

A GUIDE TO HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY'S EVENTS AND SERVICES



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The community is our only no-risk investment.

As proud members of the Hartford community, we're committed to making our region a better place to live and work.



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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Library.



In this increasingly digitized world, many people often ask if libraries are still necessary. Have libraries or even books become obsolete? One look at Hartford Public Library and the answer is clear: libraries have never been more important.

The numbers speak for themselves. Meanwhile, circulation and program attendance are rising. Public high school students are borrowing books, and scholars are doing major research in the Hartford History Center. Job seekers continue to rely on our comprehensive resources at the CTWorks@HPL and other locations. In the last fiscal year over 833,000 visitors came through the Library’s door and with 194,225 page views, thousands more visited our website.

Together these facts underscore how essential the library is to so many. Indeed, a recent report from the Center for an Urban Future strongly argues that public libraries have become an increasingly important part of a city’s “human capital” system. The report is succinct: “No other institution serves so many different people in so many different ways.”

However, even as use soars, the library continues to face difficult fiscal challenges from flat government funding and the cost of new technology, making private support even more crucial.

Despite these challenges, Hartford Public Library cannot—and will not—stand still. In the fall of 2014, we opened YOUmedia Hartford, a digital education and learning space for Hartford’s teens that will create a center of inspiration for young people in our Downtown Library. We are also investing in our branches. High points include a new location for the Barbour Street branch, a redesigned and expanded Dwight branch in Parkville, and we have begun a major construction project to provide a new building for the Park Street branch.

We are also building our vital archival collections, continuing to collect widely while attracting major gifts, including the sculptor Elbert Weinberg’s personal archives. And our critically acclaimed exhibitions are drawing record crowds.

The Library’s many achievements and successes would be unthinkable without your support. Thank you very much.

Matthew K. Poland
Chief Executive Officer

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Meg Okura, 2014

BABY GRAND JAZZ

GET JAZZED AT HPL

January brings not only a new year but a fresh lineup of jazz artists for the 12th Annual Baby Grand Jazz Series.

Thanks to the generosity of The Charles H. Kaman Charitable Foundation, folks can look forward to Sundays through April as a free jazz performance will be held each week in the Downtown Library Atrium at 3:00 p.m. This year's lineup comprises world-class regional and local talent and a variety of jazz styles and cultures, ranging in size from intimate duos to full bands.

CEO Matt Poland said, "Baby Grand Jazz is a distinctive opportunity to be in a warm place with people of all ages and savor outstanding live music together. Music is universally enjoyed, and we're proud to showcase jazz, one of Hartford's most celebrated artistic traditions, with all who wish to experience its captivating sound and melody."

This year, the series takes a reminiscent look at the past 10 years of Baby Grand Jazz at Hartford Public Library with a special exhibit of photographs, paintings and fiber art. On display from January 4th through April 26, 2015, "The Best of Baby Grand Jazz: A Decade of Excellence" showcases the images of local artists specific to past performances from 2004-2014. Featured artists will include Joseph Chandler, Byron Dean, Darryl Z. Oates, Maurice Robertson, Wanda Seldon and Ray Shaw.

Visit hplct.org for more jazz information!

THE REMAINING LINEUP FOR THE 2015 BABY GRAND JAZZ SERIES IS AS FOLLOWS:

Survivors Swing Band	February 8
Steve Clarke Trio	February 15
Mihoko Trio	February 22
Laszlo Gardony Trio	March 1
Matt DeChamplain	March 8
Joshua Breakstone	March 15
Jonny King Trio	March 22
Alvin Carter Project: Confluence of Influence	March 29
Curtis Brothers	April 12
Brian Marsella Trio	April 19
Hey Rim Jeon and Friends	April 26



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HANG OUT, MESS AROUND, AND GEEK OUT



Students messing around

YOUmedia is our Downtown Library’s new digital learning and maker space for teens aged 13-19.

