7,915,000	\$7,915,000	\$1,423,276	18.0%
Fund 2014 (Special Funds):	\$1,128,236	\$1,468,811	\$149,595	10.2%
FY 10-11 Total Budget:	<b><u>\$9,043,236</u></b>	<b><u>\$9,383,811</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,572,871</u></b>	<b><u>16.8%</u></b>

Since Revised Budget includes grants received to date, the FY10-11 Revised Budget is 3.8% higher than the FY10-11 Adopted Budget of 9,043,236:

FY 2010-11 Revised Budget:	\$9,383,811
FY 2010-11 Adopted Budget:	\$9,043,236
Dollar Difference (Revised minus Adopted):	\$340,575
Per-cent:	3.8%

At this early stage of the fiscal year, individual departments are within budgeted allocations and purchases for the majority of the grants received continue to be processed.

Expenditure and Revenue accounts continue to be continuously monitored in order to ensure full utilization of resources within budgeted allocations.

## Library and Public Services

### **Adult Services**

The Library's summer-long adult reading initiative, with the theme of *Water Your Mind...READ!*, was part of the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP), a consortium of states working together to provide high-quality summer reading program materials at the lowest cost possible for their public libraries. Participants received an entry card for each item they read (books, audiobooks, and magazines), so that the more they read, the better their chances were of winning prizes. In addition to a place for contact information, entry cards also had space for

participants to comment on what they read. This part of the card was placed in the item, usually a book, which was then placed in a summer reading display. It was very interesting for library customers as well as staff to read the comments. *Water Your Mind...READ!* was a system-wide event. Several branches had book discussions – *Water for Elephants* and *Atlantis Rising* – to promote the initiative and one had a program on container gardening. More than 250 individuals participated. Among the neighborhood branches, Albany, Goodwin, and Barbour branches reported the highest numbers of participants. There had been no recent adult programming at Barbour.

The start of a new Downtown program, a noon story time for adults, coincided with the summer reading initiative and initially was called *Water Your Mind...LISTEN!* Over the summer, presenters read short stories and excerpts from *To Kill a Mockingbird*, to mark the fiftieth anniversary of its publication. The program continues as *LUNCH & LISTEN*.

Job and career programming included a workshop on filling out and filing online job applications, with participants including youth in Grow Hartford's summer youth employment program. They also obtained their library cards. The *Become a Librarian* career exploration workshop attracted many adults transitioning to second careers. Another session of *Job Preparation for Older Workers*, a six-week course led by a representative of Easter Seals and designed especially for job seeking older adults, was held and all participants attended all six classes.

A program for service providers on how to assist clients with the lengthy and complex pardon application process drew 70 attendees from across the state. Attendees recognized the importance of their clients obtaining pardons in order to help them move forward with their lives, especially with obtaining employment. The Connecticut Pardon Team, which has provided many informative overview sessions at the Library for individuals interested in the pardon process, conducted this new, service provider workshop.

After a summer break, the Library resumed nonprofit programming, with two workshops in September. *Building and Sustaining Your Nonprofit*, funded by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, explained how a small organization must operate from a solid foundation to survive. Topics included the basics of building a board, budgeting, operational planning, marketing, and fundraising. In *Nonprofit Social Network Fundraising*, attendees gained the practical knowledge needed to decide whether and how to add social media to their fundraising

plans, including consideration of the staff time and other resources it takes to manage social media tools. Representative of 16 Connecticut public libraries attended this workshop. Effective utilization of social media by nonprofits and small businesses is a timely topic. When small business and entrepreneurship programming resumes in October, the Library will offer a three-part series, *Grow Your Business with Social Media*.

Delivering audiences for personal finance/financial literacy workshops continues to be a challenge for the Library. *Consumer Credit: Everything You Wanted to Know But Were Afraid to Ask*, presented by the Hartford Federal Credit Union, had eight people in attendance and *Living within Your Means* was cancelled due to no registration. Low attendance and seemingly little interest in personal finance topics perhaps may be attributed to the number of other organizations blanketing the City with similar offerings, all of us drawing from the same pool of potential attendees.

