

President and CEO Report

June 2023

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JANUARY-MARCH 2023

at a glance



42,301
ITEMS CHECKED OUT



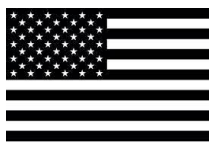
54,860
SYSTEMWIDE VISITS



14,270
TOTAL PROGRAM
ATTENDEES



10,371
REFERENCE QUESTIONS
ANSWERED



52
NEW CITIZENS
NATURALIZED



6,554
COMPUTER SESSIONS



259
MUNICIPAL IDS



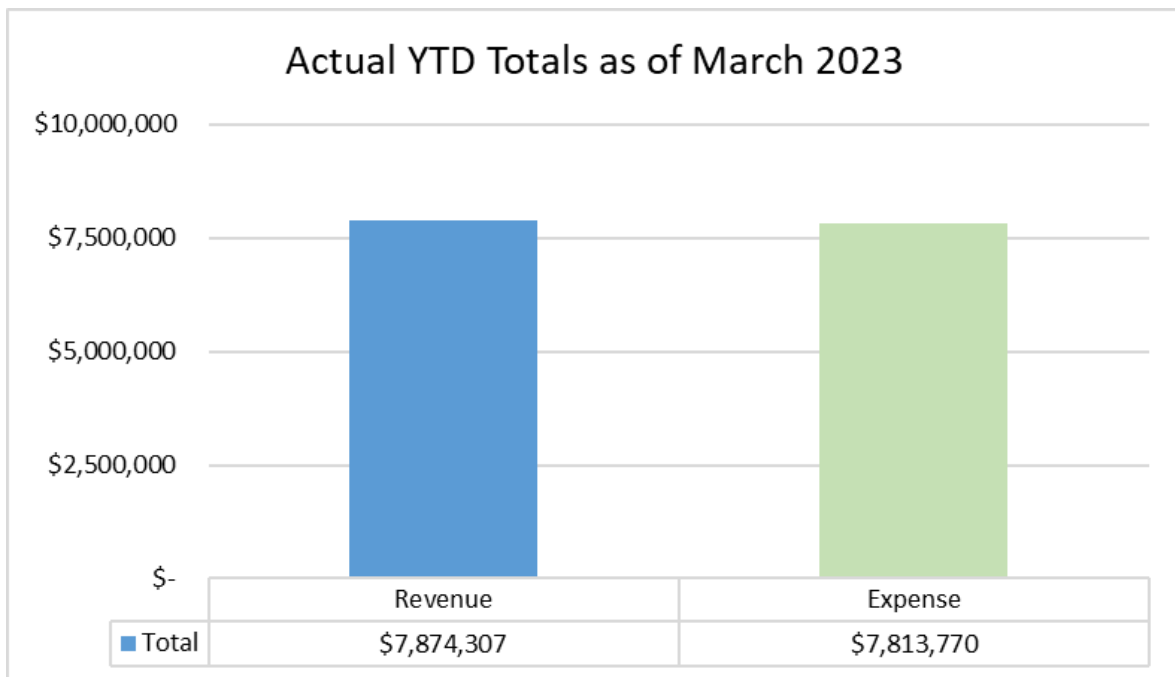
\$200K
GRANTS AWARDED

FISCAL YEAR 2023—OPERATING BUDGET SUMMARY

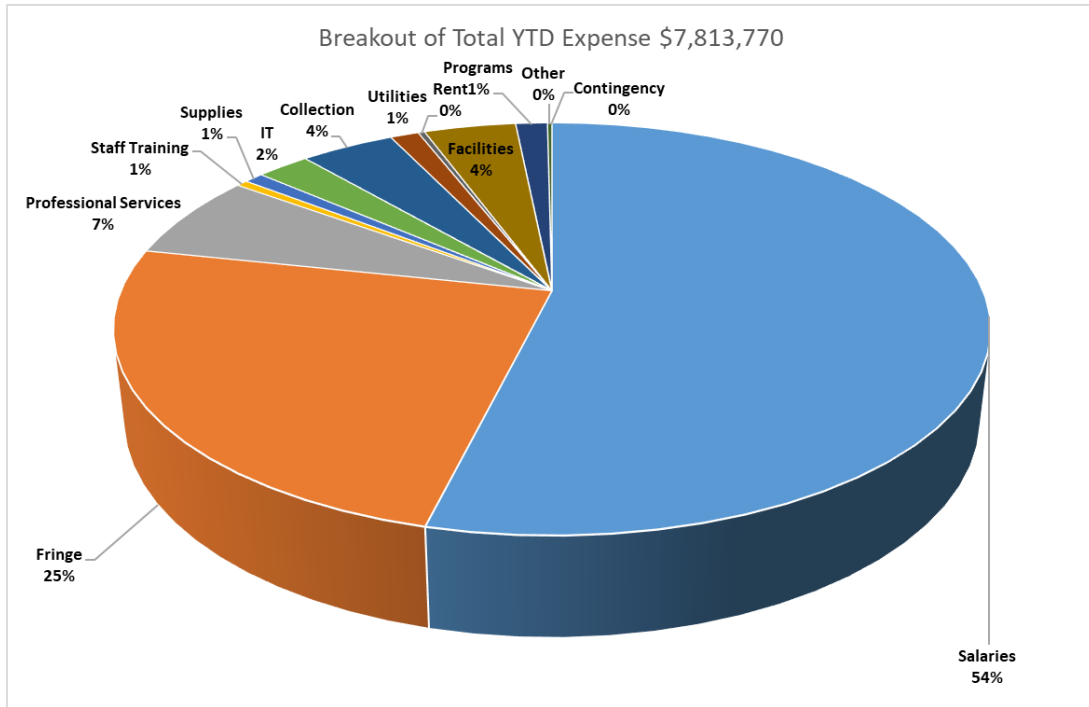
As of March 31, 2023—75% through Fiscal Year

For the period ending 3/31/23, Hartford Public Library has expended an estimated total of \$7,813,770 which represents 69.5% of the revised operating budget of \$11,242,504. HPL has also collected an estimated \$7,874,307 in operating funds, or 70% of the Fiscal Year 2023 budget.

	FY23 Budget	FY23 Actual	Variance	% Variance
Revenue	\$ 11,242,504	\$ 7,874,307	\$ 3,368,197	70.0%
Expense	\$ 11,242,504	\$ 7,813,770	\$ 3,428,734	69.5%
Variance		\$ 60,536.72	\$ (60,536.72)	