The “Homago” learning theory is applied at this space and informs the design of both the space and the programming, encouraging students to “hang out, mess around and geek out” with their favorite media and creative tools. The space is only one of three in the country using this model and has high expectations for expanding the minds of teens.

Students hang out and consume media, like watching videos or playing games. “Hanging out” in a content area is a great way to build knowledge about that realm by learning the norms of a digital or physical space. This then builds a landscape of engagement opportunities for the teens. “Messing around” takes students to the next level, where they start modifying or tinkering with the content. A student might fix her own cell phone for example, or learn to record himself playing the guitar. Messing around builds technical and analytical skills, so that a student might start utilizing the content and create or

change it to their liking. Once a student finds a content area that really captures her interest, she may “geek out.” This involves mastery and contributing back to the field, perhaps by producing a documentary or building a mobile application. At this point we see a shift in a student’s disposition: they see themselves as a master in that area and begin sharing their knowledge and skills with others.

Keisha and Juvasia are two of the many teens who come in to the center to mess around and geek out. Keisha wants to become a lawyer some day so she uses YOUmedia for help with writing college essays. Juvasia comes to use the computers and hang out with friends. She also participates in programs and uses the recording studio to work on a song about bullying, a topic that is important to her younger siblings.

YOUmedia Hartford works with young adults just above our core age range who have reached “geek” status in a content area. These near peers act as mentors and guides to students who can easily envision themselves a few years older with a bit more practice under their belts. Our team of mentors and artists maintain an intentionally positive culture, trusting youth to make good decisions and holding them each to high expectations.



Teens hanging out, messing around, and geeking out



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 F,Sa - 10-5 p.m.
 Su (Nov-Apr) - 1-5 p.m.

Albany
 1250 Albany Avenue
 860-695-7380
 M,T,W - 12:30-5:30 p.m.
 Th - 12:30-7:30 p.m.
 F,Sa - 12:30-5 p.m.

Barbour
 259 Barbour Street
 860-695-7400
 M,T,Th - 12:30-5:30 p.m.
 W - 12:30-7:30 p.m.
 F,Sa - 12:30-5 p.m.

Blue Hills
 649 Blue Hills Avenue
 860-695-7420
 M,W,Th - 12:30-5:30 p.m.
 T - 12:30-7:30 p.m.
 F - 12:30-5 p.m.

Camp Field
 30 Campfield Avenue
 860-695-7440
 M,T,W - 12:30-5:30 p.m.
 Th - 12:30-7:30 p.m.
 F,Sa - 12:30-5 p.m.

Dwight
 7 New Park Avenue
 860-695-7460
 M,T,Th - 12:30-5:30 p.m.
 W - 12:30-7:30 p.m.
 F - 12:30-5 p.m.

Goodwin
 460 New Britain Avenue
 860-695-7480
 M,W,Th - 12:30-5:30 p.m.
 T - 12:30-7:30 p.m.
 F,Sa - 12:30-5 p.m.

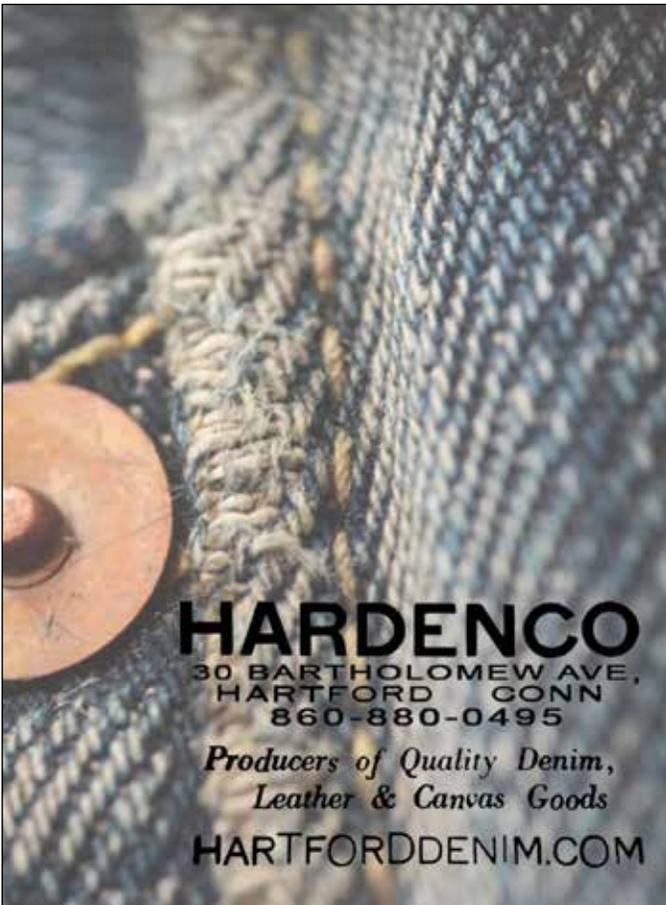
Mark Twain
 55 Forest Street
 860-695-7540
 M - 12:30-7:30 p.m.
 T,W,Th - 12:30-5:30 p.m.
 F - 12:30-5 p.m.; Sa - 9-1 p.m.

