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Romulo Samaniego, Secretary
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Jenny Benedict, Acting Secretary
Matt Poland, Acting Secretary

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Stephen B. Goddard
William M. Large
Cynthia M. Reik
Enid Rey
Annette Sanderson
Carlos Valinho

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Elizabeth Brad Noel

Appointed by Court of Common Council

Connie B. Green
Jacquelyn C. Lilly
Thea Montañez

Ex-Officio

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Library Administration

Jenny Benedict and Matt Poland, Interim Directors
Mary Crean, Chief Development Officer
Anwar Ahmad, Associate Librarian for Neighborhood Services
Mary Albro, Associate Librarian for Learner Services
Mary Billings, Associate Librarian for Reader Services
Richard Frieder, Associate Librarian for Community Development and Civic Services
Irene Iwan, Associate Librarian for Information Technology Services
Debra Perry, Associate Librarian for Youth Services

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Fiscal Year 2008-2009

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Jill Barrett
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Sanford Cloud, Jr.
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Marc Di Bella
Anne Melissa Dowling
Vernice W. Duke
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Michael Gannon
Juanita Giles
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Nancy D. Grover
Walter Harrison
Joe Hoke
Suzanne Hopgood
Myles Hubbard
Dorothy R. Jackson
Alice Seay Jenkins
Dwight A. Johnson
Kenneth D. Johnson
James F. Jones
Judge Christine Keller
Lillian Kezerian
Joshua King
Ursula G. Korzenik
Hernan LaFontaine
Clare Lake
William M. Large
Lois F. Lewis
Stephanie Lightfoot
Jacquelyn C. Lilly
Dr. Robert E. Long
Worth Loomis
Frank C. Lord
Beverly A. Loughlin
James B. Lyon
Mary Elizabeth Mahler
Dr. Conrad Mallett
Marcia McCormack
Duby McDowell
William E. Meagher
Thirman L. Milner
Thea Montanez
Jody Morneault
Marjorie E. Morrissey
John Motley
Timothy J. Moynihan
G. Stewart Murchie
Leah T. Murchie
Elizabeth B. Noel
Emily R. Noel
Elizabeth Normen
Dr. Robert O. Painter
Daniel I. Papermaster
Flora Parisky
Margaret Patricelli
Mayor Eddie A. Perez
Brewster B. Perkins

Douglas T. Putnam

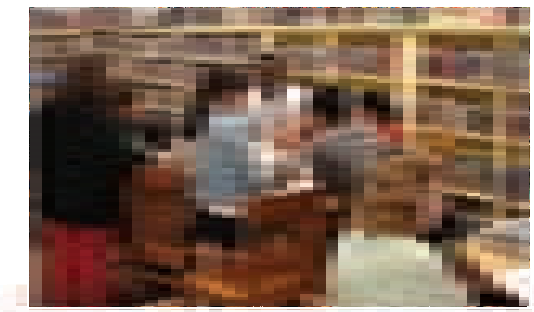
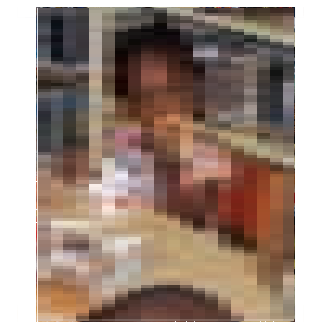
David F. Ransom
Francesca Reale
Glenda C. Reed
James R. Reed Jr.
Cynthia W. Reik
Enid Rey
Belle K. Ribicoff
George J. Ritter
Alfred R. Rogers
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Marilyn Rossetti
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Branches

- DOWNTOWN LIBRARY 500 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06103 860-695-6300
ALBANY 1250 Albany Avenue, Hartford, CT 06112 860-695-7380
BARBOUR 281 Barbour Street, Hartford, CT 06120 860-695-7400
BLUE HILLS 649 Blue Hills Avenue, Hartford, CT 06112 860-695-7420
CAMP FIELD 30 Campfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06114 860-695-7440
DWIGHT 7 New Park Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106 860-695-7460
GOODWIN 460 New Britain Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106 860-695-7480
MARK TWAIN 256 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105 860-695-7540
PARK 744 Park Street, Hartford, CT 06106 860-695-7500
ROPKINS 1750 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06120 860-695-7520
plus...
LIBRARY ON WHEELS 860-695-6340
and...
www.hplct.org



HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY



Report to the Community 2007-2009
HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

“Without libraries, what have we? We have no past and no future.”

