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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hartford Public Library's Hartford History Center Receives National Leadership Grant to Support Multimedia Civic Engagement Initiative

HARTFORD, Connecticut (September 17, 2014) – The Institute for Museum and Library Sciences (IMLS) announced Thursday that Hartford Public Library (HPL) is the recipient of its National Leadership Grant for Libraries. Selected from over 200 applicants, the HPL is one of only 6 public libraries across the country to receive the award totaling \$37,147.

With the grant funding, the Library's Hartford History Center, in collaboration with the Digital Media Center at the University of Connecticut, will develop "Find Your Voice," a nationally replicable model for the integration of libraries' humanities collections with their civic engagement programs. This interpretive, mobile-optimized website will use interactive media to engage a diverse public in exploring historic individuals who found their civic voice through poetry, performance and other expressive forms. Additionally, multimedia tutorials will connect past traditions of civic engagement to contemporary concerns, strategies, and voices. "Find Your Voice" not only situates present-day visitors to the website within a centuries-long local tradition of civic literacy and involvement, it will also empower them to discover how they, too, can help build a more equitable, vibrant, and democratic society at the community level.

"Libraries are changing to meet the evolving learning, social, and informational landscapes of their communities. These grants reflect truly creative thinking by library and archive professionals—along with their university, professional association, and local government partners—that will ensure the continued role of libraries as community anchors for generations to come," said IMLS Director Susan H. Hildreth.

National Leadership Grants for Libraries support projects that address challenges faced by the library and archive fields. Successful projects have the potential to improve library services nationwide. Grantees generate results such as new tools, research findings, models, services, practices, or alliances that can be widely used, adapted, scaled, or replicated to extend the benefits of federal investment.

ABOUT HARTFORD HISTORY CENTER

The Hartford History Center is a special collection of books, photographs, manuscripts and ephemera relating to over 300 years of community life in Connecticut's capital city. The HHC is home to the Hartford Collection, which includes works by Mark Twain, Lydia Huntley Sigourney, Thomas Tryon, Noah

Webster, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Chuck Stone and Wallace Stevens. The Hartford History Center is located on the third floor of the Hartford Public Library at 500 Main Street and is open Tuesday-Saturday, 1:00pm-5:00pm. For more information, call 860.695.6297 or visit hhc.hplct.org

ABOUT [HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY](#)

As a finalist for the 2014 National Medal from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, Hartford Public Library has been recognized as national leader in redefining the urban public library in the 21st century as an innovative and stimulating place where people can learn and discover, explore their passions, and find a rich array of resources that contribute to a full life. Hartford Public Library provides free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Serving the residents of Hartford and beyond at its nine branches and Downtown location, Hartford Public Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year from adults, children and families seeking early literacy opportunities, work skills training, civic engagement, arts enrichment, and so much more. Visit hplct.org.

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