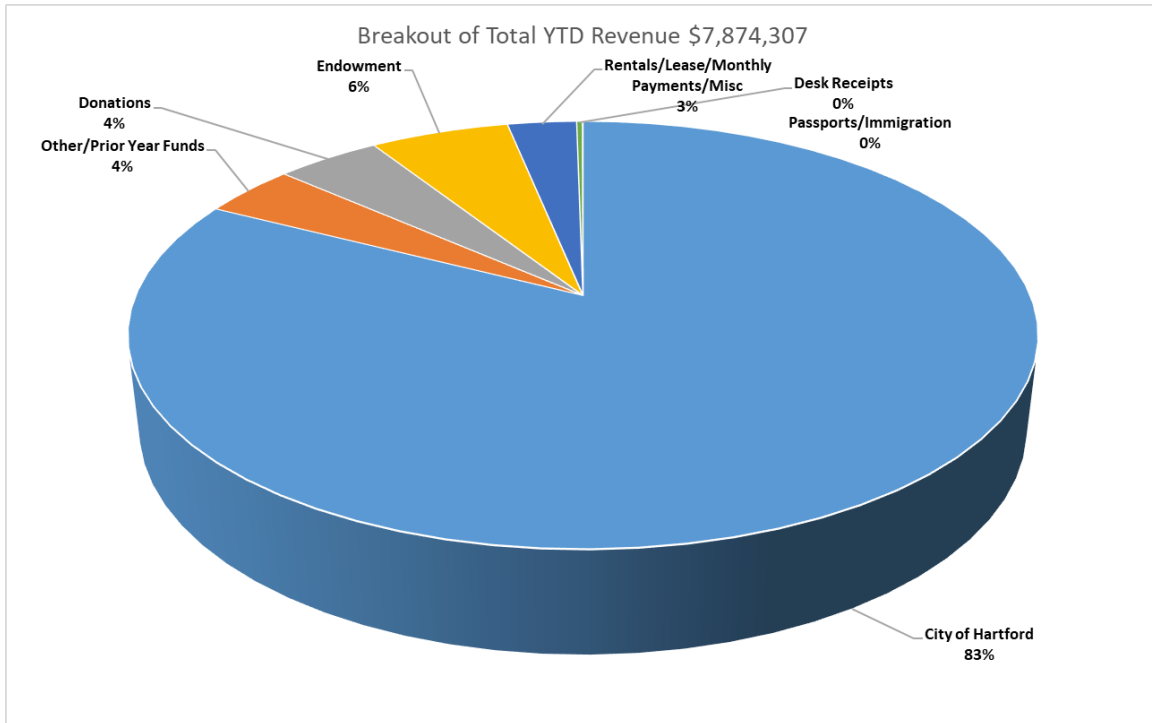
TOTAL EXPENSE



Expense	FY23 Budget	FY23 YTD Actual	Variance	% Spent as of 3-31-22
Salaries	\$6,339,262	\$4,209,600	\$2,129,662	66.4%
Fringe	\$2,543,960	\$1,910,815	\$633,145	75.1%
Professional Services	\$673,918	\$521,187	\$152,731	77.3%
Staff Training	\$86,775	\$38,818	\$47,957	44.7%
Supplies	\$124,400	\$65,446	\$58,954	52.6%
IT	\$231,176	\$182,841	\$48,335	79.1%
Collection	\$536,282	\$323,421	\$212,861	60.3%
Utilities	\$111,050	\$98,178	\$12,872	88.4%
Rent	\$32,431	\$22,500	\$9,931	69.4%
Facilities	\$405,050	\$316,116	\$88,934	78.0%
Programs	\$158,200	\$109,351	\$48,849	69.1%
Other	\$0	\$15,497	-\$15,497	100.0%
Contingency	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Total	\$11,242,504	\$7,813,770	\$3,428,734	69.5%

Note: The pie chart represents the total expenses as of 3-31-23 and the relationship the sub-accounts factor into the total expense. The table represents the 3-31-23 year-to-date actual expenses, the remaining that is available to be spent, and the percentage of expenses that has been spent as of 3-31-23.

TOTAL REVENUE



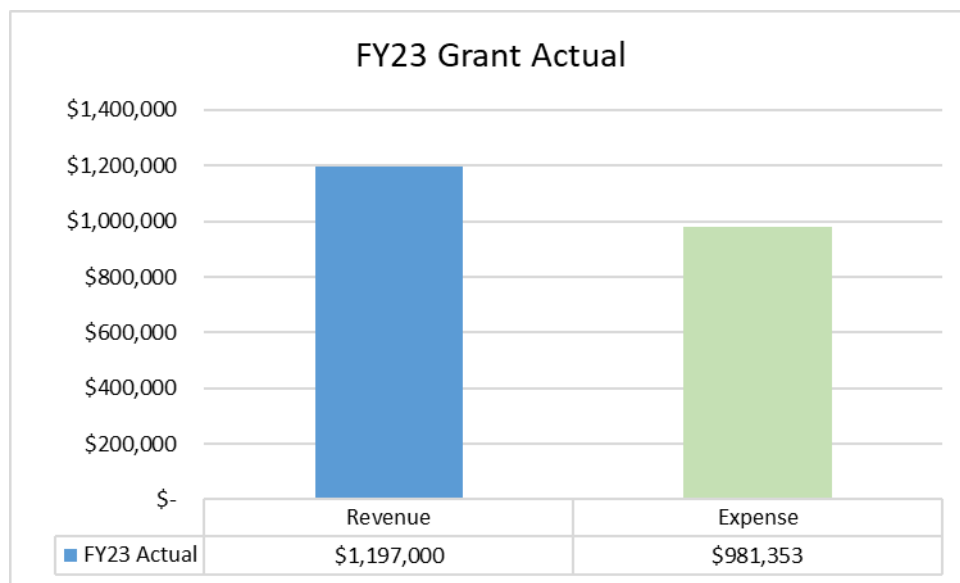
Revenue	FY23 Budget	FY23 YTD Actual	Variance	% Received as of 3-31-22
City of Hartford	\$8,663,336	\$6,497,503	\$2,165,833	75.0%
Other/Prior Year Funds	\$313,000	\$313,000	\$0	100.0%
Donations	\$750,000	\$347,873	\$402,127	46.4%
Endowment	\$898,134	\$463,768	\$434,366	51.6%
Rentals/Lease/Monthly Payments/Misc	\$548,534	\$230,999	\$317,535	42.1%
Desk Receipts	\$32,000	\$19,317	\$12,683	60.4%
Passports/Immigration	\$37,500	\$1,847	\$35,653	4.9%
Total	\$11,242,504	\$7,874,307	\$3,368,197	70.0%

Note: The pie chart represents the total revenue received as of 3-31-23 and the relationship the sub-accounts factor into the total revenue received. The table represents the 3-31-23 year-to-date actual revenue received, the remaining that needs to be collected, and the percentage of revenue that has been collected as of 3-31-23.

FISCAL YEAR 2023 - GRANT BUDGET SUMMARY

As of March 31, 2023 - 75% through Fiscal Year

	FY23 Budget	FY23 Actual	Variance	% Variance
Revenue	\$ 2,858,169	\$ 1,197,000	\$ 1,661,169	41.9%
Expense	\$ 2,858,169	\$ 981,353	\$ 1,876,816	34.3%
Variance		\$ 215,646.74	\$ (215,646.74)	



In Q3, the Library received \$220,000 in Awarded Grants (consisting of Foundation, Corporate, Federal, State, and City Grants). This brings the FY 23 year-to-date up to \$2,109,585. We currently have \$1,425,238 in Pending Grants (as of 3/31/22).

One of the pending Library grants is for reimagining the Hartford History Center \$489,000. This ask is pending with the Connecticut Humanities Council in response to their Good to Great 2.0 RFP. Another large pending proposal is to the State of Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) for funding of Hartford Public Library Studios in the amount of \$149,997. This is a new library funding stream through state taxes collected from cable providers and redistributed to community entities supporting education technology initiatives. Finally, we have a pending corporate ask with The Hartford for \$75,000 for a school Based Boundless Library at West Middle and for the 2023 Beyond Words event.

FOUNDATION GRANTS

HPL received a \$20,000 unsolicited grant from the Greater Hartford Arts Council to support HPL programming related to the Jazz music series. Also received was \$200,000 from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving in Emergency Funds that will be part of the Restore and Renew.

