

# President and CEO Report

February 2022

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# OCTOBER–DECEMBER 2021

*at a glance*



**37,795**

ITEMS CHECKED OUT



**46,495**

SYSTEMWIDE VISITS



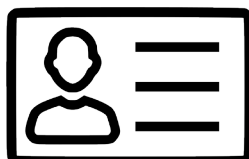
**8,273**

COMPUTER SESSIONS



**8,910**

REFERENCE QUESTIONS ANSWERED



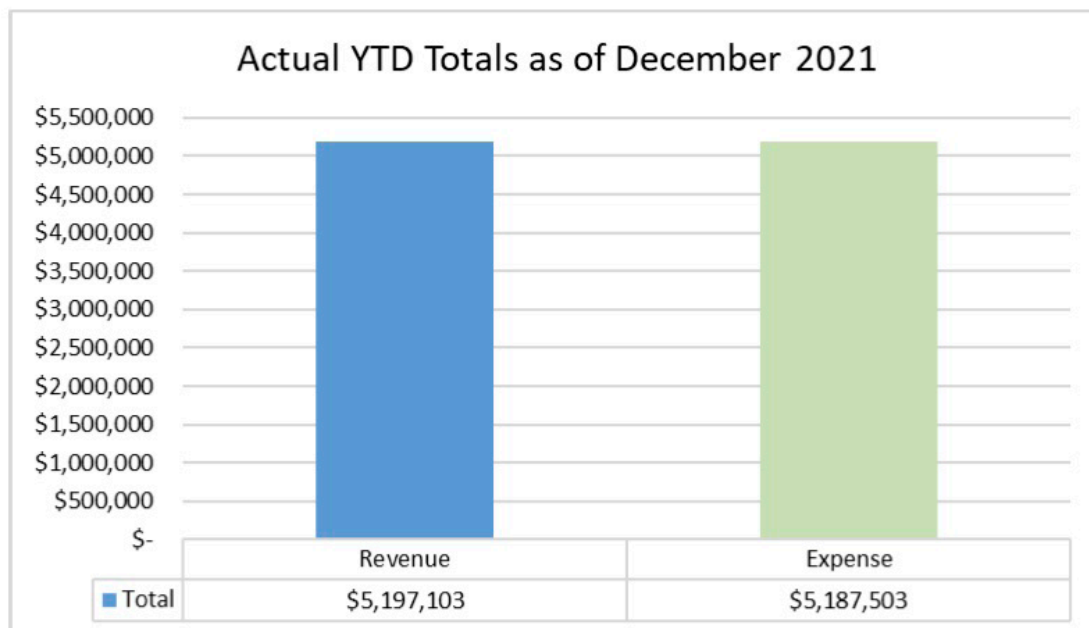
**141**

MUNICIPAL IDS CREATED

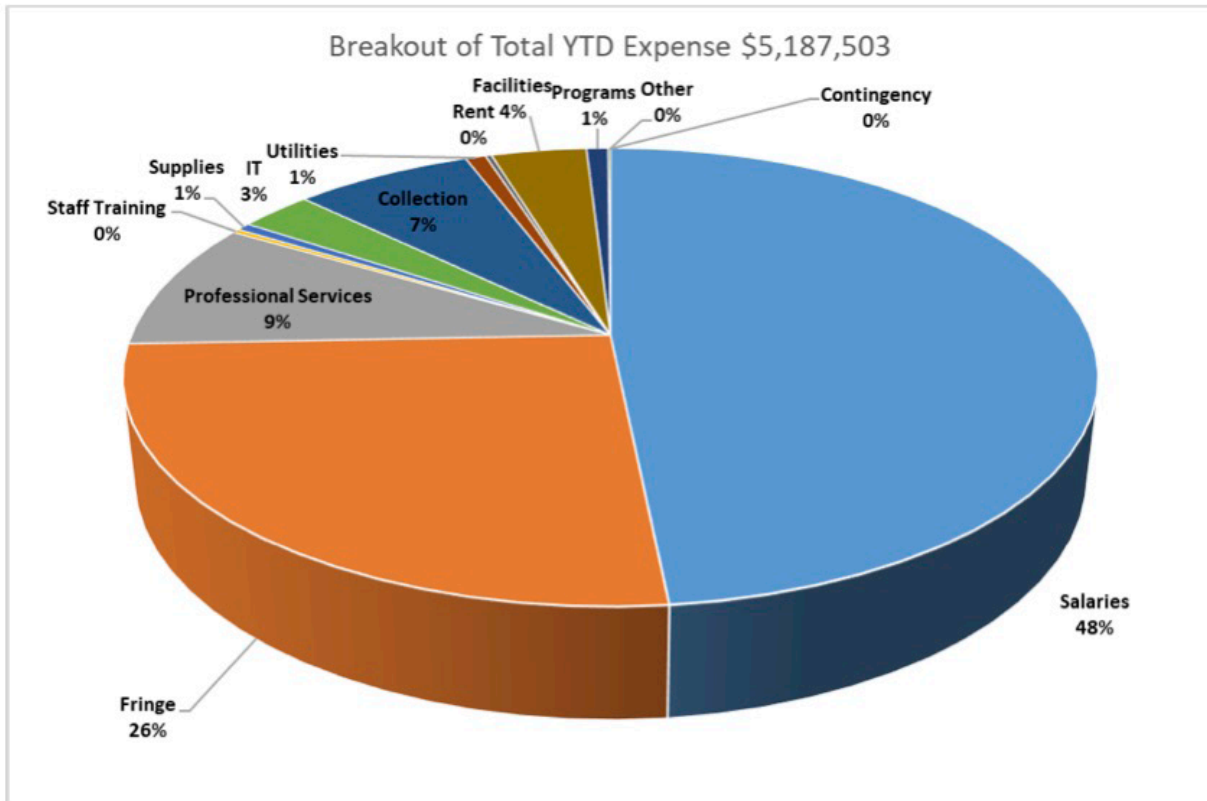
**Fiscal Year 2022 - Operating Budget Summary  
As of December 31 2021 - 50% through Fiscal Year**

For the period ending 12/31/21, the Hartford Public Library has expended an estimated total of \$5,187,503 which represents 48.8% of the revised operating budget of \$10,627,200. HPL has also collected an estimated \$5,197,103 in operating funds, or 48.9% of the Fiscal Year 2022 budget.

	FY22 Budget	FY22 Actual	Variance	% Variance
<b>Revenue</b>	\$ 10,627,200	\$ 5,197,103	\$ 5,430,097	48.9%
<b>Expense</b>	\$ 10,627,200	\$ 5,187,503	\$ 5,439,697	48.8%
<b>Variance</b>		\$ 9,599.58	\$ (9,599.58)	



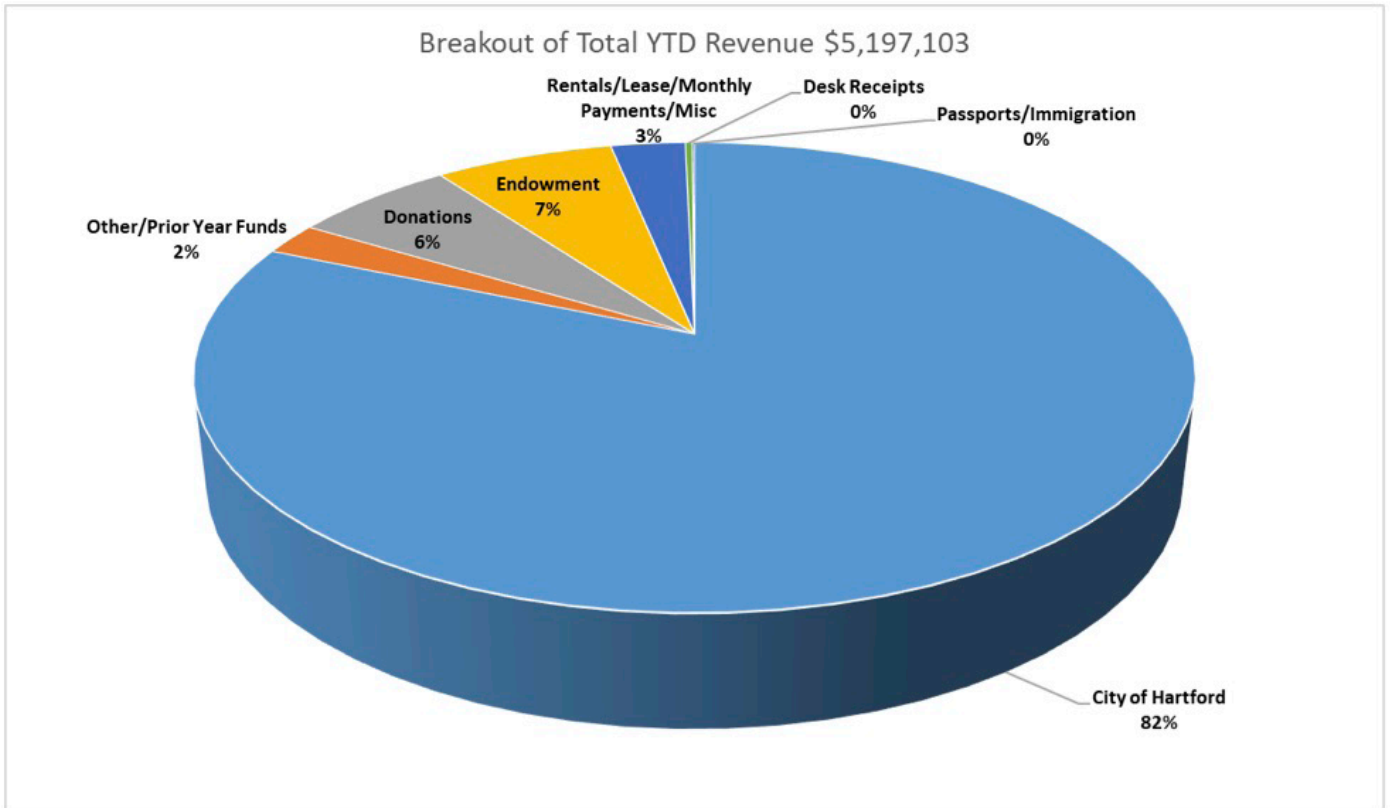
# finance (expense)



Expense	FY22 Budget	FY22 YTD Actual	Variance	% Spent as of 12-31-21
Salaries	\$5,665,100	\$2,511,020	\$3,154,080	44.3%
Fringe	\$2,583,832	\$1,347,536	\$1,236,296	52.2%
Professional Services	\$695,231	\$472,483	\$222,748	68.0%
Staff Training	\$86,775	\$14,743	\$72,032	17.0%
Supplies	\$124,400	\$27,906	\$96,494	22.4%
IT	\$251,400	\$148,662	\$102,738	59.1%
Collection	\$536,282	\$366,489	\$169,793	68.3%
Utilities	\$88,050	\$41,475	\$46,575	47.1%
Rent	\$40,380	\$12,500	\$27,880	31.0%
Facilities	\$398,050	\$195,364	\$202,686	49.1%
Programs	\$157,700	\$44,296	\$113,404	28.1%
Other	\$0	\$5,029	-\$5,029	100.0%
Contingency	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,627,200</b>	<b>\$5,187,503</b>	<b>\$5,439,697</b>	<b>48.8%</b>

Note: The pie chart represents the total expenses as of 12-31-21 and the relationship the sub-accounts factor into the total expense. The table represents the 12-31-21 year to date actual expenses, the remaining that is available to be spent, and the percentage of expenses that has been spent as of 12-31-21.