Two author events each attracted about 50 attendees. At the beginning of the summer, Hartford native Mary Collins discussed her book, *American Idle: A Journey through Our Sedentary Culture*, as part of what was described as a book talk/walk. Following the presentation, people were invited to join Mary and Brenda Miller, Hartford History Center Curator, on a short walk in the Downtown area. Participants received copies of *Hartford Looking Up: A Short Walking Tour*. Following the walk, they returned to the Library for a discussion featuring panelists from the community, information tables, healthy refreshments, and the chance to win a door prize. Everyone had the opportunity to complete a survey, then assess and discuss his or her physical activity pattern. The most common barrier to being more active proved to be "work schedule," followed by "lack of money." The event was presented in collaboration with the Hartford Food System, Bike Walk Connecticut (new collaborator), and City of Hartford Health and Human Services, Healthy Hartford initiative. All parties are interested in promoting opportunities for physical activity and the importance of a walkable and bikeable city.

At the end of September, the Library had the opportunity to host Mark Winne, the Executive Director of the Hartford Food System from 1979 to 2003, as he began promoting his second book, *Food Rebels, Guerrilla Gardeners, and Smart-Cookin' Mamas*. Speaking to an audience that included many old friends, Mark discussed how people throughout the country are reclaiming their connection to their food and their health. Wearing one of its caps, he discussed a Connecticut company mentioned in his book, The Farmer's Cow, a group of six family-owned

farms. He praised its efforts to sell local dairy and other products as it preserves the state's agricultural heritage and open space. The Hartford Food System and City of Hartford Health and Human Services, Healthy Hartford initiative also collaborated with the Library for this event.

On Saturday, September 25, the Library was a site for the scavenger hunt that was one part of the Hands On Hartford *Dash for a Difference* event. At the Downtown site, public service staff taught participants how to search for a book using LibraryThing for Libraries, an enhancement package for the Library's catalog. Built by LibraryThing, a social site for readers, it features informal, natural language "tags" rather than the controlled vocabulary of Library of Congress subject headings. To put it simply, it makes it easier for library users to identify books on a given topic. Approximately 45 people received training on LibraryThing and located books using it.

September brought the first course, sculpture, in the *Arts and Archives: Master Classes in the Arts and Humanities for Older Adults* project. The course was full with a lengthy waiting list. Sculptor/instructor Charles Robert Hudson's goal was for each student to sculpt an anatomically-correct head and, although technically not something that should be included in this report, since the course did not end until October 2, the goal was achieved. Participants offered extremely positive feedback throughout the course, which included a walking tour to see nearby sculptures. Their comments included these:

- I have become addicted to art.
- This is the best! A great reason to jump out of bed in the a.m. [on a Saturday]!
- I am astounded that the program was given!
- I've benefitted greatly.
- This class was the jump start to motivating me back into my creative space.
- I found out something that I never thought I could do.
- I would have never thought I'd like doing sculpture, but I loved this class!
- Loved the program! I am amazed as I look at all of the beautiful and different heads.
- I loved this program! I feel very fortunate to live/work in Hartford and participate in the programs that HPL has to offer.
- This was so great.

## ***The American Place***

The ***US Department of Education, Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education***, awarded the Library funding to expand its English Language Civics program targeting very low literate immigrant/refugee populations. The program, now in its third year of funding, runs three mornings a week, providing both contextualized and technology based instruction. This approach allows students to gain both language and valuable computer skills. The project has strengthened the bridge between the Library and the refugee families resettled routinely by Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Hartford. An average of 60 students attends the classes each morning benefiting not just from direct instruction, but also a full range of library programs and services.

## ***Youth Services***

Visits, circulation, programs, and program attendance were all up for Youth Services in the first quarter. The increase in visits (11%) is at least in part attributable to still-building interest in the summer lunch service at the Library, which completed its sixth consecutive year. Ninety five hundred lunches were served, with Ropkins (1,469), Camp Field (1,342) and Downtown (1,247) leading the list of popular service sites. As in the prior summer, print circulation averaged better than one item per Hartford resident under the age of 18, a strong showing given the language and literacy challenges that face many of our young customers. Print circulation also was more than twice the circulation of media items, a result not only of differing loan rules for youth customers, but the day-to-day efforts of staff to keep children and teens checking out books and reading.