Period: Quarter 3, FY23

Period: Year to Date, FY23

SOURCE	#	AWARDED	SOURCE	#	AWARDED
Government	1	0	Government	11	\$1,379,450
Foundation	4	\$220,000	Foundation	11	\$700,135
Corporation	0	0	Corporation	2	\$30,000
TOTAL	5	\$220,000	TOTAL	24	\$2,109,585

This quarter HPL saw:

- 54,860 visits
 - 259 Municipal IDs were created, and 132 documents were notarized
 - 42,301 items were checked out
 - 6,554 computer sessions and 15,385 Wi-Fi sessions
 - 10,371 reference questions were answered
- » During this quarter, Downtown Public Service staff were redeployed to branches and additional hours were added at all locations in response to the closing of the Downtown Library. Albany, Barbour, Dwight, Camp Field, and Park are now open from 9:00-6:00 Monday-Thursday and 9:00-5:00 on Friday. Albany and Park are now open on Saturdays from 9:00-5:00 and Park was open on Sundays 1:00-5:00 through the end of April. All locations have seen an increase in foot traffic as Downtown users have discovered the branches can meet their needs while renovations are underway.
- » Ropkins reopened on March 6th to the delight of the community and SAND School. Families and community partners have been stopping by to see the renovated branch and to initiate opportunities to collaborate, including Parker Memorial and CRT. The branch is currently open Monday-Thursday from 10:00-5:00
- » The January 6th Three Kings Day celebration at Park brought in a nice crowd of around 400 participants. There was a special musical performance by Movimiento Cultural, non-profit based in New Haven who specializes in traditional dances from Puerto Rico called “Bomba y Plena”. Youth Services Librarian Nancy Mendez presented a special family story time program. The session was filled with joyous stories, songs, and crafts to celebrate the occasion.
- » On March 22nd, in celebration of Women’s History month, Dwight hosted Patricia Kelly, president and founder of Ebony Horsewomen. The presentation started with only 2-3 attendees, which grew to around 12 as people stopped in, heard her sharing and were drawn to her story. She brought the history of the north end of Hartford to life for the listeners.
- » The need for food has increased with the ending of COVID services in February. Barbour has gone from giving out 36 bags to 48 bags per food distribution from Connecticut Foodshare on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. For this quarter, 451 unduplicated people and 134 unduplicated households were served.



PUBLIC SERVICES

(continued)

- » See, Taste & Learn: Health and Wellness at Camp Field was held on Feb. 23 for all ages. Presented by local Yvette Williams, owner of 2 Your Health, LLC, the program included an introduction to the Healthy Eating Plate and food groups, an interactive activity on vitamins and minerals, emphasizing benefits to our bodies and the food that contain them. A plate of healthy, nutrient-rich foods was served to each participant which included fruit salad, vegan Jamaican patties, Green Goodness juice, and crackers & vegan cheese. There were several positive outcomes: increased awareness of nutrient-rich foods and their benefits to the body and access to healthy food alternatives.
- » This quarter Albany kicked off their Mindful ARTS grant funded programs that focus on teaching mindfulness skills through art for youth and adults in their lives. They had a make-your-own body butter workshop presented by Jodi Cup of Health and wearable art program presented by Joy Monroe.



YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

- » The Boundless Library @ Rawson reopened in January to the public for the first time since the pandemic. The library's new public hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30-5:00 p.m. 15 families visited the library for the opening event. Rawson Librarian Alexa Esposito had board games, raffle prizes, and snacks for families.
- » HPL Librarians Lina Osho-Williams and Katherine Trouern-Trend teamed up with United Way and Hartford Public Schools to organize Read Across America Day, a campaign mobilizing volunteers to read to HPS students in their classrooms. The selected book was Hair Love by Mathew Cherry. HPL CEO Bridget Quinn and Director of Public Services Marie Jarry were guest readers at the event's kick-off location at Wish School. Five HPL Youth Librarians joined other volunteer readers all over Hartford visiting students in their classrooms to read and discuss the book.
- » For this quarter, Park Street Library at the Lyric partnered with GREEN ECO Warriors, Leticia Colon de Mejias, Sanchez School to offer a 2-day intensive creative writing workshop for students in 2nd through 5th grade. 200 students submitted their writing projects. The writ-



PUBLIC SERVICES

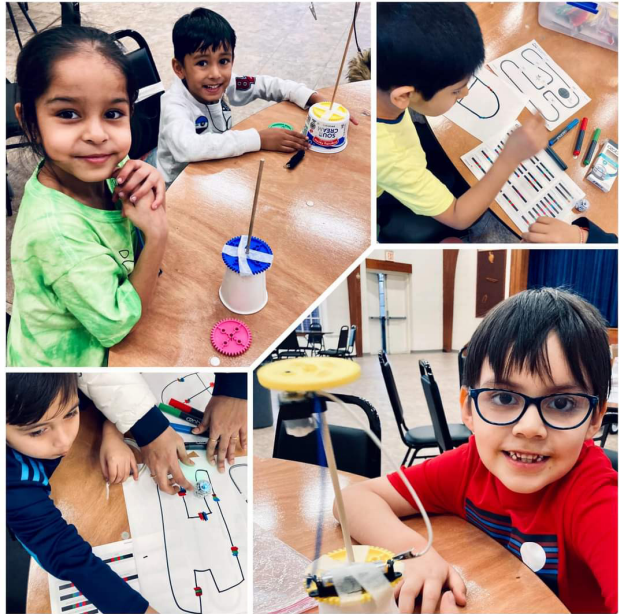
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ing process was a learning curve for some students but at the end, each student had a chance to decide on his/her storyline which was a motivation for them to finally write and submit their book to the REACH Book Writing Contest sponsored by SINA, Inc & Park Library.

» In-person programming was paused in the Children's Room in January as a result of Downtown's closure. In February, programming was resumed for Downtown families at nearby community spaces around the city. South Church and Center Church generously offered their space for library programming needs. South Church has quickly become our temporary library space for library story times and afterschool programs for children and families.

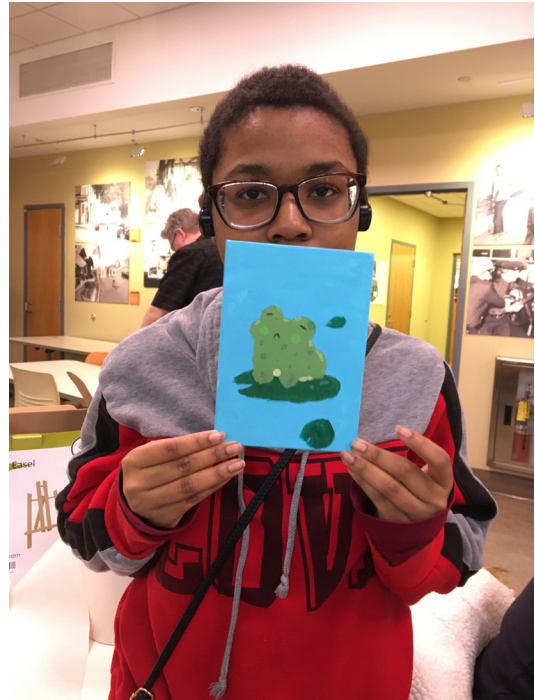
» In March, Albany Youth Librarian Katryna Pierce welcomed 285 students in kindergarten through 4th grade, and 28 teachers from Achievement First who visited the library for a tour and a special program activity. Katryna showcased many of her after school programs during her tours to the groups and conducted several story time sessions for students in the younger grades and Coding workshops with Ozobots for students in the upper grades.

» Children and Families across the library system visited their neighborhood library on Friday, February 3rd and Saturday, February 4th for the 12th annual celebration of Take Your Child to the Library Day. HPL Librarians and RSCO staff offered family storytimes and School Choice Assistance for both days. Other highlights included: Library Bag Decorating; Bookmark Decorating, Henna Workshop; Balloon Twisting; Canvas Painting, Scavenger Hunt; Raffle prizes.



TEEN SERVICES

- » Due to the closure of the Downtown Library, YOUmedia Downtown transitioned its staff and programming to the Albany Library. Additionally, equipment at Albany was upgraded to meet the needs of programs and enhance student engagement. As a result of the increased programming and connections made with students and mentors, student engagement has been up at the Albany space. There was a steady increase in teen visits over the three months, with January having the lowest number of visits (1,243) and March having the highest (2,060).
- » YOUmedia Mentor Eli Williams departed from HPL in the 3rd quarter. Having first visited YOUmedia as a customer in his teenage years, he became an employee in 2014 where he started work as the Music Production and Audio Engineering mentor. He provided countless 1 on 1 sessions, Producer's Showcases, podcasts, and open-mic events, and his mark on YOUmedia will be felt for years to come. Both staff and students will dearly miss him, and we are grateful for his time here as he helped to inspire youth to explore their musical and creative outlets.
- » Mentors Emily and Abigail had a several-month-long Fursuit Making program, where a new customer joined and expressed their interest in making fursuits as a business. Emily and Abigail will mentor the new customer to create the assets necessary to start their own business.
- » The Boundless Enrichment Program, also known as the 21st Century Community Learning Center at HPL & HPHS, offered ESL, Driver's Education, and Leadership Club to students. The program experienced consistent attendance during the first quarter of 2023, with a focus on the HPHS multi-lingual population. On Thursdays, English classes were provided to students, featuring individualized instruction, group work, and activities. Starting at the end of February, The Next Street hosted driver's education classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays for a mainly multilingual cohort. This quarter, a leadership club was launched through Leadership Greater Hartford and was held biweekly on Wednesdays.



PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

BABY GRAND JAZZ

- » The show must go on. After Downtown Library’s closing over the Christmas holiday weekend, the 2023 Baby Grand Jazz series was welcomed by the Center Church at 60 Gold St. Hartford, CT.
- » Hartford jazz lovers were able to enjoy bands from Boston to Baltimore for 16 weeks despite the unfortunate closing of our downtown branch.
- » The final show took place at the Artists Collective, founded in 1970 by world renowned alto-saxophonist, composer, educator Jackie McLean featuring a “Double Header” with the AA Team and Matt Dwonszyk and the Dwonztet. With close to 200 jazz lovers at the final concert, Baby Grand Jazz series ended on a high note. Attendance was not impacted by this highly anticipated series and the opportunity to experience it in person. Each concert brought in over 100 people every Sunday and close to 200 people at the finale double header. The finale was extra special and described by Matt Dwonszyk as a “homecoming” since Matt Dwonszyk and the Dwonztet were all graduates of the Artist Collective.



INTRODUCTION TO RUG HOOKING WORKSHOP

- » Author Deana David is the owner of Ribbon Candy Hooking, Inc. where she sells patterns and hosts live workshops. She is the YouTube host of “Coffee Chat” where she provides rug hooking and punch needle tutorials.
- » Rug Hook demonstrations took place at the Albany library in January, where participants were given a free Rug Hook Kit with Van Gogh’s Starry Night Theme to make their own rug.



HARTFORD’S L.I.T.

- » Hartford’s L.I.T. (Literary Integrated Trailblazers) in partnership with HPL and with the support of CREC’s meeting spaces hosted the Women Writing and Marching into History Conference, featuring a lineup of workshops, one-on-ones with publishers and literary agents, guest speakers, and a keynote author speaker. There was a focus on writing for advocacy, which was supported by women-supporting organizations attending the conference.

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

(continued)

- » In addition, HLIT hosted 2 writing workshops at Park Street Library at the Lyric. These workshops focused on the basics of writing as well as an introduction to fiction, character, and plot devices.

HARTFORD READS IN COLOR

- » The book club Hartford Reads in Color led by Hartford's L.I.T. continued to meet monthly. Their book selections were *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf* by Ntozake Shange, *Revolution in Our Time* by Kekla Magoon, *There Are More Beautiful Things Than Beyonce* by Morgan Parker.

LIBRARY ON WHEELS / OUTREACH

- » The Library on Wheels partnered with Camp Field and Barbour Libraries to visit senior centers. LOW provided library cards, books and other resources according to their needs and preferences. Some of the communities regularly visited were Immanuel House, The Beacon Congregational Housing, Fernwood Manor and Change Inc. at Maple Leaf Manor.
- » LOW attended events and have developed partnerships with Literacy Volunteers of Greater Hartford, The Urban League of Greater Hartford, Food Share sites, The Boys and Girls Club, The Open-Hearth Program and the Know Thy Neighbor community action group.
- » As part of a collaboration with the “Know Thy Neighbor Program” LOW participated in the planning of the Healing Hartford Mental Health Conference. The Hartford Public Library and other city agencies and organizations are sponsoring this important event.
- » LOW has collaborated with Semillas Cafe and helped them launch the “No Name Book Club”, an online community dedicated to uplifting voices of people of color. They highlight two



PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

(continued)

books each month written by authors of color. In addition to building community with folks across the country they also send their monthly book picks to the incarcerated through their Prison Program. The book club meets at the Café on a monthly basis to discuss and analyze the latest literary selections. Hartford Public Library is one of 18 libraries participating in this book club nationwide. <https://nonamebooks.com/Libraries>

- » Two very efficient tools that have helped us with spreading the word and keeping our neighborhoods well informed are our website and our newly created post card in Spanish and English thanks to our communications department.



TECHNICAL SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS:

- » Technical Services staff successfully transferred all shipping and processing operations to the Ropkins Library, ensuring new materials continue to be available to the Hartford community.
- » Refreshed the Chinese and Vietnamese language collections with new titles.
- » Integrated DEI information into TitleSource 360 to a better informed collection development.
- » Updated the A-Z database list to be more user-friendly, with clear and concise descriptions for each resource.
- » Added Kanopy, Comics Plus, and Creativebug records to the catalog, resulting in increased usage for all three resources.
- » Overall digital media use was up by 20% compared to Q3 of FY2022.
- » Digital media highlight: number of Overdrive users increased by over 35%
- » Database use was up 8% compared to Q3 of 2022.

KNOW THY NEIGHBOR PRESENTS
Healing Hartford
FREE MENTAL HEALTH Conference

Join us and learn coping tools and techniques to help destigmatize mental health in our community.

Food & Children activities will be provided

Location: Chrysalis Center
255 Homestead Ave,
Hartford, CT 06112

Registration Preferred
Walk-Ins are welcome

Saturday
May 20th, 2023
10 AM - 1 PM

For more Information Please email Yadira Jeter @ktnclayarsenal@gmail.com

KNOW THY NEIGHBOR
KTN PRESENTS: "HEALING HARTFORD"
2 SOUND HEALING FREE EVENTS!

Certified Sound Healer, Kelvin Young, RSS offers a holistic approach to relaxation, transformation and healing through sound. During a sound healing session, Kelvin plays the crystal and Tibetan singing bowls, gong, ocean drum, chimes and other healing instruments to activate the relaxation response to calm your mind, relax your body, release your suppressed emotions and nourish your soul. Together, we will create a safe space for you to connect with your body, emotions and intuition for rejuvenation, mental clarity and insight.

- FRIDAY, MAY 12TH- 5:30 - 7:30 @ NEW LIFE WORSHIP CENTER 127 MATHER STREET, HARTFORD
- TUESDAY, MAY 16TH- 5:30 - 7:30 @ EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH 311 CAPITOL AVE, HARTFORD, CT 06106

For more Information Please email Yadira Jeter @ktnclayarsenal@gmail.com



PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

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The Library on Wheels is committed to bringing literature, resources, and a sense of community to all neighborhoods in the city of Hartford.

We attend community events by request and is open to partnerships with community organizations for weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly visits.

We offer:

- Library card registration
- Programming (in collaboration with host)
- Library books (English and Spanish)
- Free books, DVDs, CDs (no card required)
- Information on library events and services
- Other library materials