Park
 744 Park Street
 860-695-7500
 M - 12:30-7:30 p.m.
 T,W,Th - 12:30-5:30 p.m.
 F - 12:30-5 p.m.

SAND/Ropkins
 1750 Main Street
 860-695-7520
 M,T,Th - 12:30-5:30 p.m.
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 vision for our community!



ELEVEN WAYS TO HPL



Yolanda Cortes and daughter Makayla Urbina

With ten Hartford Public Library locations and a Library on Wheels, our resources are close by to you!

In addition to the Downtown Library where HPL hosts most of its major events, there are nine other neighborhood branches: Dwight, Albany, Barbour, Blue Hills, Camp Field, Goodwin, Mark Twain, Park, and the SAND/Ropkins branches, as well as our Library on Wheels.

HPL branches serve a critical need in our community. For example, one mother said this of the SAND/Ropkins branch: "I have been coming to the Ropkins Branch Library with my 6 year old daughter for years. The programs at the Library are phenomenal such as the Summer Learning program, playgroups, and the Library's partnering STEM program at the

Parker Memorial Family Center! They've helped my daughter in so many ways!! Her reading and speaking skills have improved and she is exploring science, technology, engineering, and math! Let me add that my daughter was having trouble reading and was below her grade level, but now she is above her grade level!! I am so thankful to the library staff for helping my daughter and all the other kids and parents involved in these programs. They have helped us in so many ways. My daughter loves coming to the Ropkins Branch Library and Parker Memorial Family Center. I'm so blessed to see my daughter happy and to see her enjoying herself in every rewarding way."

The branches provide easy access to resources and youth activities in convenient locations around Hartford. Families have relied on HPL branches for years for activities for their children, enriching weekend activities, internet access and more.



Albany, Dwight and Goodwin branches

IT'S A PLACE LIKE NO OTHER... THANKS TO SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU!

Leslie started donating in 2012 after moving into the neighborhood in 2011. Leslie owns her own real estate firm, Hammond Realty, Inc., and said this about donating to the Library:

"The main reason I want to continue supporting HPL is because I feel in this city, that is rich in diversity of people both in race and class, the Library is the one and only place that we all come together, and all feel welcome no matter what. One of my concerns about Downtown is that it will become a class bubble. Unfortunately, we are so divided from one another. Just go to any restaurant or event; rarely do you see a mix of people together. Thankfully the Library is different than that! There are no rules at the Library (other than any obvious Library rules). Instead there is help and information readily available if people want it. The Library has the resources with the computers, the job help, and of course many magazines and books for someone to just be present and read. All someone has to do is ask!"



"...the Library is the one and only place that we all come together, and all feel welcome no matter what."

Join Leslie by investing in Hartford Public Library with your donation!
You can donate online at hplct.org.

Thank You!

Help keep our community exploring, learning and dreaming with your support.