Revenue	FY22 Budget	FY22 YTD Actual	Variance	% Received as of 12-31-21
City of Hartford	\$8,460,590	\$4,230,295	\$4,230,295	50.0%
Other/Prior Year Funds	\$313,000	\$115,157	\$197,843	36.8%
Donations	\$600,000	\$325,551	\$274,449	54.3%
Endowment	\$753,818	\$358,323	\$395,495	47.5%
Rentals/Lease/Monthly Payments/Misc	\$433,292	\$149,332	\$283,960	34.5%
Desk Receipts	\$29,000	\$13,955	\$15,045	48.1%
Passports/Immigration	\$37,500	\$4,490	\$33,010	12.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,627,200</b>	<b>\$5,197,103</b>	<b>\$5,430,097</b>	<b>48.9%</b>

Note: The pie chart represents the total revenue received as of 12-31-21 and the relationship the sub-accounts factor into the total revenue received. The table represents the 12-31-21 year to date actual revenue received, the remaining that needs to be collected, and the percentage of revenue that has been collected as of 12-31-21.

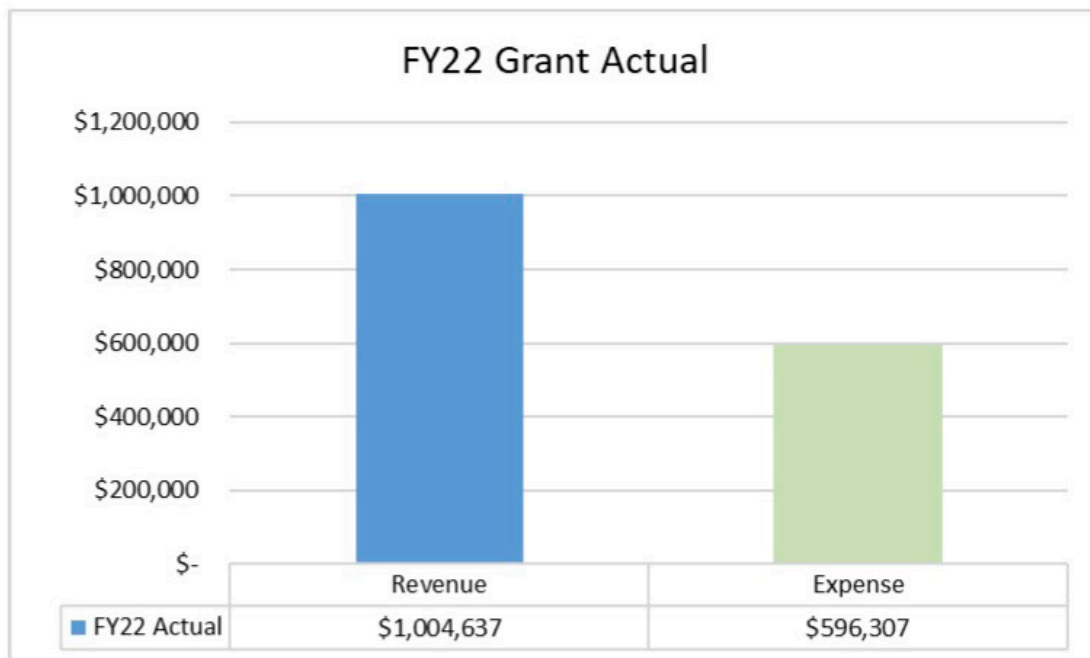
# grant management

## Fiscal Year 2022 - Grant Budget Summary As of September 30, 2021 - 25% through Fiscal Year

	FY22 Budget	FY22 Actual	Variance	% Variance
<b>Revenue</b>	\$ 1,652,237	\$ 1,004,637	\$ 647,600	60.8%
<b>Expense</b>	\$ 1,652,237	\$ 596,307	\$ 1,055,930	36.1%
<b>Variance</b>		\$ 408,330.00	\$ (408,330.00)	

## Grant Activity for 2nd QT (October-December 2021)

	AWARDED		PENDING		DECLINED	
	NUMBER	AMOUNT	NUMBER	AMOUNT	NUMBER	AMOUNT
Government	4	\$398,546				
Foundations	4	\$200,837	1	\$2,491	1	\$50,000
Corporation	1	\$15,000				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>\$614,383</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$2,491</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>



## Access to Information and Services that Contribute to Well-Being

- » This quarter HPL saw:
  - 46,495 visits
  - 141 Municipal IDs created
  - 37,795 items checked out
  - 8,273 computer sessions and 9,798 wifi sessions
  - 8,910 reference questions answered
- » Downtown, Albany, and Camp Field served as pick up sites for at-home COVID test kits for Hartford residents on December 30th. HPL staff along with HFD firefighters and volunteers passed out over 3,000 kits in less than five hours. Adult residents were able to take one kit which contained two tests. With the COVID positivity rate on the rise, many expressed their gratitude and commented they could not find a test anywhere.
- » For the first time ever, HPL had a Thanksgiving turkey giveaway. As part of Barbour's twice monthly CT Foodshare food pantry, the Library gave away 36 turkeys along with boxes of potatoes, carrots, onions, sweet potatoes and apples.
- » Hartford residents can now apply for a Hartford Municipal ID at all HPL locations. This quarter we expanded the application sites to include all branches. This makes it even more convenient for residents across the city to access this important service.
- » With a grant from the Connecticut State Library, a solar charging bench was installed from Sun Charge Systems in front of the Camp Field Library. Now customers can take advantage of the Library's free wi-fi and charge their devices any time day or night.
- » Through a partnership with CVS Health and Bank of America, Hartford Public Library was able to offer no-cost flu shot vouchers this past fall and winter at all library locations.
- » In December, the Park Street Library @ the Lyric and the Hartford Land Bank partnered to present the first Hartford Land Bank Developers cohort training. 18 participants took part in the series on two full Saturdays and two evenings. Participants learned how to become project managers and construction managers in an effort to address blighted property issues in Hartford.

## Supportive Community for Child and Adult Learning

- » Park St. Library @ the Lyric's time capsule was sealed on December 23rd. On the 20th, the items going inside were showcased and a family cheer bag giveaway was held with a special visit from the Grinch himself to spread some holiday cheer. Fifty families picked out toys to gift to their children and each received a "cheer bag" filled with family activities and \$25 gift cards. A free book "giftshop" was set up in the community room





## public services (continued)

for children to pick out a book to gift to a family member and decorate a giftbag. Special thanks go to Susan Sarmiento from the Governor's Prevention program, Carrie Firestone Lenarcic from Organization Forward CT, and Naomi Ngoma from Emanuel Lutheran Church for making this event possible.

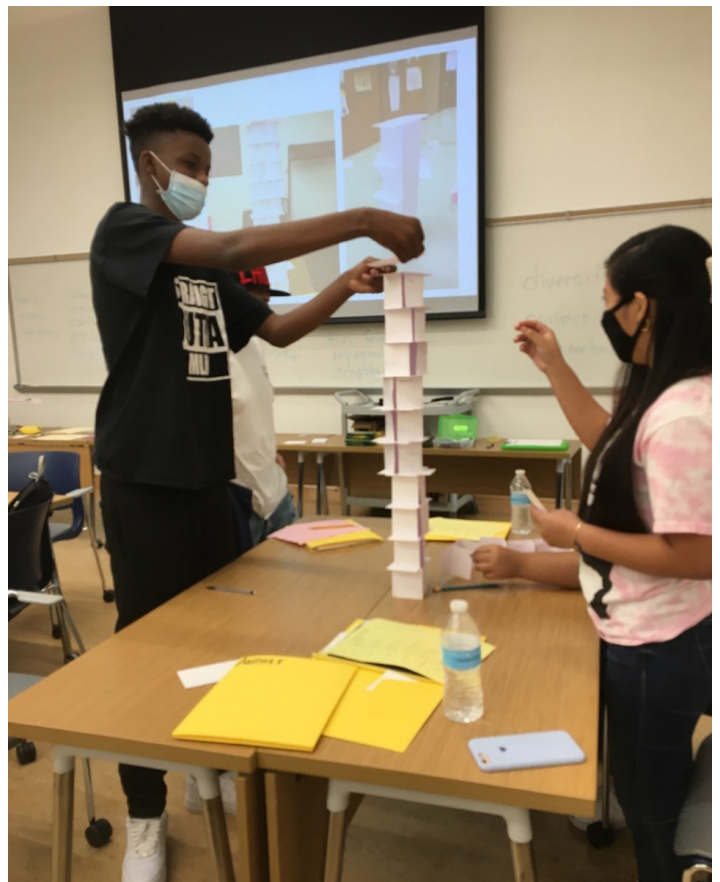
- » A Winter/Holiday wreath-making workshop was held on December 16 at the Camp Field Library. Twelve participants learned how to make a wreath and a bow using the bubble method with wired ribbon. A variety of embellishments were provided to add the finishing touch to each uniquely made wreath. Survey results (5) indicate that 80% learned something that was helpful and 100% responded increased confidence and intention to apply what they learned, as well as increased awareness of library programs and services.
- » CT Humanities provided funding for two family cultural events in November and December: A Diwali Dance Show and A Kwanzaa Storytelling event presented by Sarada Nori and the Layavinyasa Company and guest Storyteller Valerie Tutson.
- » HPL Youth Services helped to support students in the Saturday Academy, a new program launched by Hartford Public Schools. The Library is providing its popular STEM Lab on the Go kits for teachers to use during the student's morning enrichment period on a biweekly rotation, at three Saturday Academy sites: MLK, MD Fox and SAND. The first Saturday with this new program and 40 students enjoyed learning and playing with our popular STEM Class kits, Ozobots and Wiggle Bots and 100 students participated in two holiday kit programs - Las Posadas and Beaded Beauty in a Box.
- » Albany Library's new Youth and Family Services Librarian Selina Sharmin introduced new ways to improve youth's motor skills by providing programming in origami, crochet, and knitting during the already popular after school snack time. From October to December 2021, 273 children participated in this after school programming. Selina also implemented a brand-new program, Toddler Storytime. She created a magic box by putting some toys and softballs inside while the toddlers hand picked up the toys from the box. Toddlers were given a kit to take home from the program and the parents commented, "This library is great, and I will come here from now on."
- » The Children's Museum piloted a very popular after school virtual STEM programming last school year. This year, hundreds of HPS students who would otherwise not be able to get to a library afterschool are served by these programs. Each student received an individualized STEM kit for each session which the children could then keep. With a shortened series, the program was expanded from the original afterschool program partners - MD Fox, SAND, Wish, Rawson (The Village) and Sanchez (Hispanic Health Council) to include 4 of the original partners and 6 new afterschool program partners - Breakthrough Magnet, Kennelly, ESM Mary Hooker, Montessori Magnet @ Batchelder, Jumoke (OPMAD) and Noah Webster (YMCA).
- » HPL offered one of the most popular library holiday activities at the Downtown Library and the Albany Library in person this year! Children learned about shapes that create strong structures and basic designs. Youth were given a variety of edible materials to construct and decorate their own gingerbread house. They were encouraged to get creative and test out ideas working with each other to problem solve and innovate. Parents and children expressed how happy they were to be able to do this annual program in person once again after doing it virtually last year.