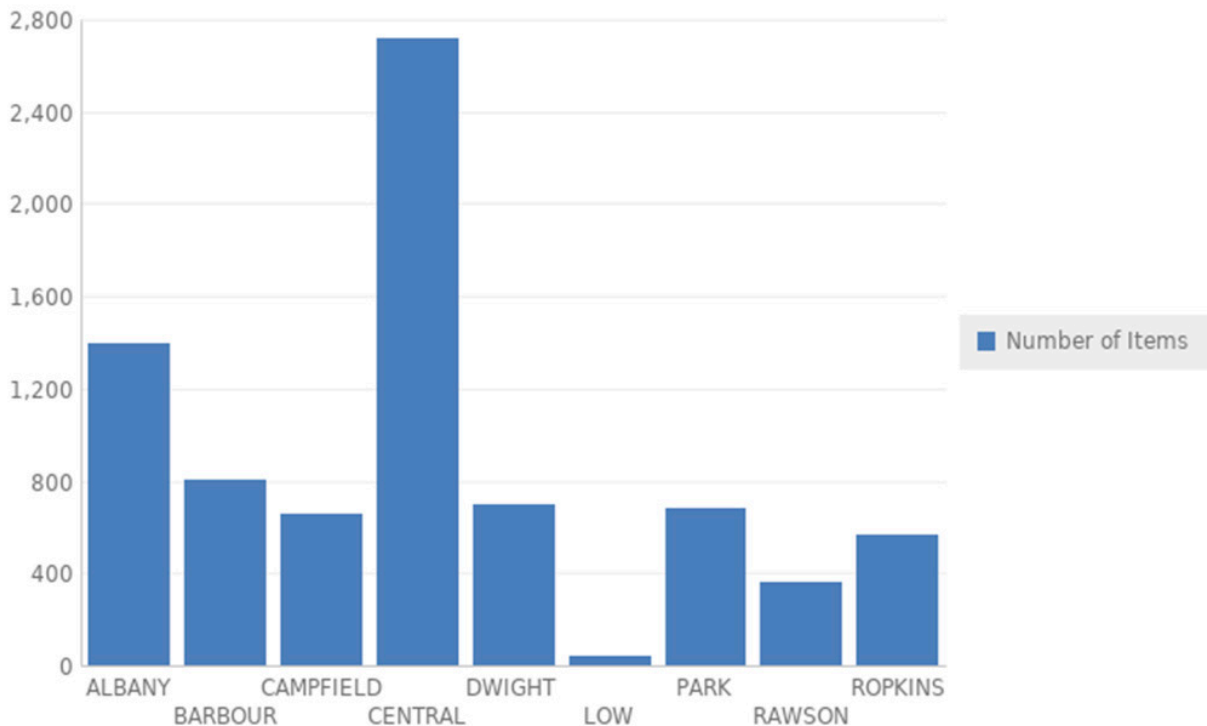



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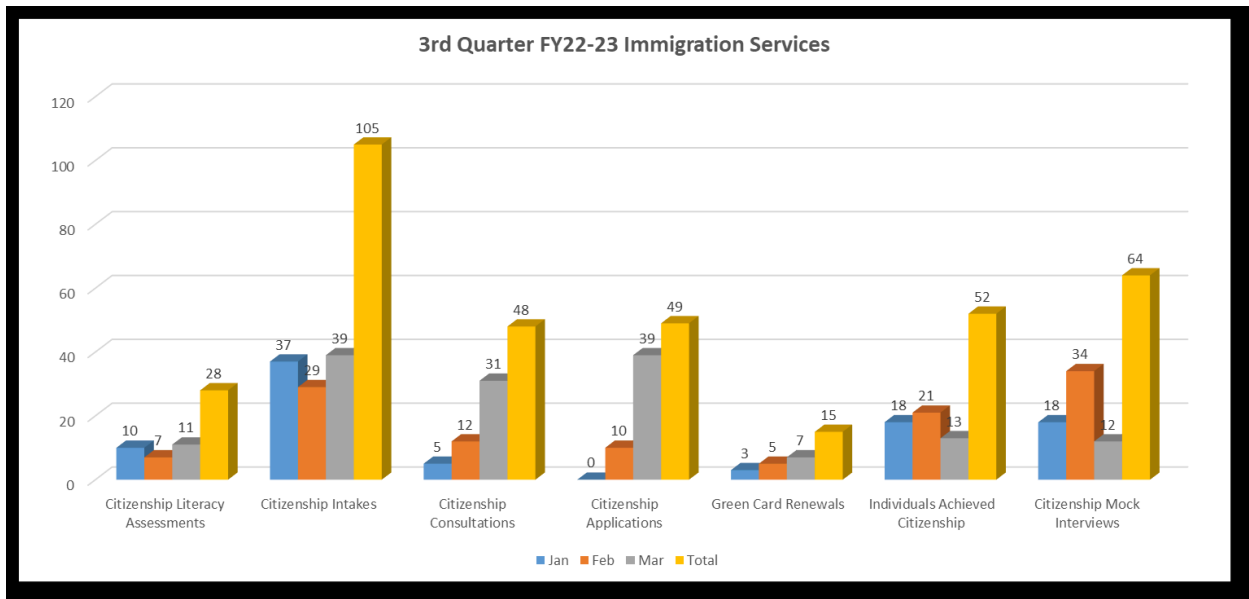
REQUEST THE LOW FOR YOUR EVENT OR ORGANIZATION → 

- » Database highlight: Bookfix usage this quarter totaled over 55k.
- » There were 7,884 items added to the physical collection this quarter.



CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION SERVICES

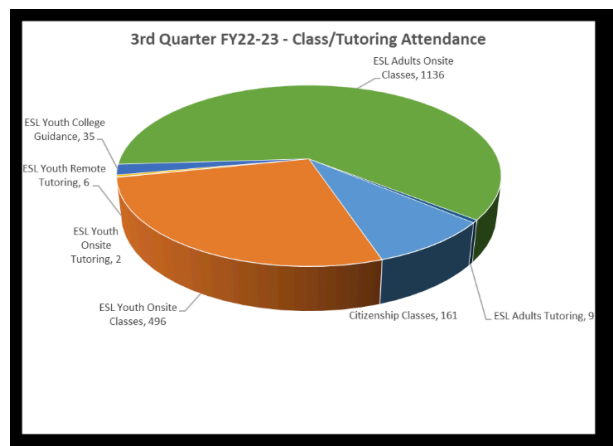
The American Place staff responded to 135 immigration reference questions during this quarter. One-hundred and five (105) immigrants were screened for Citizenship eligibility, including 28 reading/writing literacy assessments. Immigration counselors conducted 48 legal consultations. Immigration counselors also prepared and submitted 49 citizenship applications. Adult education staff and volunteers conducted 64 citizenship mock naturalization interviews. Fifty-two (52) clients were naturalized, achieving U.S. Citizenship. Fifteen green card renewal applications were prepared and submitted.



ESL & CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

ESL classes were moved to Center Church beginning late January due to the closure of the Downtown library. One-hundred and forty-four adult ESL classes were held at Center Church on weekday mornings, evenings, and Saturday morning serving beginning literacy, level 1, and level 2 ESL students.

Eleven (11) citizenship classes were held on Saturdays at the Old State House. Students were encouraged to take full advantage of this historical venue's educational resources by completing a scavenger hunt that set participants on a self-guided tour of the Old State House gallery. In the process, students were granted a deeper appreciation for local history and its relevance to their lives as US residents



THE AMERICAN PLACE

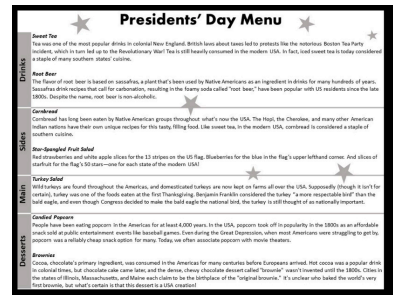
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and as future citizens. As a bonus, everyone who completed the scavenger hunt in its entirety received a small bag of prizes featuring front and center imagery and words chosen to reinforce US history and government knowledge. In a Presidents' Day-themed session held the weekend nearest the holiday, class took on an abnormally festive character. As a means of reinforcing core vocabulary necessary for the naturalization interview and reviewing key historical facts covered in previous lessons, students completed group puzzle activities and played trivia games related to notable US presidents. The celebration culminated in a small luncheon featuring foods and drinks chosen for their evocative connections to important symbols, such as the nation's flag and/or to various stages of North American history referenced in the Civics Questions for the Naturalization Test.