*Please contact Donna Haghightat at 860.695.6296
dhaghightat@hplct.org
www.hplct.org*



BEARDEN MURALS BRING NATIONAL ATTENTION TO DOWNTOWN LIBRARY

October 2014 was an exciting time at Hartford Public Library and the Hartford History Center as two large murals by one of the single greatest artists of the 20th century, Romare Bearden, were acquired.

Romare Bearden, whose richly textured paintings and murals are now held in the most important museums in the United States, created two large murals that have been in public venues in Hartford since 1980. Commissioned for the Hartford Civic Center, they were last displayed at the XL Center. The management of the XL Center no longer wanted to hold the Harlem Renaissance legend's murals, and their size ("Untitled" is 16' x 10'10" and "Olympics" is 12'6" x 10'10") made it difficult to find other institutions with adequate display space. The murals are now proudly displayed above the 2nd floor reading room and overlooking the Job and Career Center in the Downtown Library.

Bearden, who painted these two murals in the last decade of his life, is an icon of American art. His history as an artist, educator and spiritual leader for African American artists since 1940 is without parallel in the last century. The Picasso-esque black figures of the two murals are today considered modern Cubist masterpieces – for a Public Library to have the opportunity to own and steward these two original works, which have been appraised at \$4.2 million – fits splendidly with our mission to enrich the lives of our residents and visitors.



"Olympics" being moved into the Library through a window overlooking Arch Street



"Untitled" hung in its new location above the 2nd floor reading room

For Hartford citizens to see Romare Bearden's artworks, which are found elsewhere in the collections of the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, and many other distinguished collections, travel and expense are usually involved. To be able to offer our visitors a chance to see these murals at no charge and in a familiar setting, is an opportunity that can only be described as astonishing. The programming we can do around this art for adults and children is exciting because these works were created for a public space and in studying them one can see stories within stories about both Hartford and their creator.

Romare Bearden was hugely important to the artistic and musical community of Harlem from the 1940s until his death in 1988. Because the Harlem story of the 1940s and after is also a national story, bringing these murals into a Public Library setting also opens up new ways of connecting to our national narrative and our placement as a national institution. This is something new and incomparably important and will lead the Library into a new place with art, exciting programming and visitation, so stay tuned!

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WE BELONG HERE: HARTFORD

The American Place (TAP) is a free Library program designed to welcome immigrants and facilitate their transition into their new home city.

The American Place offers free English and citizenship classes, resources for studying at home, and assistance with navigating government services on-line. TAP has received recognition and staff accreditation to offer legal counseling by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Immigration Appeals. HPL is the first and only library in the nation with this status.

TAP also recruits and trains volunteers to serve as cultural navigators and facilitate the transition of immigrants into the broader Hartford community. This building of trust between long-term residents and new arrivals is at the core of TAP programming. Cultural navigators come from diverse backgrounds. Regardless of our different religions, cultures, or traditions, in America we share the same civic values and freedoms.



Students learn about U.S.A.



Sadiyo Aden

April, one of our cultural navigators, finds the volunteer work especially rewarding, “I feel blessed to be a United States citizen, to speak a globally recognized language and I know with that comes an innate understanding about American customs. I’m very blessed and happy to help others.”

The biggest impact TAP makes is helping immigrants such as Sadiyo Aden make a new life in America. Sadiyo came from Somalia in 2005 for freedom and embodies TAP’s mission. In the 10 years that she has been in the U.S., she has achieved citizenship, earned her GED, and spearheaded a Mai Mai language class for Somali Bantu children, all thanks to The American Place and Hartford Public Library donors. Today, she is employed by TAP where she has been tutoring families, caring for children, and acting as a guide to those who come to The American Place.

Even before Sadiyo came to America she was determined to learn about the country, the freedom, and the language. Her passion for freedom and learning encouraged her to learn as fast as she did. When she came to America, her mentors could see her potential and recruited her as a translator. With help from TAP, Sadiyo became a citizen in 2012. “When you see something free, you need to use it,” says Aden of the free TAP resources. “There is so much to learn when coming to America, but I’ve liked it...I really like it a lot.” Sadiyo and TAP are a support system for so many families. If you or someone you know can benefit from TAP services or benefit from volunteering or donating, please call (860) 695-6337 to learn more or to get in touch with Sadiyo.