## Teen Services

- » Barbour has a new audiovisual cart with two Nintendo Switch gaming consoles that can accommodate up to 8 teens playing simultaneously. Staff are shown demonstrating the system.
- » YOUmedia photography mentor Michael Martin ran programs on both natural light and studio photography, paired with vocabulary words that are necessary to understand the hardware and software for each photography style. Michael ran portrait photography sessions with our ESL students every Tuesday and Thursday, taking individual and group photos to give to their families. Michael has also worked closely with one student who frequents the YOUmedia Downtown space looking for cover photos for his studio album and an accompanying music video.
- » The Boundless Enrichment program at Hartford High managed three programs during the October to December quarter, fulfilling three different program categories: English Language Learner Success Program (Academics), Champ's Club (Enrichment) (Formerly Soccer Club), and the K-Pop Club (Recreation). Only the ELLSP was active for all three months, with the other two starting in November. The ELLSP remains our flagship program going into the new year. Current members started to bring their friends to the program, which reinforced our methodology and outlook into next year.



# programming, events, & LOW outreach

## Program Production & Engagement (PP&E)

- » Program Production & Engagement staff have supported the Public Programming Department, as well as the Park Street Library, and the Albany Library Manager through media production, in the forms of pre & post-production coordination, filming/videography, and streaming. Various film projects were lead that helped to expand the ways in which HPL engages with the Greater Hartford Community. Additionally, PP&E staff lead the development of two emerging partnerships that will help to amplify HPL's support for content creators and creative gig-workers, throughout the city. HPL's coming open-source music streaming platform has been prepared for launch in the last quarter and will be making its debut in early 2022.



## Production

### Voices of Frog Hollow Premier - Grand Opening: Park Street Library @ The Lyric

- » Collaborated with the manager of the Park Street Library on the conceptualization and execution of a summer project entitled, Voices of Frog Hollow. The interviews that were captured in the Park Street section of Frog Hollow were edited into the first version of the documentary, which debuted at the Grand Opening of HPL's new Park Street Library, on October 2nd. After the screening of the film, PP&E staff immediately began facilitating the next round of interviews, featuring former Councilman Luis Cotto, and others. Part two of Voices of Frog Hollow will be wrapped and released during the 3rd quarter of the fiscal year.

### Thoughts Are Things: The Making of Story

- » Assisted with postproduction, editing footage, transcribing footage, and consultation on Thoughts Are Things: The Making of Story, written and directed by HPL's Albany Avenue Hub Manager Christopher Brown. A snippet of the film was recently premiered at HPL's annual Beyond Words Gala.



### Beyond Words 2021

- » A production plan for filming and broadcasting/streaming Beyond Words was developed. In addition to determining and acquiring the necessary equipment, Hartford Public Access TV (HPATV) was invited to film the event. Staff also captured photos of the event and its attendees throughout the evening.

## Partnerships

### The Bushnell

- » Following up on the development of HPL's new partnership with Rabble/Musicat, for the creation and hosting of HPL's emerging open-source music platform, a network of community partners was developed to help support the offerings set forth through the launching of HPL's The Beat. A partnership with The Bushnell was secured to provide prime space, and financial compensation for musical performers from Hartford, whose music will be added to HPL's The Beat streaming platform. The Bushnell will also be providing other forms of support for artists, including sponsored admissions to the New England Music Seminar, vocal lessons, and more.



### Hartford Public Access TV (HPATV)

- » HPATV was brought on as a partner to work collaboratively towards amplifying the voices and creative ideas of Hartford residents. PP&E staff is working toward extending their reach with the broadcasting of HPL content from HPL's youth department, adult programming, and performances that take place at The Bushnell as a result of artists engaging with HPL's The Beat on local cable tv, as well as various online platforms like AppleTV, RokuTV, AmazonTV, and more.



# programming (continued)



## Public Programming

- » HPL's Public Programming Department offered a total of 32 in-person programs with a total attendance of 317 attendees.

### Big Read Fall 2021

- » From Mango Street to Our Street, HPL's Fall 2021 NEA Big Read, celebrated *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros and youth selection *Dreamers* by Yuyi Morales. By offering programming encourages us to explore life on Mango Street through the main character, Esperanza's eyes, and inspiring us to document and explore life on our own street.



- » NEA Big Read programming featured performances and workshops by many local Mexican and Latino artists, including The Mariachi Academy of New England, Meredith Arcari Luciano, Sirius Coyote, Surcari, Denis y su Grupo Swing, Posh Paint, and more.
- » To touch on the themes on housing insecurity in the book, Hands on Hartford hosted a Voices of Homelessness event in the CCC, where a speaker from their bureau recounted his experiences with homelessness.
- » Branches and other departments offered programming that explored themes in *The House on Mango Street* and *Dreamers*. Two of our main Big Read programs were hosted at the new Park Street Library @ The Lyric.



- » "Celebrating CT Latina Poets" hosted by CT Poet Laureate Margaret Gibson, and a virtual tour of Cesáreo Moreno's curated art exhibit inspired by Sandra Cisneros at the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago. The Hartford History Center launched a "Hartford Public Library Branch Histories" exhibition series, and a "Virtual Partner Series: Stories of Complexity and Connection in Hartford's Ancient Burying Ground." Youth Services offered many story times and activities, and Teens Services offered an augmented story walk series.

### Park Street Library @ The Lyric Grand Opening

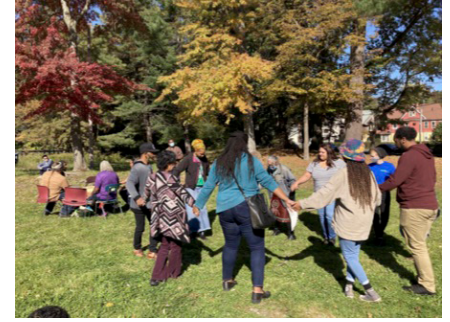
- » The Programming Department collaborated with the Park Library staff, as well as Jasmin Agosto and Nygel White to plan and host the Grand Opening Celebration for the new Park Street Library @ The Lyric.
- » HPL worked with the City of Hartford to close Park Street in order to host a community parade from the old Park Library to the new one, symbolizing moving on to bigger and better resources while carrying the stories and lessons from the old Park Branch.
- » Those who were involved in the Hartford Changemakers mask making and sculpture workshops over the summer, created artwork acknowledging and celebrating the many cultures of Frog Hollow, and this artwork was featured in the parade and celebration.

### Hartford Harvest Festival

- » For the past three years, HPL has helped to build a network of local Indigenous community members who are interested in creating and hosting educational and cultural events around Indigenous life in CT. Led by partner Patricia Kelly at Ebony Horsewomen Equestrian & Therapeutic Center, the group has developed a vision of hosting a Pow Wow type event in Hartford's Keney Park.

# programming (continued)

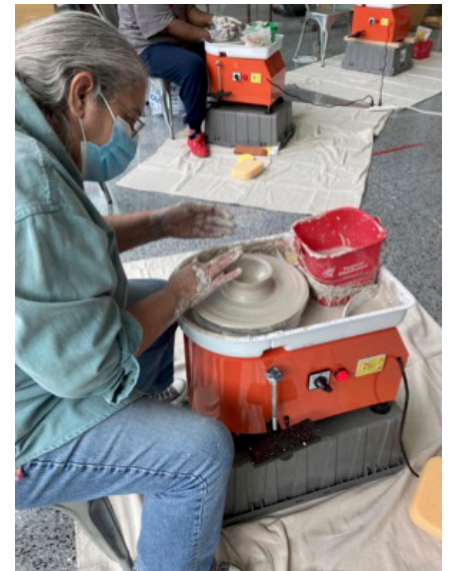
» A team of collaborators worked to make this vision a reality in 2021. In October, HPL partnered on the first annual Hartford Harvest Festival hosted at Ebony Horsewomen. Artists and attendees gathered to celebrate and learn about Indigenous life and community in Hartford and in Connecticut with live music, storytelling, dance, horse rides, and more in Hartford's own beautiful Keney Park.



» The event featured Indigenous artists Lee Mixashawn Rozie, Nizhoni Kilgore, Khaiyan Kilgore, Kheymoni Parker, Patricia Kelly, and Young Blood Singers; artisan vending by Native Expressions; and food by Indigenous caterer Sly Fox Den.

