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## Hartford Book Festival Presented by Hartford's L.I.T. at Hartford Public Library May 18

**(HARTFORD, CT: May 9, 2019)** Hartford Public Library will be abuzz with activity from the Children's Department to the main atrium for the Hartford Book Festival, presented by Hartford's L.I.T. (Hartford Literary Integrated Trailblazers), from 10 am – 5 pm on Saturday, May 18. The theme of the festival is "How Are The Children?" and it will feature book giveaways and activities for children and teens, as well as poetry readings, live music and workshops on writing and poetry and more for people of all ages.

Hartford's L.I.T. is a group of local authors, artists, and entrepreneurs united to raise awareness of greater Hartford's many talented artists and small business owners and to revitalize the city's literary culture. The group is headed up by author, poet and business-owner Nzima Hutchings; author, inventor and licensed cosmetologist Alphonso McGriff, III; and author, actress and poet T'challa Williams.

The Hartford Book Festival on May 18 will be a celebration of reading and writing for children, teens and adults held throughout the Downtown Library at 500 Main Street, Hartford (see schedule, below). The keynote speaker will be Hartford's first Poet Laureate, Frederick Douglass Knowles. Several other talented local poets will also recite their work, including NBS Malay, Sa'id Abdush-Shukur, Lashawn Middleton, Oktober Brown and Tracy Mind.Evolution Caldwell. Poet, singer and artist Iyabo Ibo Mandingo will also take the stage with a performance of his unique style of revolutionary art. Mandingo will be preceded by one of the region's best known musical groups, the Alvin Carter, Jr. Project.

The Book Festival will have a special focus on children and teens, including a talk by business entrepreneur Sakinah Bates, who is only eight-years-old! Hundreds of free books will be given away to children and teens, who will also be entertained by two of the area's most popular artists: nationally-known cartoonist Joe Young and storyteller Andre Keitt. Youngsters will also be introduced to various literary genres, including journal writing and haikus.

A wide-range of workshops and panel discussions will cover numerous facets of writing and publishing, such as “Creating Worlds in Science Fiction,” and “The Benefit of Writing Groups.” Representatives from publishing companies including Venetian Spider Press, Lauren Simone Publishing House and Local Gems will also be available to talk with aspiring writers.

Other workshops and discussions will cover a broad range of topics, including “The Power of Gratitude,” “Digital Media” and “Human Trafficking in Connecticut.” Inventor Alphonso McGriff, III will share his experience and knowledge at two workshops: “The Patent Process” and “From Thought to Reality.”

The Hartford Book Festival is free and open to the public. For more information on the group and/or the event, please go to: [www.hartfordslit.com](http://www.hartfordslit.com).

## **ABOUT HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Now celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> year, Hartford Public Library remains at the forefront of redefining the urban library experience in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. With seven locations throughout the city, the library provides education, intellectual enrichment and cultural development for thousands of children, youth and adults every year. Hartford Public Library has also gained local and national recognition for its wide range of new initiatives and partnerships designed to meet the needs of a diverse and dynamic city and region, including immigration services, employment assistance and youth leadership training. Please visit [www.hplct.org](http://www.hplct.org).

# Hartford Book Festival, Presented by Hartford's L.I.T. (Literary Integrated Trailblazers)

## Saturday, May 18: Discussions & Workshops

### BLOCK ONE (10:30 am - 11:30 am)

ROOM	WORKSHOP TITLE	WORKSHOP LEADERS
139	Setting Your Intentions; The Power of Gratitude	Chris Pressley
141	Financial Literacy	PK Dixon & Carla Waller
25	Digital Media	JV Harvey
26	From Thought to Reality	Alphonso McGriff, III
Children's Department	Storytelling on the Carpet	Andre Keitt
Wallace Stevens Rm.	Creating Worlds in Science Fiction	Nancy D. Butler and PJ Fenton
Atrium	Introduction to Publishing	Venetian Spider Press, Lauren Simone Publishing House, Local Gems

### BLOCK TWO (11:45 am – 12:45 pm)

ROOM	WORKSHOP TITLE	WORKSHOP LEADERS
139	Underground; Human Trafficking in Connecticut	The Village
141	The Benefit of Writing Groups	Lucy Ferriss
25	Photography Basics	LMG Photography
26	The Patent Process	Alphonso McGriff, III
Children's Department	Making my own Journals	Nzima Journal Designs
Wallace Stevens Rm.	One on One with a Publisher	Venetian Spider Press, Registration Required
Atrium	From Script to Show	Darlene Brandon, Founder of MaPeach Productions, Director Melisa Otero & T'challa Williams

### INTERLUDE

Atrium	Hartford City Drummers interlude (12:45 – 1:05 pm)	Festival Open Mic (1:10 – 2:35 pm)
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### BLOCK THREE (1:00 pm - 2:00 pm)

ROOM	WORKSHOP TITLE	WORKSHOP LEADERS
139	Dream Chasing	Abdul Muhammad
141	Cartooning	Joe Young
25	Writing, Self-Publishing & Fundraising	Malik Champlain
26	Revolutionary Art Symposium	Tchalla Williams, Mind.Evolution & Oktober Brown, Sa'id
Children's Department	Painting Emotions into Words	Che La Mora
Wallace Stevens Rm.	One on One with a Publisher (1:30 pm -2:45 pm)	

### BLOCK FOUR (2:15 pm - 3:45 pm)

ROOM	WORKSHOP TITLE	WORKSHOP LEADERS
139	Write your Cocky Honesty & Write to Heal	Nzima Hutchings & Sister Anyango
141	Young Entrepreneurs	Lauren Simone Publishing Youth Authors & Illustrators
25	Adulting Erotica (21+)	Hillary Brown & IShine D'Poet
26	The Art of Storytelling	Andre Keitt
Children's Department	Rare Haikus (ages 10+)	Rare Womack
Atrium	The Influence of Malcom X (2:45 pm – 3:45 pm)	Martin Jackson Sr., Alvin Carter Sr., Summer Tate & Alphonso McGriff, II
Atrium	Drummers (3:50 pm – 4:00 pm)	Open Mic (4:00 pm - 4:30 pm)

### Library Program: You-Media Workshops (2nd Fl, 13-19 Years Old)

11:00am – 1:00pm	3D Print & Animation	
2:00pm – 5:00pm	Studio for Beginners	
3:00pm – 4:00pm	Lightroom Fundamentals	