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HARDCOVERS, E-BOOKS, AUDIO BOOKS...HPL'S GOT IT

Have you ever stopped to think:

How do I like to read?

- In bed, turning the pages of James Patterson's latest bestseller?
- On the commuter bus, loading your Android with Clark Howard's financial advice?
- At the gym, iPod plugged in, listening to a clear voice read another fine romance to you?

However you like to read, whatever your pleasure, with your Hartford Public Library card you can get it! Hardcover, e-books, magazines, paperbacks, newspapers, etc. – we have what you're looking for. Check out our online catalog, download an e-book or magazine, or visit us to find what you're looking for.



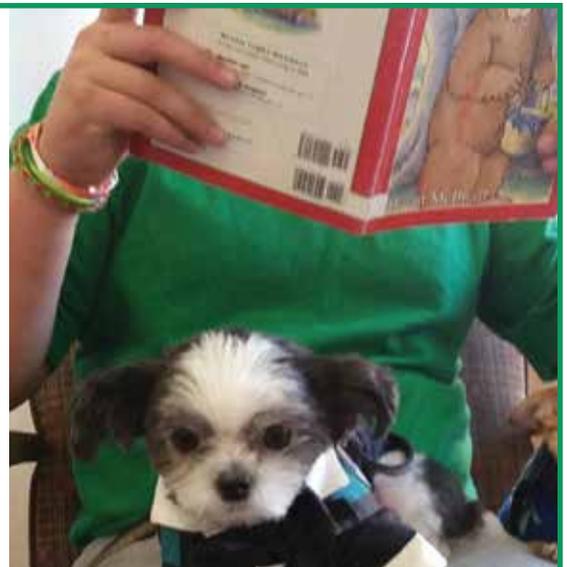
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HARTFORD YOUTH READ TO GIZMO

Our goal in Youth Services is to inspire children to love reading and coming to the Library to learn. Children look forward to coming to their branch of HPL for Movie Matinees, sing-alongs, craft days, and sessions with Gizmo, a very adorable Paws to Read dog. Gizmo and his owner come to the Library periodically to encourage kids to read out loud. Reading aloud is one of the most important forms of language-building that children and their families can practice. It can get tough, so Gizmo comes to the Library to help them get through it. The tiny terrier sits on the laps of young ones and offers them a cuddly, safe pal to whom they can read aloud. Gizmo doesn't judge the children and quietly listens as they read him a story, sometimes even two. Check the Youth Services calendar at hplct.org to find out when Gizmo will be at your branch!





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STUNNING WORKS ON THE ARTWALK

ArtWalk at Hartford Public Library offers one of the largest and most stunning exhibition spaces in greater Hartford.



Opening reception for one of the many ArtWalk Exhibits

The ArtWalk presents a free opportunity for visitors to view art in a magnificent setting within their own community. The state-of-the-art gallery rises above Main Street along a glass wall that floods the space with ambient light during the day and appears to glow as a jewel box at night. Exhibitions offer an array of art experiences that reflect a variety of media, styles, and cultures in the art world, providing diverse viewing experiences for all to see. Because of the unusual cable system in place, one of the most unique aspects of

the ArtWalk is that any wall and lighting configuration or arrangement can change with the nature of every new exhibition. The ArtWalk is made possible through the generosity of donors, especially the Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund at Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. The ArtWalk presents up to four exhibitions each year. Additional exhibitions or showcases are presented at the discretion of the Cultural Affairs and Public Programming Department and as the schedule allows.



Visitors enjoying the exhibit and the company of Library staff and CEO, Matt Poland

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DISCOVER HARTFORD HISTORY

Are you a student or have a child who is completing a history assignment? Are you stuck on where to turn for reliable resources? Sure, Google has a lot to offer, but what is even more trustworthy than a quick search online? Visiting Hartford History Center!

