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**THE AETNA DONATES ZALLINGER MURAL TO THE AMERICAN PLACE AT
HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY**

HARTFORD CT (April 25, 2012) Hartford Public Library will unveil the newest acquisition to the Library's special collections – *The Early History of Hartford* painted by Pulitzer Prize-winning muralist Rudolph Franz Zallinger (1919-1995) and gifted to the Library by the Aetna. The unveiling will take place in The American Place, the Library's center for immigrants and new arrivals, on Friday, April 27, from 12 noon – 1:00 p.m.

Brief remarks will be made by Matthew K. Poland, Hartford Public Library CEO; Christopher Montross, Managing Director, Aetna Corporate Community Relations; Lisa David, daughter of artist Rudolph Zallinger; Armand Morgan, curator, Yale's Peabody Museum; and, Hartford historian Wilson H. Faude.

Zallinger received the Pulitzer Prize for Painting in 1949 for his mural, *The Age of Reptiles*, on exhibit at Yale University's Peabody Museum. The artist finished a second, 60-foot mural called *The Age of Mammals* at the Peabody in 1967. In 1986, Zallinger completed this mural of *The Early History of Hartford* for the Aetna Life and Casualty in Hartford.

"Aetna employees have enjoyed this piece for many, many years; we at Aetna are happy to be able to donate this wonderful piece of art to the Hartford Public Library to allow it to be viewed and enjoyed by all those that use this facility for education, information and enrichment. Aetna is an organization that knows the importance of access to information and resources for personal education, development and success," said Chris Montross, Managing Director, Aetna Community Relations and Urban Marketing.

Zallinger, born in Irkutsk, Siberia, immigrated with his parents to this country in 1920. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in fine arts from Yale University, where he

later taught. He was also a professor emeritus at the Hartford Art School at the University of Hartford. The subjects he painted included the tropical rain forest of Surinam, the Minoans of ancient Crete, and aspects of the Russian Revolution. He also illustrated the book *Dinosaurs* for Golden Press in 1960.

Among his many honors were honorable mention for the Prix-de-Rome in 1941, Yale's Addison Emery Verrill Medal in 1980 for "outstanding contributions to the field of natural history," and an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree from the University of New Haven. His paintings are in the permanent collections of the Seattle Art Museum and Yale University, and in many private collections.

"We are honored to have this mural depicting the early history of our great City in the space where immigrants are preparing to become American citizens," said Matthew K. Poland, the Library's chief executive officer. "The sense of place and the ingenuity of earlier immigrants is inspirational."

This program is free and open to the public. Parking is available on the parking deck adjacent to the library on Arch Street.

About Hartford Public Library

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Programs provide education, information and enrichment to the people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of Hartford Public Library is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Visit hplct.org and the library's new blog at blogs.hplct.org