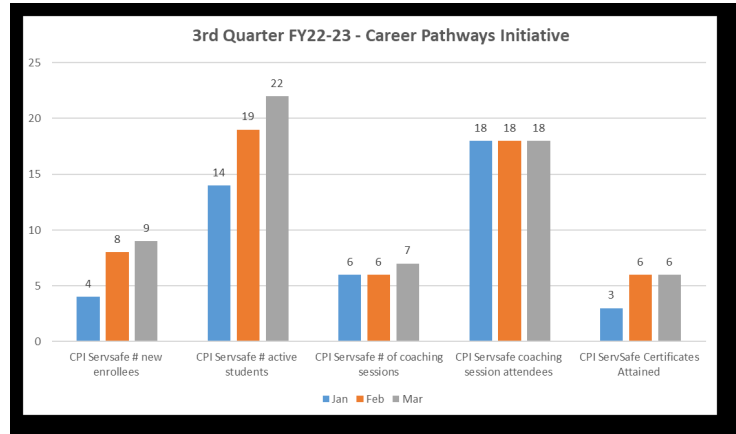
The English Learner Success afterschool program, which supports migrant and immigrant high school youth, continued its momentum, with strong program attendance despite the relocations experienced in January. The program offered several enrichment opportunities this past quarter for program participants and past program graduates, including:

- » Collaborative Arts project with the UCONN Dodd Center for Human Rights staff – students made puppets to be used in a puppet show for children.
- » Cultural Workshops by Asian Performing Arts—Tai Chi, Ribbon Dance, and Chinese lanterns
- » Valentine's Day Party
- » Rehearsals for the Puppet show with UCONN during the February school vacation week
- » UCONN Men's Basketball Game at the XL Center—20 students attended, plus 3 staff
- » Puppet Show in collaboration with UCONN Dodd Human Rights, plus puppet-making activity to follow for children and families—a huge success!
- » Financial Aid Renewal Workshop at Capital Community College—15 graduates of our ELS program who are CCC students were assisted in renewing their FA applications for 2023-2024



CAREER PATHWAYS INITIATIVE: SERVSAFE COURSES

TAP is currently offering four strands of Servsafe courses, Servsafe Food Handler, Servsafe Food Manager, and Servsafe Alcohol Server, and Servsafe Allergens. Post-pandemic challenges continue to pose barriers to participant program completion. As such, we continue to administer the programs in a hybrid environment – instructional sessions may be offered both onsite and remotely based on student preference, childcare needs and work schedules. Students also receive 1:1 and small



group coaching, wraparound services, digital literacy, and employment counseling. The quarter ended with 22 active students and 15 students completing a course, earning Servsafe certificates. Many students select to continue onto the next ServSafe course they are eligible for, increasing their opportunities for upward mobility and growth.

CROSSROADS TO CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

The Crossroads to Connectivity program continues to support adults in their journey to education and training attainment. While program funding ended last fiscal year, we continue to lend devices to students participating in TAPs various education and workforce programs. During this quarter, 20 digital devices and hot-spots were loaned through Crossroads to Connectivity.

GED AND CASAS TESTING

GED testing services have been paused due to the closure of the Downtown library. We are currently in the process of submitting paperwork to receive approval to resume testing at West Middle School. 155 CASAS reading and math assessments were administered.

MATH TUTORING

Math tutoring was offered in small groups to youth and adults, onsite and remotely. A total of 105 small group sessions were held supporting 115 students.

COMPTIA A+ NETWORKING ACADEMY FOR YOUTH (18 TO 24 YEARS OLD)

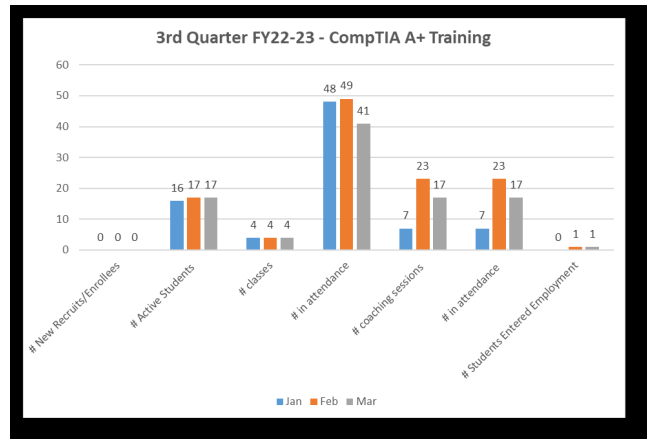
The program offers computer networking certificate training, job-shadowing experience, and a paid internship opportunity. Due to the closure of the downtown library, classes are now held on Saturdays at West Middle School. Currently, there are 17 youth actively participating in the

THE AMERICAN PLACE

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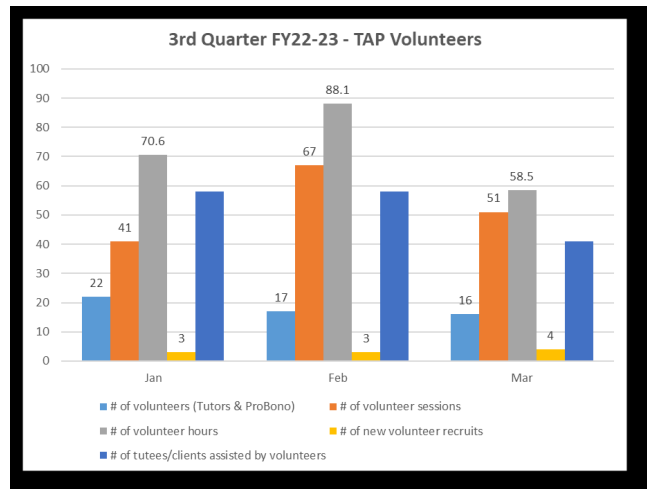
program. Twelve classes were held this past quarter averaging 12 students per session. Additionally, 47 coaching sessions were held supporting student learning. Students also completed 620 hours of job shadowing/internship by the end of the quarter.

Participants transitioned well to the new location and schedule with nine students earning perfect attendance recognition during the month of January. Students worked on their resumes and employment development skills in preparation for their internships and future employment opportunities. Students sat their mid-year CASAS assessments, many demonstrating growth in the areas of reading and math and reaching proficiency. Students are actively making academic gains and participating in employment exploration sessions such as when HPL hosted the Vice President of Outsource to America who presented on available opportunities at GalaxE Solutions, a technology company with a location in Hartford. Students have been fully engaged in internship opportunities at Metro Hartford Innovation Services, East Hartford Public Library, and the West Indian Social Club since mid-February. Students have had the opportunity to learn new things and receive mentorship along with sharpening workforce skills.



VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

TAP has received continuous support from volunteers. During this quarter, 55 volunteers contributed 217.2 hours of volunteer support, including pro-bono attorneys. Volunteer citizenship coaches provided 43 hours of small group/individual tutoring in 30 sessions supporting 15 students. The pro-bono attorneys provided 73.2 hours over 43 sessions supporting TAP clients with application preparation, mock interviews or application review. Volunteer tutors provided 90 hours of support to both ESL Youth and Adults, onsite and remotely.



THE AMERICAN JOB CENTER

The American Job Center is not currently operating onsite due to the closure of the Downtown Library.

HARTFORD HISTORY CENTER & ARTWALK

NEWS

- » HHC staff spent January and February moving collections to secure locations within the Downtown Library and relocating HHC staff to Ropkins Library. Protocols were established to make collections, safely secured in the Downtown Library, available for researchers at Ropkins. Reference questions and requests have continued, without interruption, to be fulfilled in a timely manner.
- » With the soft opening of Ropkins on March 6th, the HHC Annex began to have visitors again and many curious SAND students. The students, teachers and parents are intrigued by the bound volumes of the Hartford Courant and the Hartford Times. The new exhibit case, within which is displayed the Hartford Courant from 100 years ago and the Hartford Times from 75 years ago, has been a big hit! There are several students and parents that come daily to see the changed headlines.

INCREASED ENGAGEMENT WITH THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES THROUGH ACCESS AND EXPOSURE

- » While there was no damage to any materials on the ArtWalk, Barbara Hocker's show Ebb & Flow was removed from the gallery within days of the burst water pipes. The closure of the Downtown Library required staff to extend the Artwalk 2023-24 exhibition calendar to the 2024-25 exhibit year. Artists were notified immediately.

