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THURSDAY: HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY, HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS LAUNCH 'MOON, MARS AND BEYOND' NASA EXHIBIT

The grand opening will feature giveaways, astronaut ice cream, crafts and more

(Hartford, CT) – Hartford Public Library (HPL) invites the press to come out, cover and support the launch of NASA exhibits at HPL.

At 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 6 at the Ropkins Branch, 1750 Main St., Hartford Public Library, Hartford Public Schools and a gathering of community partners will hold an open celebration to formally launch the NASA exhibits, Moon Mars and Beyond. HPL is honored to be one of only eight public libraries across the country selected to receive the exhibit and will be the only library in Connecticut to host this event.

The party will include a welcome address's from HPL President and CEO, Bridget E. Quinn, and Hartford Public Schools Superintendent, Leslie Torres-Rodriguez. The celebration will also include astronaut ice cream, space-themed crafts and raffles, book giveaways, school choice information and assistance, demonstrations by UCONN STARS, including a solar telescope and STARLAB, and an inflatable planetarium show from the Children's Museum at 1pm and 2pm.

Hartford residents and families are encouraged to visit HPL's Ropkins Branch Thursday afternoon to come out to see, interact, and enjoy the exhibit while learning more about NASA's next phase of space exploration. The Moon, Mars, & Beyond exhibit is offered by the National Center for Interactive Learning (NCIL) at the Space Science Institute (SSI) in partnership with Education Development Center (EDC) and is supported by The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). NASA's Moon, Mars, & Beyond exhibition aims to excite and educate the community about human spaceflight and NASA's upcoming Artemis missions. "With Artemis missions, NASA will land the first woman and first person of color on the Moon, using innovative technologies to explore more of the lunar surface than ever before."

The Albany, Barbour, Camp Field, Dwight, Park and Ropkins Branches are participating in the NASA Moon, Mars, and Beyond exhibit with different activities at each branch. There is a system-wide scavenger hunt to encourage patrons to visit the whole exhibit that is split between the six branches. Upon completion of the scavenger hunt, participants can visit any branch for a space-themed prize.

- Albany Branch has an astronaut obstacle course, Mars Rover game kiosk, Fact or Fiction game kiosk and banners about life in space
- Barbour Branch has a wind tunnel and interactive voting station about travel to the Moon and Mars
- Camp Field Branch has a banner about life in space and a Quiz game kiosk
- Dwight Branch has an astronaut habitat simulated environment.
- Park Branch has an interactive wall about travel to the Moon and Mars, a green screen kiosk, a hydroponic garden, a touch screen puzzle table featuring Mars, the Moon, the International Space Station.

- Ropkins Branch has images from the International Space Station, an interactive coloring wall, a game kiosk, banners about the Moon and a Plasma Sphere

WHO

Hartford Public Library President and CEO – Bridget Quinn
Hartford Public Schools Superintendent - Leslie Torres-Rodriguez
Community Partners

WHERE

Hartford Public Library - Ropkins Branch
1750 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06120

WHEN

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, July 6

About Hartford Public Library 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. www.hplct.org

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