The increases in the number of programs offered, up 7%, and attendance, up 17%, are attributable to significant increases at Downtown, Barbour, Blue Hills, Goodwin, and Park. The Library was also able to add some paid performers and presenters to its program roster this year, although the majority of activities followed our “road show’ approach. That is, Youth Services staff took their “A” program on the theme, “Make a Splash-Read!” to each site, adding variety to our regular customers’ experience without adding cost. Different and productive program directions also included a close collaboration between Parkville Elementary School and the Dwight Branch, whereby children at risk of retention due to low reading performance were able to “read their way out of” that risk by reading to staff and volunteers regularly, at the Branch, and a new collaboration with the Hartford Office for Youth Services (HOYS). Through the latter, summer programs receiving HOYS funding were asked to visit their neighborhood

library, and work with staff there, parents, and the youth themselves to clear the charges which restrict use of so many youth cards.

As in past summers, the high level of program activity and circulation was made possible through the support of the Teen Leaders, who served lunch, hosted programs, and gave kids who needed one-on-one attention that opportunity. Twenty-six Leaders were employed this year, through the generosity of Travelers Foundation and Wachovia-Wells Fargo. In addition to their Library duties, the leaders enjoyed two highly relevant financial management sessions with Wachovia-Wells Fargo staff, and a meeting with Trinity College librarians. That meeting, which was followed by a library tour, gave the teens an understanding of the variety of career opportunities academic libraries offer.

The summer lunch program for 2010 was the most successful to date. A total of 9,494 lunches were served at the Downtown location as well as the nine branches. This is an 8% increase over last year.

“Reference questions” were redefined at the start of the last fiscal year, and now include only questions that require the use of a printed or electronic resource to answer. We anticipated a decline in reference questions reported, as a result of the redefinition, and this occurred throughout last year. The situation has stabilized, as we are now comparing results collected under the same definition.

### ***Community Development and Civic Services***

On September 13<sup>th</sup> the Library was recognized at a meeting of the City Council by Mayor Segarra and the Council for the Top Innovations Award that HPL received for HartfordInfo.org from the Urban Libraries Council in June. The President of ULC, Susan Benton, traveled from Chicago to attend. The proclamation presented to the Library that evening stated that HPL was one of only twelve libraries chosen to receive the award from among 220 nominees, and that HartfordInfo.org is used by 10,000 - 15,000 people monthly, averaging well over 1 million hits per month, and experienced a 57% increase in total hits in the last fiscal year. It also stated that HartfordInfo.org is used by a broad spectrum of people including neighborhood residents, community and non-profit organizations, government agencies, students and teachers, journalists, business people and others.

Work progressed in the first quarter on a business plan for HartfordInfo.org. The plan, implementation of which will begin in November, will address fund raising from foundations, corporations, and individuals; options for increasing revenue and advertising dollars; marketing and brand direction; and staff training. A plan for implementation of PolicyMap was also developed. The Library recently subscribed to PolicyMap, a web-based interactive mapping service. Once the service is up and running in December, users of HartfordInfo.org will be able to create and view maps based on data that they select, a feature that will be very popular. Accessing this service through a vendor will cost the Library a small fraction of the expense of creating it ourselves.

Use of HartfordInfo.org was up 69% for the first quarter compared with a year ago. A few of the notable items added to the site include: *A Tale of Disproportionate Burden* (a new report from the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities about state government's imperative to provide increased assistance to the Connecticut's large cities); *Hartford 2000 Neighborhood Standards* (a new tool to help improve quality of life in Hartford); *Closing the Achievement Gap: Early Reading Success and Connecticut's Economic Future* (a recent report from the Connecticut Association for Human Services); *Pedro E. Segarra: 100 Days as Mayor* (text of the Mayor's speech presented after his first 100 days in office); and newly available data from the American Community Survey and the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act. Videos of several recent public programs were also added to the site.

Work began in the first quarter toward planning a volunteer program for the Library. Currently HPL uses few volunteers. Many public libraries across the country use volunteers for a variety of purposes and by doing so enhance important activities while also building support in the community. An inventory of existing volunteers was completed, and a series of conversations with libraries in other cities was initiated. A plan for implementing a volunteer program will be proposed during the second quarter.

Community Development & Civic Services played a major role in preparing the immigrant civic engagement National Leadership Grant (NLG) proposal that was approved by IMLS in late September. Richard Frieder, Associate Librarian for Community Development & Civic Engagement, will serve as project co-director, and in particular will lead the community dialogue portion of the project. Community Development & Civic Services is also playing a major role in planning for a new IMLS grant proposal to be developed during the second and third quarters.