Ray Bradbury

HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY



Messages

Geraldine P. Sullivan, President, Board of Directors

Jenny Benedict and Matt Poland, Interim Co-Directors

The last two years were among the most eventful in Hartford Public Library's recent history. Despite the deteriorations of the national and local economies, we have realized significant accomplishments and merely delayed some of our objectives for a short while.

The "new" Downtown Library opened in 2008 and has been much appreciated with visits reaching historic highs. With greater activity, unanticipated security challenges arose that have been resolved successfully with the help of a public task force. Service demands have increased, particularly from the newly unemployed.

Notably, the chief librarian, Louise Blalock, retired after nearly fifteen years of dedicated and tireless service to the Library and the people of Hartford. In the interim period that followed, we were fortunate to have talented management to lead the Library. The ArtWalk, Hartford's newest art gallery, opened to much acclaim in May. And, in June, the main floor of the Downtown Library was transformed for the Library's most successful fundraiser ever, One Big Summer Night.

Throughout this dynamic period, the Board demonstrated a commitment and dedication to the Library's mission that surpassed any other during my tenure as a director. The Board of Directors worked diligently to ensure the financial well-being of the Library, to oversee its management, and to make sure that its mission was realized.

During this period, we bid farewell to Jo Champlin Casey, who served with distinction as a member of the Board for many years. And we welcomed Annette Sanderson, Constance Green, Michael Gannon, and Thea Montañez, who are already proving to be invaluable stewards of the Library by embracing the important work of the Library.

Together with a committed management team and a hard-working staff, the Board keeps the Library strong, and in so doing performs a great service for the citizens of Hartford.

We're proud to know that Hartford residents value their library, and we're honored to be one of the most trusted resources in every neighborhood throughout the City.

Geraldine P. Sullivan

Geraldine P. Sullivan, President, Board of Directors

We are honored to have served as Interim Co-Directors of Hartford Public Library this year. In December 2008, we took on the challenge of leading an organization suffering from declining revenues and reduced public service hours. Limited hours at our branches for both adults and youth corresponded to losses of services to our community: less print and media materials in circulation, less information and readers' assistance, less public computer usage, and less program attendance.

Determined and undaunted by the challenges we faced, we set out to both preserve our institutional history and move forward with a vision of the 21st Century library that Hartford Public Library is striving to become. Successful negotiations with the City led to the restoration of branch hours for fiscal year 09-10 and the resumption of the summer lunch program, which served a staggering 8,000 meals to children and young adults. In May, a stunning new exhibition gallery named the ArtWalk opened at the Downtown Library, filling the glass atrium along Main Street with vibrant color, ambient light, and frequent visitors of all ages and backgrounds. The BIG READ community-wide reading program, which celebrated Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird, became a regional attraction through our partnerships with Hartford Stage and neighboring libraries. And we expanded our employment resources to meet the growing demand for assistance. As we look to the fall, planning for the new long-awaited Albany Avenue Branch is actively moving forward with groundbreaking scheduled for 2010.

Sustaining our resources, professionalism, and commitment to service in difficult times, and then boldly doing more, shows the true strength of our institution and its pride in the community. We appreciate all of the accolades we have received for our work this year. However, all these accomplishments and more would not have happened without the enduring support of public and private funders, the guidance provided by our Board of Directors, and the extraordinary dedication and talent of our staff. We all share a belief in the critical importance of the work we do and the impact we have on the lives of those we serve.

Jenny Benedict, Interim Co-Director

Matthew K. Poland, Interim Co-Director

July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009

HIGHLIGHTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Chief Librarian Louise Blalock retires after a 14-year tenure.

The Grand Opening of the expanded Downtown Library completes the Library's ten-year \$42 million capital project in January 2008.

The Hartford History Center opens, making its rich collections of photographs, books, and materials accessible to the public for research, learning, and enjoyment.

The inaugural exhibition of the ArtWalk, retro:works, features Hartford artist Chet Kempczynski.

The system's 239 public computers are the number one reason that customers visit Hartford Public Library. Social networking sites, multimedia games, and video streaming are popular online content.