## ArtLINK

» ArtLINK is a program series that aims to provide more access to art therapy and art making, decrease isolation, reduce the stigma and discrimination around mental health. In the Spring of 2021, we hosted a visual arts workshop series and an intro to piano playing series.



» For the third series of ArtLINK workshops, local pottery artist Danessa Pedroso taught the basics of working with clay and throwing pottery on pottery wheels. HPL was able to convert the old café space into a makeshift pottery studio, where participants had the space they needed to experiment with clay.

» For the fourth and final workshop series of ArtLINK 2021, local podcasters Jacob and Spencer of "How'd I Get Here" podcast, hosted a six-part workshop series for five participants. The Cigna grant that funded ArtLINK allowed us to purchase podcasting kits for the participants to use, including podcast mics, headphones, and a recording device.

» The participants in both the pottery workshop and podcasting workshop were so enthusiastic about continuing to learn, that we are currently planning to



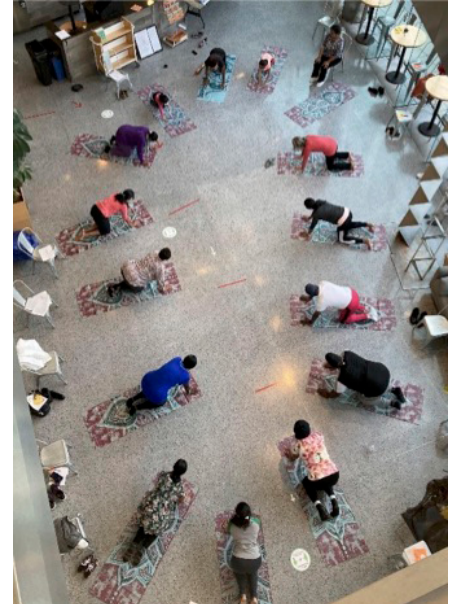
# programming (continued)

continue both series in the Spring of 2022.

- » All of the artwork created in ArtLINK has been documented and is now on display in digital projected art exhibits at the Albany and Park Libraries.

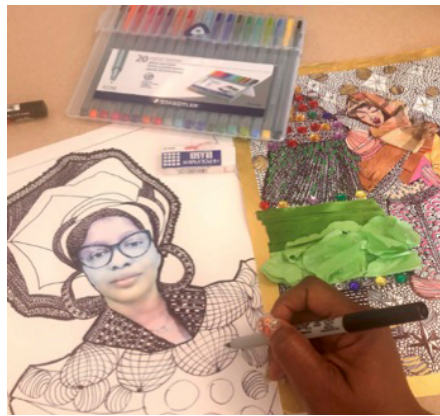
## First Night Hartford

- » HPL served as a main partner and scavenger hunt site for First Night Hartford 2022. In collaboration with Youth and Family Services, HPL hosted a creative crown making activity for all ages. Despite HPL being closed on December 31st, several HPL staff volunteered to work the event and provide a safe and fun space for celebrating families.



## Additional Programs

- » In observance of Transgender Visibility Month, HPL partnered with the Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective to host a book club to read and discuss *Detransition, Baby* by Torrey Peters. This national bestseller is about the lives of three women—transgender and cisgender—who collide after an unexpected pregnancy forces them to confront their deepest desires.
- » Our new Programming Assistant, Enale, designed and hosted a new Zentangle program, teaching a fun way to create art using patterns, lines, shapes, curves, and strokes. The program featured live DJ-ed set of afro beats from DJ Junior.
- » HPL staff member Martha-Rea Nelson created and hosted the “LivFree Wellness Zone Yoga/Martial Flow” three-part series, where practitioners created their own wellness zone through a LivFree Yoga/Martial Flow including fitness and play. We are fortunate to have such talented staff!
- » The book club, “Hartford Reads in Color” led by Hartford’s L.I.T. continued to meet monthly, discussing *Queenie* by Candice Catry-Williams, *The Falsification* by Amos Wilson, and *I’ve Been Here Before* by local author Nbs Malay.
- » In November, Arrow, a local musician and healer provides live meditation music on the Main floor every Friday for the entire winter.



# programming (continued)



## *Library on Wheels / Outreach*

» The LOW Outreach team made 124 outreach site visits and provided services to 1,089 individuals. With the addition of two new Outreach Assistants on the outreach team, the LOW was able to attend more outreach opportunities in Fall 2021.

» In collaboration with HPL's Youth Services Outreach Librarian, the LOW continued coordinating book circulation delivery routes to Early Childhood Centers throughout Hartford for a total circulation of 1,341 books during this quarter. The LOW regularly visited the following Early Learning Centers throughout the city:

- Growing Tree Early Learning Center
- CRT Douglas Street
- CRT Laurel Street
- CRT Job Corps
- Metzner ELC
- Asylum Hill ELC
- Pequenin
- Women's League
- Hyland
- Kings Chapel



» The LOW attended the end of the Farmers Market season on a weekly basis. These stops continued to prove to be the most appropriate and safest way to socially distance and connect communities to free programs and services at HPL by distributing free books, crafts and promoting programs and services offered by HPL.

- West End Farmers' Market
- Promise Zone Farmers' Market
- Broad Street Farmers' Market
- North End Farmers' Market



» As market season came to a close, LOW services shifted focus to providing programs and services to serve the elderly. The LOW staff reconnected with North End and South End Senior Centers providing seniors with circulating materials they could check out.

» The LOW also restarted regular visits to the following Food Share Mobile sites, where we distribute free books and HPL resources.

- Pope Park
- Catholic Charities
- Family Life Education Center
- Cathedral of St Joseph
- Church Of The Good Shepherd
- SANA Apartments

# programming (continued)



- » Hartford Housing Authority, partnered with HPL and hosted community collection books in the following sites:
  - Smith Towers
  - Betty Knox
- » The LOW team also participated in several community events, representing HPL and distributing free books for all ages.
  - Urban League Community Halloween Party
  - Colt Day Event
  - Waverly Baseball Field Event
  - CT Literary Festival @ RAW
  - Bellevue Square Community Day
  - Senior Center Holiday parties



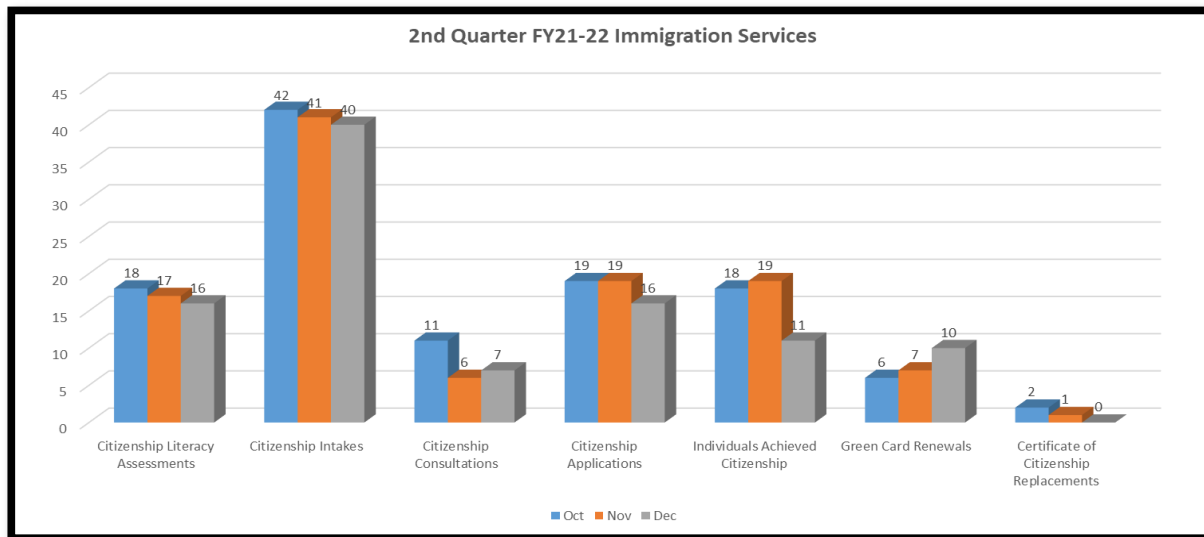


# The American Place

During the second quarter of FY21-22, TAP continued offering the majority of services onsite. Math, citizenship, and ESL tutoring as well as Servsafe and GED coaching sessions are offered both remote via Zoom and onsite.

## Citizenship & Immigration Services

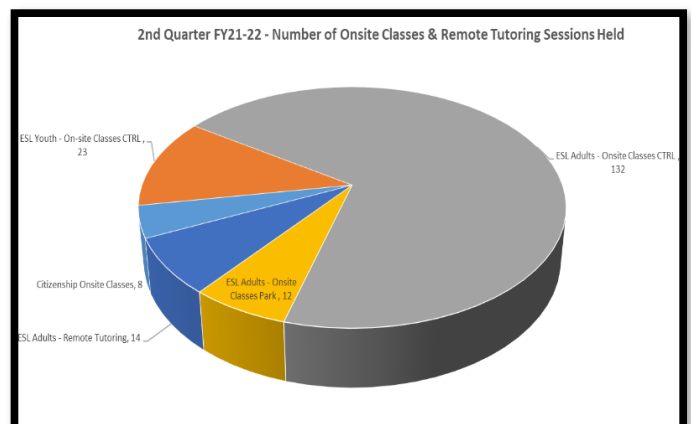
- » The beginning of the second quarter of FY21-22 marked the beginning of a new USCIS grant period. During this specific quarter, TAP achieved the following:
- » 51 literacy assessments completed
- » 123 citizenship intakes completed
- » 53 citizenship consultations conducted
- » 54 citizenship applications prepared and submitted
- » 23 green card renewals prepared and submitted
- » 48 Clients achieved U.S. Citizenship
- » Responded to 181 immigration-related inquiries
- » Responded to 238 immigration-related inquiries



## ESL & Citizenship Education

» During the second quarter of FY21-22, 132 Adult ESL classes were held at Central weekdays, weeknights, and on Saturdays; and 12 ESL classes were held at Park Library in partnership with Hartford Adult Education. Additionally, 8 citizenship classes were held on Saturdays. 187 individuals registered for the fall classes, which began in October once funding announcements were made by the CT State Department of Education. ESL students come from over 35 different countries and U.S. territories (Puerto Rico) and range in age from 17 years old to 81 years old.