Let's imagine that Jose has a project due next week on Mark Twain and he's worried that all the students in class will use the same resources. Tell him about the History Center where he can come for original news clippings, photographs, or books about Mark Twain. He can pop into the History Center and learn about where Twain lived, his background, and even more detailed facts like how Mark Twain appealed his taxes. Some of the information that can be found at the Center is not easy to come by on a general Google search but you can find it easily at the Hartford History Center with help from the Center's staff.



A sampling of subject files available at Hartford History Center



A portion of our city directories available for use

As stewards of the Hartford History Center, the staff oversees collections encompassing three centuries of documents, objects and photographs illuminating the history of this remarkable city. Even as we move forward, the past is a treasured resource.

Every day, in ways large and small, the staff assists researchers, teachers, students, elected officials, and folks who are just plain curious in learning more about Hartford's history. We have collections of municipal documents that are without peer, as well as collections of Hartford-related books, thousands of historical photographs, pamphlets, correspondences, postcards, ephemera and other objects.



Northwest Branch in 1940 at 1239 Albany Ave.

Many research guides are available online and many images have been digitalized and can be enjoyed from your home computer or our computers. Please visit hhc.hplct.org to find what you're looking for. Or come in to check out what the Hartford History Center has to offer. Hours are from 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday or by appointment.

The Center is actively conserving and preserving all formats, and making them available to new audiences through programs and exhibitions. By offering new programming, the history continues and flourishes.

Call the Center at (860) 695-6297 for more information or visit hhc.hplct.org.



Model of Downtown Hartford, created by Amenta/Emma Architects and on display in the Hartford History Center. Downtown HPL is marked by the heart.



ADULT LEARNING

JOB DEVELOPMENT



Shelley McEwan, a veteran, has experienced not one but two layoffs. She was able to get back on her feet with the help of the Library. “I took advantage of computer classes offered and taught by the Library staff on job search, resume templates and more.

I always learned something new from each facilitator. In addition to computer courses, I also attended general information courses offered for insights, inspiration, and further knowledge. I checked out a host of books on job searching techniques, resume writing, networking and other relevant topics to assist me with my job search.”

Job Development isn't the only Adult Learning we offer:

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- Math Tutoring
- English Language Learning
- Small Business Workshops

Find out more at hplct.org



Members of Hartford Public Library for a group shot on Staff Day 2014

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER TO ADDRESS ISSUES OF PUBLIC CONCERN



Jackie McKinney of Hartford 2000, a frequent partner of the Library's Center for Civic Engagement, addresses a group of community stakeholders at a meeting at the Library during the community dialogue on quality of life in Hartford.



Action Teams that were formed as a result of the Community Dialogue on Mental Health meet at the Library to plan next steps.

THE HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY CENTER FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT (CCE) INCLUDES SEVERAL INTERRELATED COMPONENTS:

Hartford Matters

(public programs on community issues)

Hartford Votes

(activities targeting increased voter engagement and voter turnout)

Hartford Listens

(community dialogues resulting in raised awareness, relationship building, and action)

Hartford Acts

(implementation of the recommended actions from Hartford Listens)

Through the Center for Civic Engagement, Hartford Public Library is one of ten libraries in the country participating in the Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC) project offered by the American Library Association and The Harwood Institute for Public Innovation. All LTC activities are geared towards instilling in the Library a culture of turning outward towards the community, and developing a better understanding of the community's aspirations. As a result, HPL will be better able to fulfill its mission.

The CCE builds public engagement and fosters community-driven change. It also works in partnership with neighborhood groups, city and state government, the business community and non-profit organizations. The center has recently conducted various community discussions on topics such as: quality of life in Hartford, city budget planning, mental health and Hartford's

development plan for Downtown North (including the proposed baseball stadium); discussions have helped to keep the community engaged and connected with important issues in Hartford.