- » On February 2, the City of Hartford launched the Hartford Black Heroes Trail, which highlighted various African American leaders in Hartford's history on sign posts along Main Street from the Downtown Hartford Public Library to the West Indian Social Club. Many of the included figures and their displayed short biographies were sourced from the Hartford History Center's Hartford Changemakers reference guide, including our research and photograph collections. Figures included three figures connected to Hartford Public Library's history: Spencer Shaw, Gertrude Blanks, and Gwen Reed.



- » On Friday, February 17, a UHART documentary film class visited with Hartford History Center staff in the Park Library's Learning Lab to learn about online resources pertaining to his-

(continued)



toric Hartford figures that made a difference in the community and make connections in the community for conducting interviews. They used these sources as materials to inform the development of short documentaries on their chosen figures. Students followed up with staff for further research support after the class visit.

DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SELF AND CONNECTION TO COMMUNITY BY LEARNING HARTFORD HISTORY

» On Thursday, March 2, two sections of a CREC Impact Academy high school social studies class visited with Hartford History

Center (HHC) staff in the Park Library’s Learning Lab to dig into physical and online archival materials pertaining to Hartford’s Puerto Rican history. They also referenced the mounted HHC-curated exhibition, Puerto Ricans Making Hartford Home, which features images from our Hartford Times collection.

» On Saturday, March 11, the Hartford History Center hosted an introductory genealogy program in the community room of the Albany Library facilitated by locally based genealogist Sandra Tait-Eaddy called Tracing African American and West Indian Ancestors. Over 20 participants came to this lively presentation that connected their family records and oral histories to the social history of peoples of African descent in the Caribbean and United States.

PRESERVING HARTFORD’S HISTORY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

» The third quarter was one of significant transition for HHC staff. January and February were spent securing the collections and moving into the Ropkins annex. The archivist focused on database work, including uploading the Hiram Percy Maxim films and the Billington streetscapes to the Connecticut Digital Archive (CTDA).

» Three years ago, HHC staff spent the Covid-induced lockdown researching women who had registered to vote in October 1920. This work resulted in an online exhibit

CITY of BOSTON

The Bonds of Sisterhood

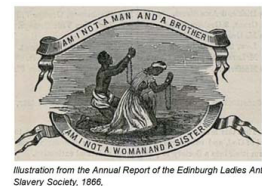


Illustration from the Annual Report of the Edinburgh Ladies Anti-Slavery Society, 1866.

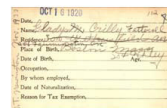
Check out some of the “sibling” projects that inspired us



Florida Voter Registration Rolls 1867-68

The Florida Memory Project's digitized collection of the first voter rolls in Florida to systematically include African American men, 1867-1868.

[Read more](#)



City of Hartford 1920 Women's Voter Registration Cards

The Hartford Public Library's digitized collection of Women's Voter Registration Cards from the City of Hartford, Connecticut

[Read more](#)



Alabama 1875 Voter Registration Books

The Alabama Department of Archives and History's crowd-sourced project to transcribe voter registration books from 1875

[Read more](#)

CULTURE & COMMUNICATIONS

(continued)

(<https://hplct.libguides.com/october1920>), a physical exhibit in the Hartford History Center, and provided context for Marilyn Parkinson Thrall's sculpture, *The Art of Perseverance*. Around the same time, the City of Boston embarked on a similar project. Their work continues, and periodically they send out a newsletter. In the most recent issue, the HHC work was cited as being an inspiration for them.

WORK COMPLETED BY HHC'S METADATA SPECIALIST:

» Hartford Times Project:

- Created metadata for 419 Hartford Times photographs, and drafted 1,257 spreadsheet records for upload to the CTDA to be accessed as compound objects; used CTDA tools to establish the parent-child relationships so that users are able to view the front and back images within the context of each photograph's description. Designed initial test of Box/Folder, minimum metadata approach to adding Hartford Times photos to the CTDA. Provided data on estimating hours required for metadata creation using this model.

» Digital Library Lab:

- Hartford Public High School Museum & Archive Yearbooks Project: Provided updates to HPHSMA archivist regarding timeline for CTDA upgrade
- Hartford Housing records - collaborated with DLL manager on planning for a process and workflow for adding Hartford Housing records to the CTDA Hartford History Center collection.

» Other:

- Initiated virtual meeting (3/2) with Mike Kemezis regarding status of Statewide Digital Initiative (including update on Oral Histories CTH working group). Participated in CTDA basic and complex objects training sessions (2/27, 3/31) in use of the new system to be rolled out in 2023.

CULTURE & COMMUNICATIONS

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DIGITAL LIBRARY LAB

Client	Project Description	Start Date	Completion Date	Invoice Date	Paid	Project Amount	Amount Paid	Note
Hartford Public High School Museum	HPHS Yearbooks and Supplementals	5/1/2021	Ongoing	5/14/2021	Y, partial	\$7,510.00	\$3,705.00	50% paid. Awaiting Connecticut Digital Archives (CTDA) upgrade to be completed, which will fix thumbnail presentation problem. DLL scheduled to return yearbooks to HPHS on April 20, 2023. Estimated date for the CTDA upgrade completion is July 1, 2023
Hartford History Center (HHC)	CM Billington Hartford Cityscape scanning	1/4/2023	1/6/2023	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Scanned 37 Hartford Cityscape photo strips by CM Billington for future HPL/HHC use
HPL General	Assisted with water damage HHC equipment inventory	1/10/2023	1/25/2023	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Provided a photographic and descriptive inventory of HHC and other damaged items.
Hartford History Center (HHC)	Digitizing Housing Authority of the City of Hartford Meeting Minutes and Annual Reports	2/16/2023	3/9/2023	3/20/2023	Y	\$2,412.00	\$2,412.00	Scanning complete. Digital documents were picked up by HACH on 4/5/2023; Original documents have been prepared for inclusion in HHC permanent collections.
HHC General	Installed Refrigerator in DLL for HHC collection	1/10/2023	3/20/2023	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Housatonic Region High School Alumni Association	High School Yearbook digitization (84 books) for the Housatonic Region HS Alumni	3/24/2023	Ongoing	Ongoing	Y, 50%	\$4,350.00	\$2,175.00	All the yearbooks delivered to DLL have been scanned and reviewed. Awaiting replacement yearbooks from HVRHS Alumni for cutout page replacement.
Hartford Assessors Office	Quote for digitizing 400,000 city property cards	2/23/2023	Ongoing	n/a	n/a	Est. \$96,850.00	\$0	Reviewed different property cards, identified handwriting detection software for the project. Provided a quote to the Assessors' Office.
Hartford Development Office	Digitize 7.25 linear feet of documents	Expected 4/5/2023	Ongoing	n/a	N	\$20,875.50	\$0	City received bid waiver. Work expected to start next quarter.
Hartford History Center	Hartford Times Digitization	7/1/2022	Ongoing	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Assisted with Pomeroy-Brace Fund c/o Hartford Foundation grant Hartford Times scanning estimates
Phil Trager	Photographer Phil Trager Collection Tests	11/10/2022	Ongoing	n/a	n/a	Est. \$5,150.00	n/a	Mr. Trager had prints made from DLL test scans to compare to his originals. He has accepted the DLL process and is targeting a July 1 scanning start date.

CULTURE & COMMUNICATIONS

(continued)

TRAINING

February 10, 2023: Professional photographer and color separator Robert (Rex) Hennessey provided a one-day training session to the DLL@HPL in the proper use of tonal curve and other software color balancing tools when working with professional photographic prints, slides and negatives. He provided hands-on training using the professional photographs of CT-based dance and urban landscape photographer Phil Trager.