Three *Democracy in Action* programs were offered in the first quarter in collaboration with the Hartford Votes~Hartford Vota Coalition, a group of thirteen non-profit organizations devoted to increasing voter turnout in Hartford. On July 13<sup>th</sup> a candidate forum for State Senator and State Representative candidates appearing on the August 10<sup>th</sup> primary ballot was held. The forum was moderated by Dennis House of WFSB TV and was attended by approximately 170 people. On July 29<sup>th</sup> a campaign fair was held in City Hall. All candidates who appeared on the August primary ballot were invited to this very successful open house event, which was attended by about 220 people. A candidate forum for two State constitutional offices, Comptroller and Treasurer, was held on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Attended by approximately 70 people and moderated by Tom Monahan of NBC Connecticut, the event included all candidates for the two offices who were on the November 2 ballot.

Two *HartfordInfo Today* (HIT) programs were held in the first quarter. HIT is an ongoing series of programs on important community issues presented in collaboration with Councilman Jim Boucher. On July 8<sup>th</sup> *Summer in the City – Quality of Life in Hartford’s Neighborhoods* was attended by roughly 85 people. The discussion focused on public safety, neighborhood cleanliness, and other quality of life issues. Panelists included Denise T. Best, Christian Activities Council, Carlos Mouta, Real Estate Developer and Business Owner, Chief Daryl K. Roberts, Hartford Police Department, Hartford City Councilman Calixto Torres, and Sallie Toussaint, Home Owner and Community Activist. The second HIT program, *Can Hartford Once Again Become a Center for Innovation & Technology?*, occurred on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Attended by approximately 75 people, panelists included Elliot Ginsberg, Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Rosanne Haggerty, Common Ground, Kim Hawkins, Business Resource Center, Hartford Economic Development Corporation, Abul Islam, AI Engineers, and Commissioner Joan McDonald, Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development.

On September 30<sup>th</sup> the second annual Banned Books Readout was held in collaboration with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). This year’s group of readers included Marian Amodeo, Chief Public Services Officer, HPL, Rich Coppola, Sports Director Fox-Connecticut, John Motley, MotleyBeup, Mayor Pedro E. Segarra, Gloria Ranney, Harriet Beecher Stowe House, and a Mark Twain impersonator. Moderated by HPL CEO Matt Poland, the Readout was attended by approximately 45 people.

We continued to implement the Library's new community outreach model in the first quarter. This model updates and improves upon the Neighborhood Teams and it will enable the Library to deliver outreach services more efficiently and effectively. For the first quarter, Library staff engaged in relationships (e.g., collaborated on programs, attended meetings, or engaged in other activities) with Non-Profit Organizations 136 times (a 103% increase over last year), with Community Organizations 45 times (an 8% decrease compared with last year), with Government 27 times (a 59% increase over last year), and with Youth Service Providers & Organizations zero times (compared with seven times last year).

In September, a new staff member, Oscar Robles, began working with Community Development & Civic Engagement through the Public Allies program (part of AmeriCorps). Oscar will be with us until June and will work on a wide variety of projects including public programs, community dialogues, HartfordInfo.org, and others. The funding required to bring Oscar to the Library was assembled from three sources: fees for performing data and mapping work through HartfordInfo.org for two City of Hartford Departments, and funds received from the Institute for Municipal Research and Policy at Central Connecticut State University in support of community dialogue work.

In the second quarter work the HartfordInfo.org business plan, the PolicyMap implementation plan, a plan for a volunteer program at HPL, implementing the IMLS NLG grant project, and preparing a new grant proposal to IMLS will be completed. Several *Democracy in Action* programs will be held including candidate forums and Voter Registration Day. An action forum will be held as part of the *Youth of Incarcerated Parents* community dialogues project and work will begin towards launching dialogues on another topic yet to be determined. Most of these programs and activities will occur in collaboration with a variety of other organizations based on the many strong relationships we continue to build on an ongoing basis.

### ***Readers Services***

Adult circulation increased slightly system wide during the first quarter this fiscal year which correlates with an identical rise (+2%) in adult patron registration over the same period. Overall media circulation increased (+6%) and fiction readership continued steady (+2%) which offset the downward trend in nonfiction activity (-12%) that began last year and is reflected in all locations. Use of the downtown media collections increased (+8%) over this period, pushing the ratio of activity to 59% compared with 41% for books.