» Additionally, 23 ESL Youth classes were held supporting 40 migrant and immigrant high school youth from





# The American Place (continued)

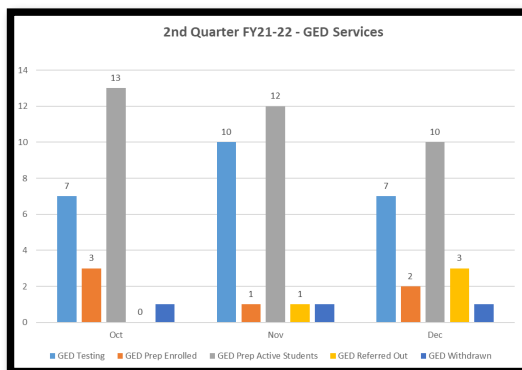
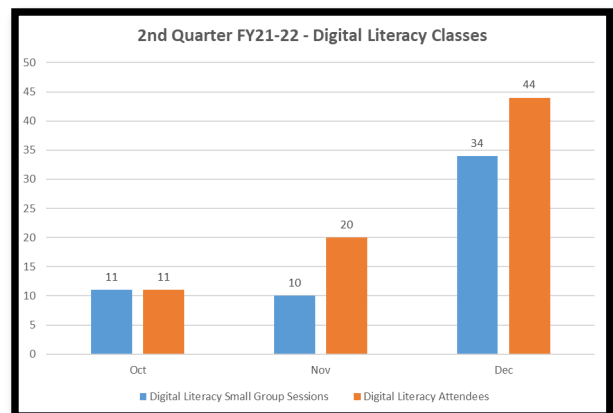
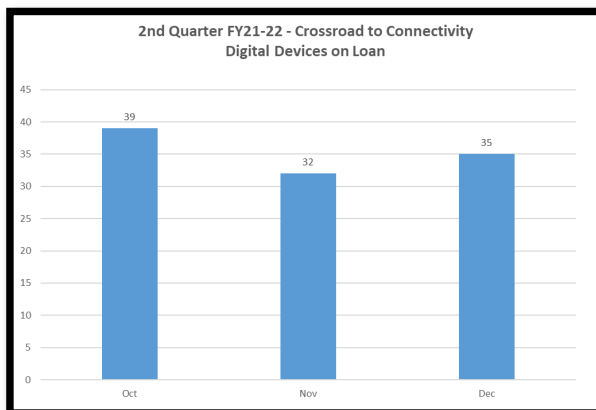
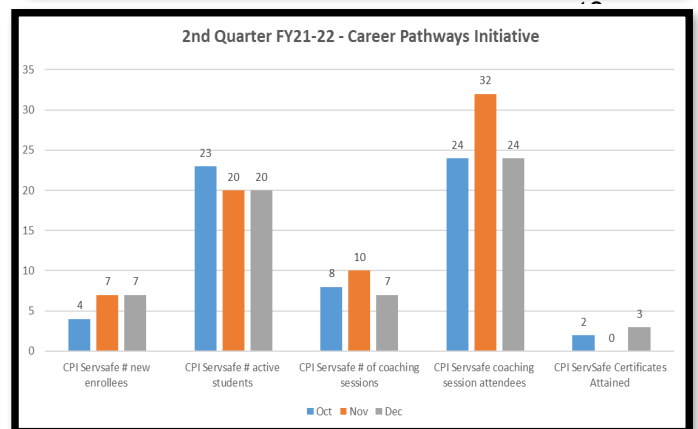
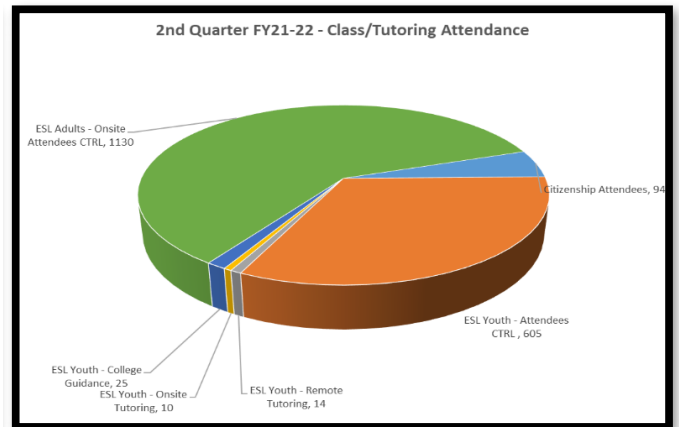
Bulkeley High School. Students also received additional tutoring support both onsite and remotely, as well as college guidance. ESL Youth come from 14 different countries and territories, including Puerto Rico. Fifty-three percent of the students have been in the U.S. less than one year, 12% have been in the U.S. 1-2 years, and 35% have been in the U.S. for 3 or more years.

## Career Pathways Initiative: Servsafe Courses

» TAP is currently offering three strands of Servsafe courses, Servsafe Food Handler, Servsafe Food Manager, and Servsafe Alcohol Server. The pandemic continues to pose barriers to enrollment and to participant program completion. Students continue to receive small group coaching and digital literacy tutoring. The quarter ended with 20 active students and 5 students completing a course, earning Servsafe certificates.

## Crossroads to Connectivity Program

» The Crossroads to Connectivity programs continues to support adults in their journey to education and training attainment. During this quarter, 39 digital devices and hot-spots were loaned through Crossroads to Connectivity. Additionally, digital literacy small group tutoring was offered to students enrolled in TAP programs. Fifty-five small group sessions were held supporting 75 students.



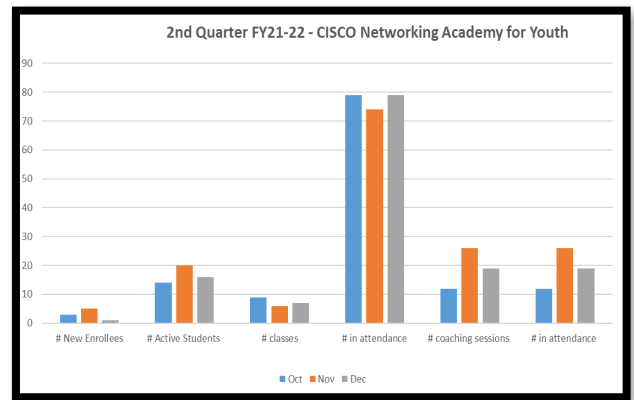
## GED Preparation Services

» GED Preparation Services were offered both onsite and remotely during the last quarter. Small group sessions were offered via Zoom and one-on-one sessions were offered in-person, by appointment

# The American Place (continued)

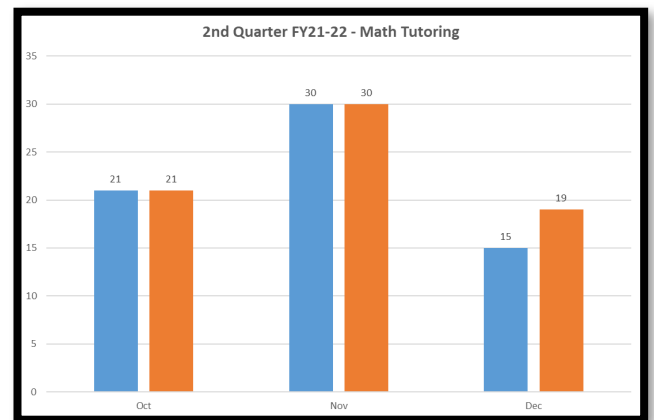
## CISCO Networking Academy for Youth

» The CISCO Networking Academy for Youth is a program designed for immigrant or migrant youth ages 18-24 and is being offered in partnership with Capital Community College and Capital Workforce Partners. The program offers computer networking certificate training, nine college credits, and an internship opportunity at program completion. There are currently 16 students enrolled and actively participating in the program. Participants were born in 6 different counties, including U.S., reside in Hartford and 5 other surrounding towns, and are mostly male.



## GED and CASAS Testing

» Pearson Vue GED Testing services were offered on Mondays (11 a.m.-5:30 p.m.) and Saturdays (11 a.m. – 2 p.m.) to allow additional options for scheduling for GED candidates. During this quarter, 24 GED tests were administered on Mondays and Saturdays. We currently have 4 certified GED Test Administrators on staff. In addition to GED Testing, TAP staff proctored 126 CASAS reading and math assessments for students enrolling in ESL, GED Prep, ServSafe, and the CWP CCNA Program for Youth. Currently, 7 staff members are certified CASAS proctors.

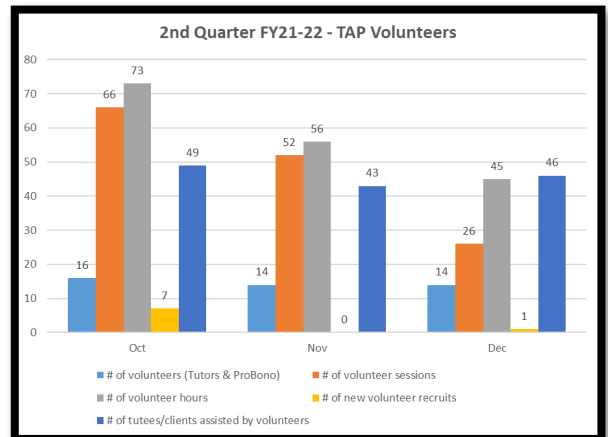


## Math Tutoring

» Math tutoring was offered in small groups to youth and adults, onsite and remotely. A total of 66 small group sessions were held supporting 70 students.

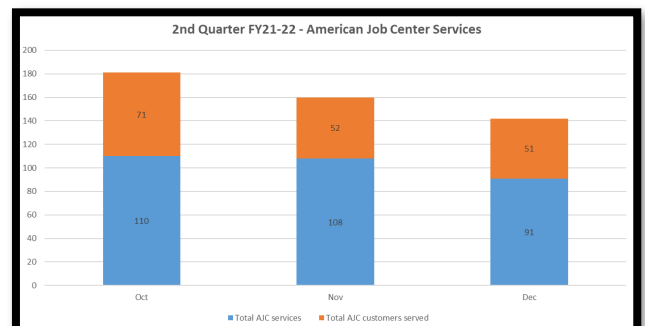
## Volunteer Support

» TAP has received continuous support from volunteers. During this quarter, 17 volunteers contributed 174 hours of volunteer support, including 4 pro-bono attorneys. Volunteer citizenship coaches provided 35 hours of small group/individual tutoring in 49 sessions supporting 6 students. The four pro-bono attorneys provided 21 hours over 17 sessions supporting TAP clients with mock interviews or application review.