Having such events at the Library has proved helpful to those who want to start a community discussion. Review and Evaluation Coordinator for the North Central Regional Mental Health Board, Quyen Truong, worked with the Library to host a training seminar and a Health Equity Forum. According to Quyen, her organization "enjoyed the positive affiliation with the Library, the location in a main artery of Hartford [as well as having] the collegial atmosphere of the Library outside the event." Truong also added that "[NCRMHB also] got last-minute help with videotaping for [their] Health Equity event, which was invaluable since many people who couldn't make it to [the] event were able to watch the panel discussion online."

Interested in hosting a community discussion? Contact the Center for Civic Engagement to see how your organization could benefit from hosting a discussion at HPL by calling (860) 695-6365.

833,276
visitors last year

circulated over
531,393
resources throughout our ten locations

2,000 early childhood literacy visits

free access to
149,892
computer sessions and e-government resources

Library On Wheels
36
field trips

34,774
critical after school sessions

448 English language classes
70 computer and math literacy classes
6,000+ attendees

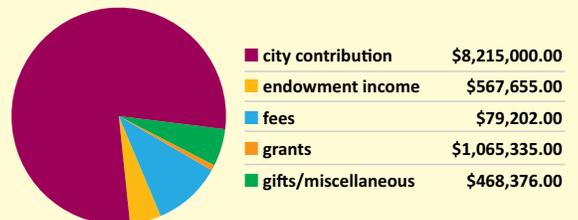
free job and career guidance
10,000+ adults

1,500 citizenship and English language classes
189 became American citizens

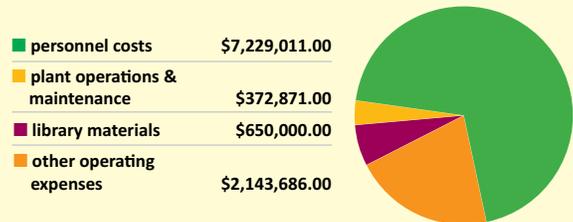
29 music programs
21 art exhibits
317 cultural programs

2014 Annual Report Financials

REVENUE: \$10,395,586



EXPENSES: \$10,395,586



HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY IS A PLACE LIKE NO OTHER

Upon walking through the doors of our Downtown Library or any of our branches, one feels a sense of warmth, energy and safety. At the same time, the possibilities are vast whether one has a particular mission to achieve or is seeking peace by escape into a book, a movie or the internet.

Our library is open to all, every day and is free. visitors become immediately part of its community where there are no judgments and assistance is the culture of the staff.

If you are new to the United States and overwhelmed by it, our American Place staff can gently assist you with the transition appropriate to you and your family.

If you are a parent who wishes your infants and/or toddlers to be enriched by free reading activities and play, and access to books, movies and games, our Youth Services' programs and section welcomes you.

If you are a teen who wants to be around other teens in a safe environment and have hands on access to state of the art digital media and learning programs, we invite you to our YOUmedia Hartford space.

If you need assistance searching for employment and guidance in that process, visit our CTWorks@HPL space.

Throughout the year we invite you to our musical, art and community topic programs hosted at the Downtown Library. And, of course there are books, videos and computers available to all who visit and wish to "visit" or research other places and people via those resources.

We offer these to all who enter, free of charge. For those of you blessed with more financial resources, we invite you to contribute toward supporting the sustainability of these and future programs. I would be delighted to meet with anyone who would like to learn more.

Come visit us and feel the energy.

Anne Melissa Dowling, *President*, amdowling@hplct.org



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SAVE YOUR SPARKLE FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 11TH



ONE BIG STARRY
SUMMER **NIGHT**

lights up Downtown Hartford with an evening of gourmet cuisine, dancing, and glamorous fun.

\$200 VIP; \$150 Patron

Tickets available after April 1st at hplct.org

Proceeds from the evening benefit the thousands of adults, children and families served by the Library.

For sponsorship opportunities, contact Donna Haghghat at dhaghghat@hplct.org or (860) 695-6296.

Presented by:
TRAVELERS 

 **Hartford Public Library**
A place like no other.