Several branches showed substantial increases that resulted in a healthy (+13%) boost collectively; branches now account for 43% of total adult circulation, a 4% increase over the same period last year. Some gains can be attributed to site-based staff decisions to purchase more copies of bestselling fiction based on customer feedback and to provide more urban lit titles to the large readership this genre attracts. In-house use activity of books and periodicals generated a system total exceeding 12,000 last quarter.

Staff has been evaluating and re-distributing the materials that recently were removed from the Library on Wheels. All of the DVDS and CDS have been relocated throughout the system primarily to fill in collection gaps created by lost or missing items. Staff is now working on the newer and higher demand print titles and Spanish language materials, most of which will be re-integrated downtown. The Library is starting to receive multiple copies of adult Spanish books that were recently purchased on a buying trip that featured international book distributors and publishers offering titles not readily available in the United States. These items will be distributed to several branches and shelved downtown in the world language collection which is now located on the main floor where it will be more visible and closer to staff assistance. As specific collections are considered and shifted or integrated into different areas throughout the library staff is verifying system and location codes to help facilitate a planned inventory project in the not-too-distant future.

The Library's annual periodical subscription list has been submitted and includes more titles in Spanish and additional popular magazines requested by customers and recommended by staff. The order is supplemented with titles that were popular on the Library on Wheels in an effort to accommodate some of those customers' interests. This collection is widely used in house and it circulates well in the neighborhoods.

Staff has been acclimating customers to the recent changes in the Lending Policy, which generally has been well received. Staff will orient them to the Library's many services and encourage them to take advantage of all the programs and materials the Library has to offer.

The Library is considering significant changes to its integrated library system for 2011.

## **Arts, Cultural and Heritage Programs**

### **Connecticut Book Awards (CBA)**

Bessy Reyna, recipient of the 2009 award for Lifetime Achievement in Service to the Literary Community, returned to present this year's award to veteran journalist and writing mentor Lary Bloom. Twenty-two finalists, Lary, and keynote speaker Dani Shapiro signed their books at the ticketed reception following the awards ceremony. Tickets for the September 19 event were available online through the Library's Web site. One hundred twenty people attended the ceremony.

### **Connecticut Book Festival (CBF)**

Authors committed to presenting and signing on May 21 or 22 2011 on the UConn Greater Hartford campus: Connecticut Poet Laureate Dick Allen, Matthew Dicks, CBF Honorary Chair Wally Lamb, Ronald Mallett, Alice Mattison, Sam Pickering, Chandra Prasad, Diane Smith, Bill Thomson (children's tent), Robert Thorson, Katharine Weber, Michael White, Karen Romano Young. A cocktail reception fundraiser will be held at the Town & County Club on 20 November; at least four authors scheduled for the Festival will attend the fundraiser. Look for updates at [www.ctbookfestival.org](http://www.ctbookfestival.org).

### **One Book for Greater Hartford**

As part of our annual One Book for Greater Hartford initiative, two successful breakfast programs were held at Ropkins and Goodwin branches in October. Approximately, forty persons participated in "Boot Camp 101" – understanding autism. A third presentation, which attracted twenty persons, was held at noontime at Capital Community College. The Library collaborated with the Family Resource Center at America's Choice School at SAND (formerly SAND Elementary School), Padres Abriendo Puertas (Parents Opening Doors), and Capital Community College to attract audiences for the programs. Students from Capital Community College and Goodwin College were instrumental in developing the success for the programs. Diana Yeisley, from Autism Speaks, proved to be an expert presenter for all three programs.

Book discussions are a key component of One Book for Greater Hartford 2010. The Spanish Language Book Club's (thirteen persons attending) discussion (en Español) in October of "El Curioso Incidente Del Perro A Medianoche." Leticia Cotto, Assistant Community Librarian for the Park Branch Library facilitated the discussion along with two volunteers, Rachel Hiskes and Eliztaicha Marrero. Peters Reading Room served as a wonderful venue for the Tuesday

evening book discussion. Elizabeth Davis, of the Downtown Library, convened the Downtown Book Club in mid November to discuss “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time.” Eliztaicha Marrero facilitated an engaging discussion with eight other persons.

### **The Big Read (TBR)**

Planning proceeds with Trinity College, our major programming partner for 2011, 15 public library systems throughout the state, and a number of arts and cultural organizations. Among recent developments: a mural inspired by *Sun, Stone, and Shadows* to be created on an exterior wall of a Billings Forge building by a Trinity artist-in-residence. The program will extend March – May; copies of the book will be distributed in January for book discussions.