## The American Job Center

» The American Job Center (AJC) has resumed limited services onsite and continue to offer services remotely. AJC staff provided 309 services to 174 customers during this quarter.



## Highlights

### HHC in Sourcery, A New Research APP

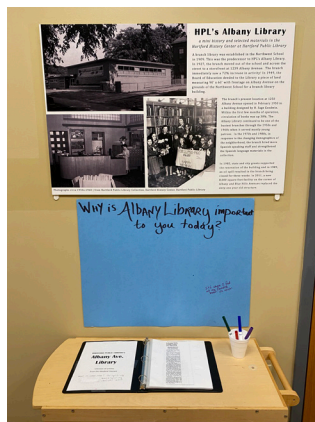
» The HHC will be a testing site for UCONN's Greenhouse Studio's App, Sourcery. The Sourcery App will assist students and scholars in accessing collection materials remotely. The HHC participated in a number of ZOOM meetings to establish the protocols for testing. This is an interesting project and the HHC is excited to be involved. Late winter 2022 is when the project's testing period is expected to begin. The HHC is one of only 4 sites in the country participating in this UCONN project funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for \$805,000.00.

### The ArtWalk – "Portrait of a Picture" by Wladyslaw Prosol

» On November 5, the ArtWalk re-opened after the March 2020 pandemic shutdown. Over 50 people came to see the opening of the solo exhibition by Polish, New Britain-based painter and architect Wladyslaw Prosol, on opening night and over 500 people came to see the show before it closed on December 16. Prosol donated two paintings to the Hartford Public Library, one of which will become part of its permanent collection, with the second painting to be auctioned at a HPL fundraising event.



Library Row by Wladyslaw Prosol.

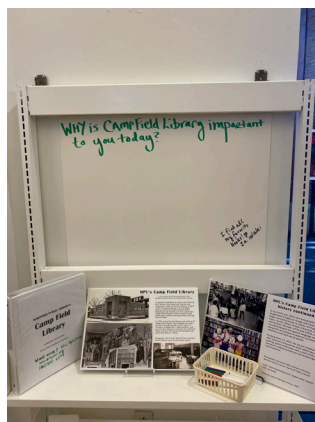
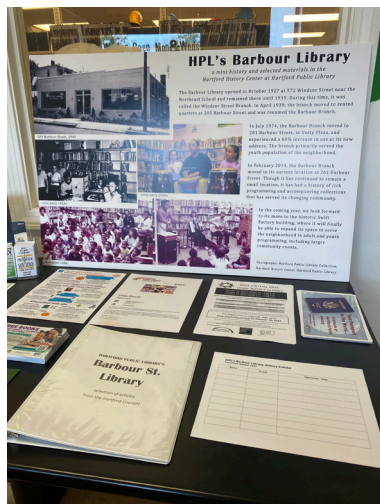


## Increased engagement with the arts and humanities through access and exposure

» HHC staff participated in the planning team for the grand opening of Park Street Library at the Lyric on October 2, 2021. This included mounting an exhibit on the historic Frog Hollow neighborhood, displaying images and articles from the branch's history, and creating a handout on the Lyric Theater history, which was pulled from research by a local architectural historian, Mary Donohue.



» Our virtual Encounters partner series continued for the fall with two programs: Getting Housing Right on October 6, hosted by the HHC and co-created with specialist, resident researcher, and UConn professor Dr. Fiona Vernal, and Voting Rights and Democracy hosted by CT's Old State House on November 3. Over 75 people participated.



» HHC staff created mini-HPL branch history exhibit displays starting mid-October at Camp Field, Dwight, Albany, and Barbour libraries, highlighting the changes in location, staffing, and neighborhood relevant programming through the years.

» HPL partnered with the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving to host their ART IN ACTION young artist exhibition featuring art from Greater Hartford area teens that was inspired by their experience of the pandemic. The exhibit was on display in the Downtown Library's 3rd floor glasses from October 25 – December 16, 2021. On December 14, we hosted an exhibition closing, where a few of the young artists connected with a group of attending teens and shared about their work.

» HHC staff partnered with Barbour Library staff to



bring the Celebrate Their Existence Project to Barbour Street starting November 4 and staying up through the holidays. Area artist Colleen Ndemeh, from the transnational afro-feminist artist collective, Kukily, co-created an altar to celebrate local Black historic figures from the HHC's Hartford Changemakers collection and neighborhood patrons' loved ones who have passed. The co-creation and display of the project outside the branch during Foodshare distributions and inside the branch during open hours, inspired intergenerational conversations around loss, grieving, and African diasporic cultural practices around honoring deceased loved ones.

## ***Stronger relationships among community organizations***

- » The HHC hosted Capital Community College's Black Heritage Project program on October 1, 2021, where they brought faculty from every discipline to engage in a day long program around the significance of 18th and 19th century Black history in Hartford, including the Talcott Street Congregational Church, the Primus family, and those who were buried in the Ancient Burying Ground with specialists Barbara Beeching and Kathy Hermes. HHC staff pulled relevant materials from our collections to compliment the content. The 16 professors who were present were able to consider how this material and knowledge could be incorporated and give them a frame a reference in their course work and in relationship to their students.
- » The HHC partnered with the Ancient Burying Ground Association in a virtual series on October 13, 20, and 27 with workshops and lectures to support audiences in their genealogical research of colonial and revolutionary Connecticut, African American families in Connecticut, and the Hartford witch trials. Over 120 people attended the series.
- » This fall, HHC staff participated in CT Explored's 20 for 20 Game Changers Advisory Committee, engaging in the discussion around what criteria is relevant to choosing people and projects that represent how Connecticut history is being transformed, promoting the opportunity to nominate, and reviewing nominations. We look forward to celebrating the selected game changers in the coming year.

## ***Deeper understanding of self and connection to community by learning Hartford history***

- » During October, we continued our in-person class visits, which included students from Trinity and Capital Community College's Liberal Arts Action Lab, two of which focused on neighborhood research. The Frog Hollow research turned into an online project called the Frog Hollow People's History Project, which was presented on December 13 at the Park Street Library and includes historic sites, urban art, and oral histories of the neighborhood. Additionally, a yearbook class from CREC's Impact Academy visited to review historic yearbooks as references for their own design and content choices.
- » During the 2nd Quarter, the HHC assisted 88 researchers and welcomed over 90 visitors. The re-opening of the ArtWalk, increased foot traffic to the third floor, with many people stopping in to look at the exhibits in the HHC. We had exhibits featuring printed works and photographs from the collection to honor Hartford veterans of color, Native American Heritage Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, Thanksgiving and the Hartford Times Community Carol Sing. Additionally, a small number of toys, books and paper dolls from the Caroline Hewins Children's Collection were displayed during the holiday period in the Children's Department.



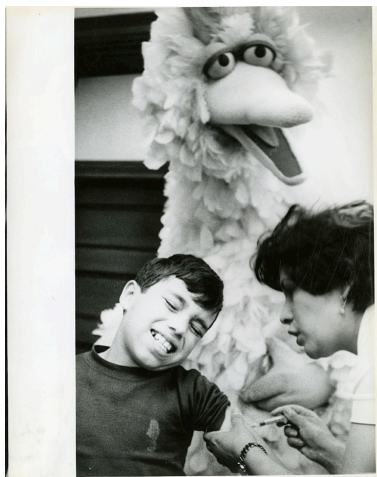




*#onthistoday (October 7) in 1918, crowds gathered in #BushnellPark to hear Sousa's Band (of 310!) perform. They gave two concerts in the park that day. The Courant called it the biggest bandstand the city had ever built. On a smaller bandstand, musical groups will perform in the park this weekend, as part of the Hartford Marathon.*



*For us, #lovehartford week is \*every\* week. However, the City has officially declared Oct. 19-23, 2021 as such. An award is available to the NRZ with the most volunteers cleaning up their neighborhood. This undated #HartfordTimes photo fits right in (unknown). We hope you have joined/will join the effort and #makehartfordglitter!*



*#tbt to May 1976. Does anyone remember Big Bird coming to #Hartford? Childhood immunizations were being offered to school children, and everyone's favorite big yellow muppet was here to support it. The #HartfordTimes caption reads, "BIG BIRD WATCHES BIG SHOT -- While Carroll Spinney, alias 'Big Bird' of PBTV's 'Sesame Street' stands by, Maria Angellillo gives inoculation to Jorge Torres, 9. 'Big Shot' immunization program is being financed locally and is being run in connection with the 'Sesame Street' series." ( Susan Klemens)*

- » Early in October, we had one of those magical days in the Hartford History Center – something that hadn't really taken place since before the pandemic. Scheduled for research was a woman from Virginia who had been to the HHC in the fall of 2019. We were expecting her visit and had pulled materials for her use in advance of arrival. She was continuing her family genealogy research. Shortly after she was set up and busy working, a couple from South Dakota came in asking for information about early Hartford families. In about five minutes, it was determined that the man from South Dakota and the woman from Virginia, shared the same 23 ancestors!
- » Many students earning MSW degrees at UCONN School of Social Work who were enrolled in a class about primary source research methods used the collections in the HHC this semester. Students used a diverse selection of materials including Hartford Public Library annual reports and Retreat for the Insane (Institute of Living) annual reports, pamphlets and newspaper articles about 18th and 19th Century opium use and treatment and then later 20th and early 21st Century heroin use and treatment in Hartford, and later 19th and early 20th Century materials about vagabonds and society's changing treatment and views of people experiencing homelessness. All were fascinating deep dives into the HHC collection.
- » Two of our regular researchers were having difficulty accessing materials from the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College (CUNY) because of Covid rules for visitation. All of the documents from the Hartford Regional Field Office for Puerto Rican Migration are held at the Center for Puerto Rican Studies and this material was crucial for our researchers' work. The HHC worked with the Center for Puerto Rican Studies to have the microfilm of these documents sent to HPL and to oversee the use of and safe keeping of the microfilm. The microfilmed documents have proved invaluable to both Elena Rosario's dissertation research and to Dr. Fiona Vernal's research for her book about the history of Hartford housing.