ANTICIPATED WORK FOR NEXT QUARTER

- » Add Housing Authority Documents to the HHC collection on the CTDA
- » Deliver and Invoice for Housatonic Region HS Alumni Association High School Yearbook digitization
- » Complete high speed and large format scanning for the Hartford Development Office
- » Monitor CTDA upgrade to complete Hartford High School yearbook project. Expected to be completed by July 1
- » Digitize 5000 Hartford Times collection photos as part of the Pomeroy-Brace Fund c/o Hartford Foundation
- » Digitize ad hoc for HPL/HHC
- » Continue to grow the DLL and its revenue generating capability, continue marketing planning activities and identify applicable bids for digitization services

COMMUNICATIONS

- » January 2023, the New Year began with a press conference January 5 in the Downtown Library to update the public on damage caused by a burst water pipe on the rooftop of its 500 Main Street location as well as introduce the Library's Restore & Renew Campaign. The media event was widely covered.
- » Communications prepared a supporting document for CEO Bridget E. Quinn for the Ambassadors Update at the Hartford Foundation on February 22nd and co-managed a press conference with the Mayor's Office and HPL public service staff at the Albany Library on February 23. In early January, Communications organized a press conference with Mayor Bronin and HPL CEO Bridget Quinn to provide an update on the status of the Downtown Library and announce service changes including expanded hours at branch locations. The event was widely covered by local media.
- » Also in early January, Communications worked with FOX 61 news to have Hartford Public Library branch locations highlighted during one of their daily "Good News" segments. The tour included the Albany Library, Park Street Library @ the Lyric and the Ropkins Library.
- » Collaborating with the Development team, a new website was launched (www.hplrestoreandrennew.com) to provide updates about the progress of repairs at the Downtown Library as well as the community partners who have stepped forward to support HPL during this time.
- » Communications assisted with the creation of a PowerPoint presentation for the HPL Board of Directors and a handout for HPL ambassadors that provided updates on the damage to the Downtown Library, including taking photographs of damage throughout the building.
- » Communications created and posted an RFP to seek a design firm to create a new logo that will be used as part of HPL's 250th celebration – and for years beyond that – as a first step toward a rebranding and eventual redesign of the library website.
- » In collaboration with the City of Hartford and City Council, Communications created materials to promote Hartford's Black Heroes Trail at our library locations and other sites in the city.
- » Communications met with the Outreach team and created new marketing materials to promote the Library on Wheels, as well as making updates to the LOW webpage that make it easier for individuals or organizations to request an outreach visit.
- » We continue to partner with Identidad Latina to promote programming at the Park Street Library @ the Lyric to a Spanish-speaking audience. This has included advertising in their magazine as well as digital coverage of library events on Facebook and other social media platforms.
- » Communications managed the RFP review and interview panel discussions throughout the month of March. 28 talented design firms applied for an opportunity to re-imagine the HPL logo. CT firm Miranda Creative was chosen, their work scheduled to begin in May and finish early September.

CULTURE & COMMUNICATIONS

(continued)

» SOCIAL MEDIA



FACEBOOK

10.7K
FANS

117
POSTS

36%
REACH
INCREASE



TWITTER

5.3K
FOLLOWERS

142
TWEETS



INSTAGRAM

3.9K
FOLLOWERS

115
POSTS

The Restore & Renew Campaign was launched in January 2023 in response to community outreach on how they could support Hartford Public Library. As of March 2023, \$248,000 has been raised. A HPL Restore & Renew website was created to keep the community and stakeholders informed.

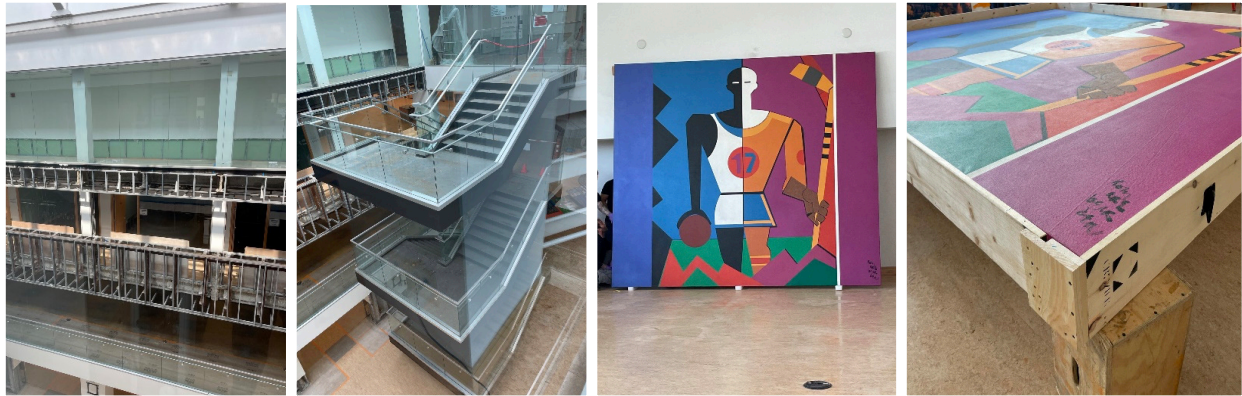
In addition to donations, local organizations stepped forward with offers of locations to support Library programs. A full list of donors and the locations hosting HPL programs are listed on the supporters' page on the web site: hplrestoreandrenew.com

HPL Ambassadors and Board members gathered on Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving to receive updates from Bridget Quinn, HPL, President and CEO.



DOWNTOWN LIBRARY

In the 3rd QT, work has been underway with assessing and demolition of affected areas throughout the building. Some work has been completed with replacing and fixing components of the HVAC system in the penthouse located on the roof of the library. The two Romare Bearden paintings were taken down professionally and stored to protect the artwork during construction.



BARBOUR LIBRARY

Hartford Public Library is in the process of designing a new state-of-the-art Library to replace the current Barbour Street library. The current library is located in a leased store front in Unity Plaza, and is not large enough to provide the services, technology, and programming to meet the needs of the community.

The city-owned property allows for opportunities only new construction can provide, bringing to the table state-of-the-art technology and advanced energy efficiencies. As a city-owned property, the Library would eliminate the expense of commercially leased space. The City's acquisition and recent demolition of the blighted buildings at the former Snyder's site present HPL with a new opportunity. This lot has recently been cleared and is primed for development and the site has been approved for the new Barbour Library.

The architectural firm Silver Petrucelli & Associates, Inc., working with Margaret Sullivan Studios, will continue to work with HPL on the design for the new Barbour Library and work that has already been done will be leveraged for this project.



PROGRAMS 3rd QUARTER January - March 2023

Downtown	FY 2021-2022			FY 2022-2023		
	Programs	Attendance	Views	Programs	Attendance	Views
American Place	334	2,787	0	216	2,044	0
Finance	2	102	0	3	97	0
Hartford History Center	12	399	0	7	110	0
Programming	68	1,481	7,252	29	2,704	0
YOUmedia	109	250	0	0	0	0
Youth Department	92	1,655	611	96	1,716	6,127
Totals	617	6,674	7,863	351	6,671	6,127

Branches	Programs	Attendance	Views	Programs	Attendance	Views
Albany Adult	7	82	0	18	211	0
Albany Youth/Teens	45	758	0	126	1,089	0
Barbour Adult	2	7	0	1	9	0
Barbour Youth	34	300	0	33	461	0
Camp Field Adult	7	37	0	6	56	0
Camp Field Youth	19	167	261	21	364	0
Dwight Adult	19	233	0	14	167	0
Dwight Youth	49	1,034	0	137	2,312	0
Park Adult	9	219	0	6	268	0
Park Youth	37	588	615	30	1,299	0
Ropkins Adult	12	97	116	2	12	0
Ropkins Youth	47	618	1,056	17	348	1,508
Library on Wheels	5	94	0	0	0	0
Totals	292	4,234	2,048	411	6,596	1,508

Pilot & Other Programs	Programs	Attendance	Views	Programs	Attendance	Views
Rawson - Pilot Program	16	182	0	50	837	0
Boundless @ HPHS*	71	607	0	15	166	0
Totals	87	789	0	65	1,003	0

HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY 3rd Quarter Programming Totals

	FY 2021-2022	FY 2022-2023
Virtual + Onsite Programs	996	827
Live Virtual + Onsite Attendance	11,697	14,270
Recorded Program Views	9,911	7,635

*Hartford Public High School