### **Hartford History Center**

Hartford History Center Fall 2010 programs included hosting the Bushnell Park Foundation on September 8, providing them with a tour of the center and of the progress, to date, of the City Parks Collection; hosting Charlie Fourquet Batiz, a consummate family historian, who spoke on Hispanic genealogy September 18 in a program titled “Discover Your Puerto Rican/Latino Ancestry” - this program was held in partnership with the Hispanic Genealogical Society of New York; and, in partnership with the Library’s Youth and Family Services and members of the Connecticut Library Consortium, the Black Caucus of the American Library Association and the Connecticut Storytelling Center, prepared an all-day tribute to Dr. Spencer Shaw, HPL’s first African American librarian, on September 28. Dr. Shaw passed away this spring. The tribute included storytelling and a mid-afternoon memorial reception.

On October 2, Italian author Marcella Serpa and more than 20 Italian dignitaries visited the Hartford History Center for an author event for Serpa’s biography Ella Tambussi Grasso. Serpa utilized the resources of the Hartford Collection when writing her book. Hartford was one stop on their international book tour. More than 75 people attended including Jimmy Grasso, Ella Grasso’s son. Other guests included representatives of UNICO, an Italian American service organization, and Senator Biaggio Ciotto, representing Congressman John B. Larson’s office. The reception was funded, in good part, by a grant author Marcella Serpa received from the Italian government.

On November 10, the Hartford History Center started exhibiting select images from the historical Hartford Collection on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Downtown Library that recognized area veterans

through time in an exhibition called “Lest We Forget.” In addition, the Hartford History Center partnered with area shelters, Central Connecticut State University Veterans History Project and the Library of Congress Veterans History project to present a program on how area veterans could participate in this oral history program.

This fall, Hartford History Center had the opportunity to work with 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade Capital Preparatory Magnet School students. Ninth graders were given tours of historical Downtown Hartford that included a visit to the Library’s Hartford History Center and a discussion of the center’s resources. Tenth graders came every Tuesday, September and October, to learn how to work with primary resource material and to develop Hartford history-related projects. Research topics included abolition, Hartford women who made a difference, redevelopment through the work of Richard Welling’s pen and inks, and the establishment of the city park system, to name a few areas of interest.

The City and Town Clerk Papers, a major historical resource dating back to 1639, was publically transferred to the Hartford History Center on November 17. Remarks were made by Mayor Pedro Segarra and CEO Matt Poland at the mid-morning press conference. The Center is in the process of creating an online finding aid and original catalog record for these extraordinary papers – work made possible through two gifts, one from the Hartford Foundation of Public Giving this past June and a second, just received in October 2010, from the Goldfarb Memorial Trust Foundation for \$15,000.

Another collection just in to the Center is the Voter Registration Cards for the City of Hartford, dating back to 1840. These records were formally held by the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center at the University of Connecticut but were returned to the city this November and placed under the curatorial care of the Hartford History Center.

Upcoming programs include an exhibition entitled “The Voice and Soul of the Civil War by the Women Who Were There” focusing on Hartford women writers of the day. The exhibition will remind us that what Lincoln called a “new birth of freedom” – a virtual rebirth of the nation as a free society – was seized upon by many Northern women as an opportunity to advance the liberation and empowerment of women. This exhibition will open in the fall of 2011, dovetailing with the Civil War exhibition on slavery and the abolition movement planned by the Amistad Center for Art & Culture in the Wadsworth Atheneum.

In addition, the Hartford History Center secured a traveling exhibition for the same time (September – November 2011) that was prepared by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (ALPLM) called “Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America” which examines Lincoln's life from his beginnings in the crudest of circumstances to his ascension to the Presidency and his assassination. The exhibit is composed of seven learning stations and is only available for a limited period. Hartford Public Library will be one of nine locations in the country hosting this educational exhibition, the first ever created by the ALPLM. We hope to attract school groups and adults alike to the Hartford History Center next fall with these exciting opportunities.

## Development

### Grant Status

**Pending**— Grant applications with a total request amount of \$404,333 are pending approval. Among the proposals are requests: to **Connecticut State Library** for renovation of Downtown Library's multipurpose room (\$153,333); a request to the **Edward C. and Ann T. Roberts Foundation** (\$5,000) to support in part, two **ArtWalk** exhibitions; a request to **Lincoln Financial Foundation** (\$10,000) to expand ESL programs to include GED and college math through Computer Aided Instruction (CAI), self study books and media and flexible tutoring, and a request to **BrownRudnick** (\$2,000) for support of homework supplies.

