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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CT CENTER FOR NONVIOLENCE AND HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY TO OFFER  
INTERGENERATIONAL & YOUTH ENRICHMENT PROGRAMMING  
INCORPORATING KINGIAN NONVIOLENCE AND THE ARTS**

**Hartford, Connecticut (July 23, 2015)** – The City of Hartford *Department of Families, Children, Youth and Recreation-Division for Youth* awarded the CT Center for Nonviolence (CTCN) and Hartford Public Library (HPL) a CHECK IT! grant in the amount of \$40,000.

This FY 2016 Challenging Hartford to Engage Civically and Keep Improving Together (CHECK IT!) Initiative grant will support an Intergenerational & Youth Enrichment Programming Incorporating Kingian Nonviolence and the Arts program. This grant will allow CTCN and HPL to enhance the programming for approximately 40 youths at the Owl Enrichment Center (OEC), through the integration of the art of Romare Bearden and key elements of the Kingian Nonviolence Curriculum. The OEC is HPL's after-school program at Hartford Public High School. The OEC serves 80+ students from Hartford High's three academies: Law & Government, Nursing, and Engineering & Green Technology.

The Check IT! Grant will institutionalize the Romare Bearden Collection at HPL and the work of Kingian Nonviolence Conflict Reconciliation through: (a) two 8-10 week cohorts of youth programming, integrating art with the Six Principles of Kingian Nonviolence and historical components of the American Civil Rights Movement and (b) host four (4) Family Nights: Intergenerational Dialogues on Nonviolence and the Arts that will focus on the use of the arts in promoting Nonviolence.

"We are excited once again to partner with CTCN with funding from the City of Hartford's Check IT Grant," said Matthew K. Poland, the Library's chief executive officer. "Using the Library's stunning Romare Bearden collection to promote the relationship between arts and nonviolence among the youth and families in our City will add rich diversity to this awesome project."

The program will begin October 2015 through May 2016 culminating with a community-wide celebration and exhibit. The exhibit will display individual student work and a collaborative collage, inspired by Romare Bearden and the "social commentary" within his art.

"We at CTCN are thrilled to collaborate with the Hartford Public Library's Owl Enrichment Center through this powerful project" said Victoria Christgau, Executive Director of the CT Center for

Nonviolence. “Kingian Nonviolence is a practical way to manage conflict and address civil unrest affecting our nation today. Our arts infused approach will give Hartford youth and families the opportunity to create dynamic art that reflects a deeper understanding and commitment to the growing Kingian Nonviolence Movement in our city”.

#### **ABOUT CT CENTER FOR NONVIOLENCE**

The CT Center for Nonviolence (CTCN) promotes a comprehensive framework for conflict reconciliation and coalition building rooted in the philosophy and practices of Dr Martin Luther King, Jr and the Civil Rights Movement. CTCN uses a proactive approach utilizing a comprehensive nonviolence curriculum developed by the legendary civil rights activist and scholar, Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr., former strategist for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Over the past five years, the CTCN has introduced 10,000 citizens and civic leaders to the practice of Kingian Nonviolence. The center tailors its programs and projects for each of the groups it works with and continues to develop sustainable long-term partnerships that allow nonviolence to grow.

#### **ABOUT HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY**

As a finalist for the 2013 and 2014 National Medal from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, Hartford Public Library has been recognized as a national leader in redefining the urban public library in the 21st century as an innovative and stimulating place where people can learn and discover, explore their passions, and find a rich array of resources that contribute to a full life. Hartford Public Library provides free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Serving the residents of Hartford and beyond at its nine branches and Downtown location, Hartford Public Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year from adults, children and families seeking early literacy opportunities, work skills training, civic engagement, arts enrichment, and so much more. Visit [hplct.org](http://hplct.org).

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