The collection has over 500,000 items with materials in multiple formats—large print, audio CD, DVD, hardback and paperback. In addition to English, books are available in seven foreign languages: Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Chinese, and Vietnamese.

The American Place, providing citizenship services to 3,000 people each year, is highlighted in a report by the Task Force on New Americans to President George W. Bush for helping legal immigrants adjust to American civic culture.

The Connecticut Center for the Book's Letters about Literature, an essay contest for students, has a national winner, one of six in the country.

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The Big Read becomes a regional celebration, attracting over 38,000 participants to events at Hartford Public Library, Hartford Stage, and partnering organizations.

Job and career services meet the needs of increasing unemployment with dedicated computer stations, web-based guides, programs on job searching, and a collection of 2,500 print and media resources.

Large photographic murals of Hartford landmarks by photographer Jack McConnell are displayed in the reading rooms of the Downtown Library.

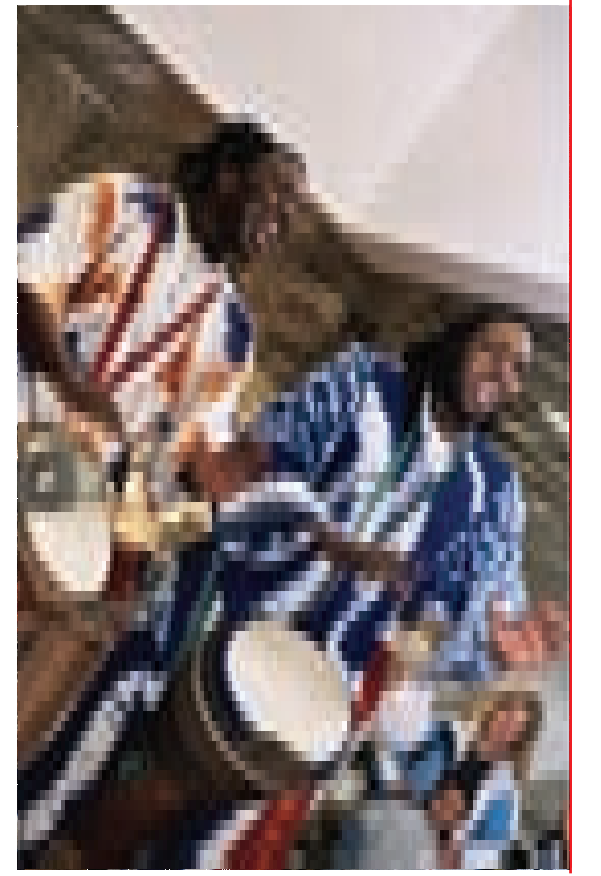
Solar panels are installed on the roof of the Goodwin Memorial Branch, generating renewable energy and reducing electricity costs.

July 2007 through June 2009

LIBRARY ACTIVITY

Table with 3 columns: Category, 2008-2009, 2007-2008. Rows include LIBRARY USE, VISITS, CIRCULATION, INFORMATION AND READERS' SERVICES, COMMUNITY MEETINGS/EVENTS, PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS, and PUBLIC HOURS.

The decrease in library activity in FY 08-09 as compared to FY 07-08 reflects the reduction in public service hours due to reduced funding. All nine branches lost Saturday hours, and six branches lost two hours each day.



DONORS

Corporations, Foundations & Organizations 2007-2009: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, The Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund, CIGNA Healthcare, Citibank, City of Hartford, Clemow Consulting Group, LLP, Community Builders, Inc., Connecticut College, Connecticut State Library, Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism, The Morton & Dinan Danseyar Family Foundation, Inc., Day Pitney LLC, Greater Hartford Arts Council, The Hartford, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Hartford Neighborhood Democrats, Herrmann Family Charitable Foundation Trust, Lawrence G. Fiano Builder Developer Libraries for the Future, MassMutual, National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, The Parisky Group, People's United Bank, The Phoenix Foundation, Plainville Golf League, The Edward C. & Ann T. Roberts Foundation, Inc., Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford, State of Connecticut, Swerdloff & Swerdloff, Target, Travelers Companies, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Universal Service Fund, Wadsworth Atheneum, The Wallace Stevens Society, Inc, Webster Bank, The Zachs Family Foundation, Inc.

Key: \* Deceased, Corporate, Bold Board of Directors