**Received**—The Library recently received notification of four awards totaling \$750,381. The awards include: **Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)** a *National Leadership Grant* (\$637,896) in support of The American Place to create a replicable model for promoting immigrant civic engagement; the **US Citizenship and Integration Services (USCIS)** has awarded the Library (\$99,985) to expand Hartford's capacity to prepare lawful permanent residents for citizenship and the naturalization process. The Library was among 75 organizations in 27 states and the District of Columbia to secure this funding out of 1000 applications nationwide. The **McPhee Foundation** (\$10,000) in support of afterschool homework clubs, “McPhee Homework Clubs,” staffed by the Library's Hartford teens hired for the positive youth development/employment program, the Teen Leaders Initiative; and an award from the **Greater Hartford Arts Council** in support of One Book for Greater Hartford, (\$2,500). Grants confirmed \$1,406,155.

## **Individual Giving**

For FY 2010-11 total individual giving for appeals to date was **\$2,268**. Other individual giving revenue: **ArtWalk**, Hartford History Center, Connecticut Center for the Book and Capital **(\$5,812)**. Total individual giving was \$8,080.

A fall appeal will be mailed in mid November to current donors, past donors and prospective donors.

## **Media**

**August 15, 2010 - September 30, 2010**

### **August**

*Hartford Courant* - "Library Offers Older Adults Chance to Explore Creative Potential"

### **September**

*Fairfield Sun* - "Fairfield University Professor to be Honored with Literary Lifetime Achievement Award"

*Hartford Courant* - "Library Accepting Exhibit Submissions"

*Hartford Courant* - "Hartford Public Library to be Honored by Mayor, City Council, and Urban Libraries Council President for Top Innovations Award"

*Hartford Courant* - "Honoring Ella Grasso"

*Inquiring News* - "Urban Libraries Council Awards Hartford Public"

WFSB & NBC30 – Ground Breaking for the Albany Branch Library

WTIC AM - Ground Breaking for the Albany Branch Library

*Hartford Courant* - "Work Begins On New Library Branch"

*Hartford Courant* - *The Write Stuff*, "Connecticut Book Award Winners"

*Connecticut Post & News-Times* - "Banned Books Week: Stamford, Hartford Focus on Censorship"

*Greenwich Time* - "Civil War Focuses on Town," (Research done at Hartford Public Library's History Center)

*Hartford Courant* - "Library Celebrates Pioneering Librarian"

*CT NewsJunkie.com* - "Hartford Library Offers Path to Citizenship"

*Hartford Business Journal* - "Library Wins Grant"

*Hartford Courant & Courant.com* - "Banned Books Readout Thursday"

NBC 30 & FOX CT - USCIS and IMLS grant announcements for The American Place

*Hartford Courant* - "Hartford Public Library Offers Workshops for Small Business Owners"

*Courant.com* - "Ella Grasso Biographer to Speak At Library"

*The Hartford Advocate* - "You Are What You Eat."

## Facilities

### Albany

Groundbreaking for the new Albany Avenue Branch library on September 21, 2010 culminating a fourteen year effort (1996-2010) by the Library to replace the current structure built in 1950. Residents voted for bonding of the project in 1996 and since have worked with the City, the Library, and the architects. A new branch library will assist in the creation of what the former Mayor Eddie Perez called a "Learning Corridor" in the Upper Albany neighborhood.

Furniture will be purchased for the Barbour Branch from a Bank of America grant.

The statue of Sybil at the Downtown Library was cleaned.

Knox Parks will rework landscaping and prune trees around the Downtown Library.

## Safety and Security

The Library had (9) reportable incidents in the first calendar quarter. Four (4) reports were filed at the Downtown facility, one (1) report of disturbance, one (1) harassment, one (1) fire, and one (1) alleged sexual harassment. The Fire Department assisted with one incident.

Five (5) reports were filed by branches:

- Albany (2) – smoke was coming out of a computer monitor, and the front door of the facility seemed tampered with and forced out of position.
- Barbour – customer was loud and was invading the privacy and personal space of others at computers.
- Camp Field – a pocketbook was stolen from children's play area.
- Mark Twain – male customer was allegedly harassing a female employee.