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**Hartford Public Library Receives National Leadership Grant for Libraries from the Institute of Museum and Library Services**

**Hartford, Connecticut (October 1, 2013)** The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in Washington, DC, announced that the Hartford Public Library has been awarded a National Leadership Grant (planning category) in the amount of \$47,540. This is the third grant that Hartford Public Library has received from IMLS since 2010.

*The Summer Learning! Family Engagement Continuum* is a year-long program that educates parents/caregivers of children grades K-3 on the importance of summer learning, and that offers exposure to new resources, programs, and activities designed to improve reading proficiency. The planning grant will gather a creative team of educational and cultural professionals to develop a unique process to get parents, caregivers and kids excited about year-long learning.

The grant will create an innovative program for family engagement in summer learning, building a model for cities with similar cultural diversity, significant poverty levels, and low literacy in adults and children. It will have considerable impact on the best practices of other organizations and the public good.

*Summer Learning! Family Engagement Continuum* will address summer learning loss with a systematic, continuous, comprehensive, and collaborative approach to increasing summer learning opportunities. The planning team will serve as a think tank of creative educational and cultural leaders with a wide variety of experience. "We appreciate the confidence that IMLS has in us to make a difference in our City. This project will result in a cohesive approach to find solutions that will help our most vulnerable children thrive as adults", said Matthew K. Poland Hartford Public Library's Chief Executive Officer.

Hartford Public Library will partner with Hartford Public Schools, and will work creatively and collaboratively with a wide array of Hartford organizations, including the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving's Brighter Futures Initiative, and the Hartford Department of Families, Children, Youth and Recreation.

**About [Hartford Public Library](#)**

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations and a Library-on-Wheels in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 833,500 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](http://hplct.org) and the library's new blog at [blogs.hplct.org](http://blogs.hplct.org)

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