## Preserving Hartford's history for future generations

- » In the archives, much of the second quarter was spent working on finding aids to the collections. Several finding aids for portions of the Hartford Town and City Clerk archives have recently been published. These may be found in a few ways, including going directly to our ArchivesSpace site, <http://hhc2.hpict.org/>. There are now also catalog records in the library's main catalog for image collections stored on the Connecticut Digital Archive.
- » This quarter's most popular Instagram posts were a Sousa's Band concert in Bushnell Park, "Make Hartford Glitter," an anti-littering campaign, and Big Bird watching as a Hartford Public Schools student was vaccinated against childhood diseases.

## *Digital Access and the DLL@HPL*

### **1920 Voter Registration Cards Project:**

- » Preparation for upload to the Connecticut Digital Archive (CTDA):
  - Downloaded 100 TIFFs and processed to embed HHC/HPL copyright statement and derive JPEGs for use in metadata creation
  - 320 metadata spreadsheet records reviewed and edited for upload
  - 320 voter registration records (TIFFs and metadata) uploaded to CTDA

### **Hartford Courant Oral Histories:**

- » Reviewed 17 transcripts (Word documents) of oral history videos, made corrections and created PDF files for upload. Created metadata records for interviews in CTDA as compound objects, video, and PDF objects, and uploaded transcripts and videos to CTDA. Created thumbnails for display to replace ones generated by system. Edited videos.

### **Digital Library Lab: Hartford Public High School Museum & Archive Yearbooks Project:**

- » Created metadata records for 38 Hartford Public High School yearbooks digitized by DLL.
- » Uploaded 1,370 master files for pages of ten of the yearbook volumes to UConn server
- » Created spreadsheet metadata for pages of each volume (averaging 135 pages per volume) and uploaded to CTDA through spreadsheet ingest process that matched yearbooks for master files queue on UConn server.
- » Replaced thumbnails for ones incorrectly generated by CTDA system and regenerated display images for pages not generated by the system on upload.
- » Created documents to aid in training DLL staff, provided together with explanatory information to DLL consultant Michael Ulsaker.

- » Communications continues to work closely across all departments at HPL to promote programs and initiatives. The event that drew the most media interest in the quarter was the distribution of at-home COVID-19 tests just before New Year's. Communications helped promote the event to city residents on short notice and coordinate coverage on the day of the distribution. Other big events that were highlighted this quarter include the return of the ArtWalk in November and the 2022 Baby Grand Jazz series that kicked off just after New Year's.
- » The Park Street Library @ the Lyric continued to receive strong coverage and interest from Spanish-language media after its successful opening celebration. A special thanks to branch manager Graciela Rivera who helped coordinate a promotional package with the Spanish language La Diferente Radio to promote programming at the branch.
- » Working with the Electronic Resources Librarian, Communications started a concerted effort to promote the resources available at HPL in both the enews and on social media, developing targeted calls to action around a specific theme: (Halloween movies on our Kanopy platform in October, for example). The result was a 70% increase in usage of the film streaming app in October 2021 compared to October 2020 and a 91% increase in November 2021 compared to November 2020. We will continue to fine-tune this effort and report back.

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## Hartford Courant CONNECTICUT

COURANT.COM/CONNECTICUT

### UConn, Mansfield seek crosswalk work

Improvements sought on South Eagleville Road after grad student was fatally struck last month

By Christine Dempsey  
Hartford Courant

Mayor Antonia Moran and UConn's interim president are asking the state's transportation agency to install pedestrian safety equipment at three South Eagleville Road crosswalks, including the one where a grad student was fatally struck last month.

Mayor Antonia Moran and UConn's interim president, Andrew Agnew, signed letters to Joseph A. Giletta, commissioner of the state Department of Transportation, asking for the off-campus safety equipment at three South Eagleville Road crosswalks, including the one where a grad student was fatally struck last month.



### Parkside Cafe owners are filling their plate

Rugroves are on course to be running four Bristol restaurants by January

By Don Stacey  
Hartford Courant

The challenge of opening two Bristol restaurants at once could seem overwhelming, but in their career JJ and Leanne Rugroves are already masters at multitasking. In a block, a five-year-old building, the Parkside Cafe is a 2,000-square-foot building that will have its new version of the Parkside Cafe open by January.

### First Night returns to bring us into 2022

New Year's Eve event in Hartford to feature fireworks, performers

By Susan Dunne  
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — First Night Hartford is the longest-running, city-friendly New Year's Eve party in the Northeast. It has been held in Hartford since 1986, when it was first called "New Year's Eve."

Hartford Courant | Section 2 | Saturday, October 9, 2021 | 1

## Hartford Courant CONNECTICUT

COURANT.COM/CONNECTICUT

### Jamaican consulate pops up in Hartford

Passport, immigration and citizenship services offered during three-day 'Access Jamaica' event

By Rebecca Larye  
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — A temporary Jamaican consulate has taken up residence on Hartford's Albany Avenue that was open twice a month.

### As its new \$80 million wing opens, Hartford Hospital is looking ahead to its next major construction project — a patient care tower

By Kenneth R. Gosselin  
Hartford Courant

Jeff Flaks, the chief executive of Hartford HealthCare, the parent of Hartford Hospital, said it is looking ahead to its next major construction project — a patient care tower.

### 'CONSTANTLY REINVENTING'

Building the wing of the largest construction project on the campus since the \$150 million Bone & Joint Institute orthopedic center opened in 2016.

By Kenneth R. Gosselin  
Hartford Courant

Building the wing of the largest construction project on the campus since the \$150 million Bone & Joint Institute orthopedic center opened in 2016.

### Library's Baby Grand Jazz series is back with live performances

First of 17 shows in Hartford will take place Jan. 2

By Christopher Arnett  
Hartford Courant

Hartford Public Library has announced the performers for its 2022 Baby Grand Jazz series and live performances will return to the library on Jan. 2, but after a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



### Big Read also celebration goes beyond the books

Hartford Library's upcoming 'House on Mango Street' program includes art, activities and more

By Christopher Arnett  
Hartford Courant

By Sandra Ginnora  
Hartford Courant

Hartford Library's upcoming 'House on Mango Street' program includes art, activities and more.

### A confession, a phone and a back-seat hookup

Court records show how detectives were led to West Haven murder victims accused killers

By Zach Mankoff  
Hartford Courant

A West Haven professional driver was arrested on charges of murder and kidnapping after a confession, a phone and a back-seat hookup led investigators to the victims.

Hartford Courant

## Celebrate the holidays

Find it all on one site: [Courant.com/celebrate](http://Courant.com/celebrate)

Gift guide • Kids' corner • Recipe contest • Much more

### Gift Giveaway

Hartford Courant

## Big Read celebration goes beyond the books

Hartford Library's upcoming 'House on Mango Street' program includes art, activities and more

By Christopher Arnett  
Hartford Courant

By Sandra Ginnora  
Hartford Courant

Hartford Library's upcoming 'House on Mango Street' program includes art, activities and more.



- » Communications partnered with the City of Hartford to promote the library as a source to assist city residents with signing up to receive the expanded federal child tax credit. This included two press events at the Downtown Library as well as promotion on social media, in the library enews and signage that was delivered to libraries throughout the system.
- » Hartford Public Library also hosted a panel discussion to coincide with National Digital Inclusion Week in October, partnering with the state Commission for Educational Technology, the Connecticut AARP and other groups to highlight digital resources available at the library.
- » Communications worked closely with the library's Development team to support December's Beyond Words event, maintaining the website as well as designing and printing invitations, RSVPs, pledge cards and a magazine that served as the program for the evening. The Communications Manager also coordinated a photographer for the event and assisted in other planning aspects as needed, including the livestream portion of the event.
- » We continue to gain followers on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, with the strongest growth on Instagram. There has been a decline in total engagement on Facebook that is in part attributable to the return of in-person programming at the library and a reduction in the number of prerecorded and live programs conducted virtually. Those numbers are expected to increase with the return of our Baby Grand Jazz concerts.
- » Planning is underway for the rollout of the Hartford Public Library NextGen @ Swift project in coordination with our contracted public relations firm. Tentative plans are to hold an event at the space in later winter. Communications engaged YouMedia to use virtual reality technology to allow teens to dream up what they would like to see in the new library space. Their creations will be showcased at our launch event.

November 11 - 17, 2021 The Hartford News

## Marching Home

**Please bring back the Veteran's Day parade**  
COMMENTARY BY ANNE GOSHEGLAN

It's been five years now since I walked over to see the 2016 Veterans Day Parade on a sometimes bitterly cold November day. I found myself a good vantage point near City Hall, and waited for the parade to begin. It was good to look around and be a part of the throng of thousands who turned out to honor those who'd served in our country's armed forces. In 2016 the 3,000+ marchers included veterans from the World War II and Korean War eras who usually rode in open cars, save for a few octogenarians who marched proudly down the street. There were bands and drummers interspersed with the various groups—some on floats. The Vietnam era, Gulf War, Afghanistan, Iraq, women veterans, Black and Hispanic veterans, and disabled veterans. State officials were also present. It was a meaningful event that always elicited applause, hearty cheers, and a few tears from the crowds lining the curbs on both sides of the street, or seated in folding chairs. Parades are almost always about pride—ethnic or racial—but this one was unique because it was about our American history and national honor, and about bravery in the face of danger. The Veteran's Day parade was both uplifting and joyous as well as a solemn time to reflect on the tragedy of those who heroically "gave their lives for their country"—for the rest of us. It was an American homecoming that meant so much to me, and was a point of pride for the capital city of Hartford.



## Library Reopens ArtWalk

With floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking Main Street in Downtown Hartford, the ArtWalk at Hartford Public Library (HPL), 500 Main Street, is one of the most spectacular exhibit spaces in the region. But due to the COVID-19 pandemic, its walls have stood empty since February 2020. Last Friday, November 5, the ArtWalk finally reopened to the public with a show entitled "Portrait of a Picture," by New Britain artist Washington Pennell. Below, shown here with HPL Board Member David Barner. Many of Pennell's paintings depict the Hartford skyline. The ArtWalk is open Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Masks are required in the gallery and in the library. (Hart photo)



Hartford's Last Veterans Day Parade in 2016

The parade was a collaboration between veteran's advocacy groups, some other towns in addition to Hartford, and a portion of the \$100,000 cost was provided by corporate donors. But in 2017 that all came to an end when the funding was no longer in place. It was a sad finale to an event so eagerly anticipated by both the participants and the observers. Yes, some other Connecticut towns do still celebrate the vets. But for me, and I'm sure for many others, it was always a very special day to gather here in the heart of the city and just be there for these marchers, for them to look out and feel the love and appreciation for their sacrifices. Mayor Brannan, a veteran himself, needs to get creative and reach out to secure that \$100,000 to bring the parade back to Hartford. Perhaps some of the uber-wealthy developers who've gotten the nod from him to screw up city properties for a string, with property tax breaks and abatements thrown in—could return the favor.



## Hartford Harvest Celebration Of Indigenous Culture

On Saturday, October 23, Hartford Public Library, the City of Hartford and Shonk Harvest, Inc. hosted a Harvest Celebration of Indigenous Culture in Kenes Park. The event featured live music, storytelling, dance, horse rides and more. Among the performers was Hartford resident Lee Mowbray. Below, right, an acclaimed jazz musician and author of "Indigenous Roots of Social Evolution: Interpretation of Historical Data," the "Jungleland Jugglers," and "Victim Killers: Khayim Kilgore and Kheyson Parker, a trio of dancing acrobats from the Massachusetts Bayou tribe. (Hart photo)



¿Necesita usted o un ser querido, apoyo para continuar viviendo en su casa? Los miembros de Medicaid que son elegibles para centros de cuidados pueden ser elegibles para Community First Choice, o CFC.

CFC ofrece servicios y asistencia en su propio hogar, con ayuda preparando comidas, bañándolo o vistiéndolo, o haciendo las tareas de casa.



Averigüe más para ver si usted o su ser querido son elegibles. Visite [MyPlaceCTMFP.org](http://MyPlaceCTMFP.org) hoy.

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Año 22 N° 9 – Hartford, Connecticut - Enero 2022

# Con Fe y Esperanza recibamos el 2022

INAUGURACION DE LA BIBLIOTECA DE LA PARK EN HARTFORD. Manager Graciela Rivera, Alcalde Luke Bronin, Director Justin Dake, Presidente Bridget Quinn y miembro del Board Ana Alfaro

**ENTREVISTAS:**

- MICAELA LEVÉSQUE**  
Plantera y Muralista Colombiana
- LILIAN ARROYO**  
Directora del Departamento de Salud de Hartford
- ANN PALMER**  
Subdirectora de Enfermedades Infecciosas del Hospital de Hartford

## Q1 2022 vs Q1 2021 Social Media





## The Hartford News

December 16 - 22, 2021



### Baby Grand Jazz Announces 2022 Line-up

For almost two decades, the Baby Grand Jazz Series (BGJS) at Hartford Public Library (HPL) has brought local jazz fans up after the post-holiday let-down. BGJS will return on Sunday, January 2 with a performance by Sounds of A&R, A.K.A.S.O.A.R. at 3 pm. After that, concerts will be held at 3 pm every Sunday (except Easter Sunday, April 17) in Downtown Library's Center for Contemporary Culture, 500 Main Street, Hartford.

Last year, the series went virtual due to the pandemic. This year, Baby Grand Jazz Series will be held both IN-PERSON with very limited capacity and VIRTUALLY.

**VIRTUAL:** Tune in on HPL's Facebook Page and YouTube channel.  
**IN-PERSON:** Registration is necessary for each performance. Go to [hpl.org](http://hpl.org) to reserve your seat. Due to library COVID policy, our audience is capped at 50 attendees for socially distanced seating in the Center for Contemporary Culture. If our registration list is full, please sign up for our wait list and you will be contacted if we have cancellations. If you are registered and no longer attend, please let us know. We will be checking names at the door at each performance. Masks are required inside Hartford Public Library buildings.

### January Concerts

#### Sunday, January 2: Sounds of A&R, A.K.A.S.O.A.R.

Award-winning duo Sounds of A&R aka S.O.A.R. is the brainchild of vocalists April May Webb and trumpeter Randall Hayward. Partners in music and life, April and Randall have come together creating a distinct sound that fuses aspects of swing, cool, hard bop and avant-garde while creating pure soul and R&B. April May's unique vocal approach draws from a wide range of influences such as Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan and Dinah Washington. She sings with a rustic, warm tone and strong articulation. Randall utilizes the trumpet with great emotional expression. His sound continues to look towards the future, while paying homage to Fats Navarro, Clifford Brown, Clark Terry and Miles Davis.

#### Sunday, January 9: Joshua Bruneau

From a young age, Josh was drawn to different genres of music including classical, big band and after being introduced to the trumpet, jazz. Over the years, Josh has shared the stage with artists such as Harold Mabern, Mike LeDonne, Eric Alexander, Joe Farnsworth, Carl Allen, John Webber, Ken Foner and Larry Willis to name a few. September 2011 brought Josh to the Detroit Jazz festival with another of his great mentors, Curtis Fuller. Early 2013 found Josh traveling with Curtis on his European tour, frequenting jazz clubs in Zurich, Basel, Lausanne and Lucerne Switzerland, Vienna, Paris, Amsterdam and Cologne. In 2014 Josh released his debut album, "Bright Idea" (Celia Cruz) featuring Steve Davis and Ken

Continued on page 4



### Senator Lights Up South Green

For the second year in a row, U.S. Senator Chris Murphy, in partnership with South Park Inc., has organized a holiday light display on South Green (also known as Barnard Park). The lights were on Sunday, December 12, and will remain lit every night during the holiday season. The University of Connecticut's "Crum-Meier Club" supplied music for the event. Over 600 people donated to the effort. Murphy lives around the corner from South Green, on Charter Oak Place (Hart photo)



### Hartford...Once Upon a Time



Automobiles were taking over the roads from horse-drawn carriages by the time this photo of the intersection of Asylum Street (foreground) and Ford Street was taken. Barnard Park is on the right. The buildings in the background were demolished many years ago to make way for a Hilton Hotel. While the hotel stood on the triangular-shaped property for many years and hosted many grand events it too was eventually torn down. The property is now occupied by a surface parking lot. Incidentally, Ford Street was not named after a person but because it originally led to a ford in the Park River which can be glimpsed at night underneath the large tree. (Photo courtesy of the Hartford History Center at the Hartford Public Library)

### NEWS BRIEFS

#### City Toy Give-Away Saturday

The City of Hartford will hold its annual Holiday Toy Give-Away this Saturday, December 18, from 11 am - 2 pm at Hartford City Hall, 550 Main Street, Downtown Hartford. No pre-registration. First come, first served! Children must be present. Masks required. To receive toys, parent or guardian must confirm Hartford address with a driver's license, Municipal or State ID or utility bill.

#### Kamora's Corner Solstice Celebration

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM, Solstice 2021, Sterling Street Sanctuary and Preserve, 75 Sterling Street, Kamora's Cultural Center, 75 Sterling Street, Hartford, will mark the Winter Solstice with a special gathering from 5:17 pm this Saturday, December 18th. Share an intention, burn staff, see other people. Remember, it is darkest before the dawn.

#### Transportation Talk at Mo's Friday

A West End Multimodal Meetup will be held at Mo's Multicultural Restaurant, 25 Whitney Street, Hartford this Friday, December 17, from 7-8am. Let's share our best cold weather commuting tips. How do we handle the wait at the bus stop? What's the best pair of gloves for winter bike commuting? Toy alternatives, do those YakTrax really work?

#### Magick Market Friday

Hartford residents Sarah & Chris Durso will host "Magick Market" from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm this Friday, December 17, at 12 Charter Oak Place, Hartford. Items for sale will have an emphasis on health, healing and alternative crafts. All are welcome.

#### Board Game Night Friday

Friday, December 17 at 7 PM - 10 PM, FREE 20s/30s Game Night in Hartford's Board Game Night will be held this Friday, December 17, at 12 Charter Oak Place, Hartford. Items for sale will have an emphasis on health, healing and alternative crafts. All are welcome.

#### Upcoming COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics

COVID-19 infections are continuing to rise in Connecticut. The best way to protect yourself and those around you is to get vaccinated against the disease, and receive a booster shot if you were vaccinated more than six months ago. This Saturday, December

Continued on page 7

# Hartford Courant

VOLUME CLXXXV

COURANT.COM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2021



People enter the Hartford Public Library to receive a COVID-19 test kit on Thursday. JESSICA HILL PHOTOS/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

While other cities wait for shipment, hundreds line up across Hartford to get free COVID-19 test kits purchased by the city

By Seamus McAvoy  
Hartford Courant

City officials began to hand out thousands of rapid COVID-19 tests in locations across Hartford Thursday morning as municipalities across the rest of Connecticut waited for state-purchased tests to arrive.

Hundreds lined up at the Hartford Public Library hours before distribution of the test kits, which were purchased by the city of Hartford. These test kits are separate from the more than 15,000 Hartford expected to receive from the state.

"It was a surprisingly nice way to spend the morning, because everyone was really nice in line, and the library is doing a great job," said Shane Chase, who waited two hours in line with his wife, Isabel. "I think there's a lot of positivity around, and we're just doing what we need to do," Isabel said.

Turn to Hartford, Page 3



People lined up outside the Hartford Public Library hours before distribution began.

**"This is what can happen if we all work together."**

Thoa Montanez, chief operating officer for the city of Hartford

**BABY GRAND JAZZ**  
at Hartford Public Library

Sponsored by the Korman Foundation

regresando los domingos a partir del 2 de enero

Todos los programas se transmiten virtualmente y con asientos presenciales limitados.

Visite [hplct.org](http://hplct.org) para más información

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1/6/22, 4:42 PM Hartford encourages families to sign up for Child Tax Credit

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## Hartford encourages families to sign up for Child Tax Credit

Child Tax Credit expanded under American Rescue Plan



Hartford Public Library Director of Public Services Marie Jany, City Mayor Luke Bronin and Director Kim Olier with the City of Hartford Department of Family Youth, Children and Recreation stand outside the downtown library branch. Photo credit Daniela Doncel/WTIC.

By Daniela Doncel, WTIC NewsTalk 1030

**HARTFORD, Conn. (WTIC Radio)** - The public library system in Hartford is working with the city to help families take advantage of the new Child Tax Credit expansion.

With the American Rescue Plan increase of the federal Child Tax Credit, eligible families can get up to \$300 per month for ages 0-4 and up to \$200 per month for each child between the ages of 5-17.

<https://www.audacy.com/wtic/newslocal/hartford-encourages-families-to-sign-up-for-child-tax-credit>

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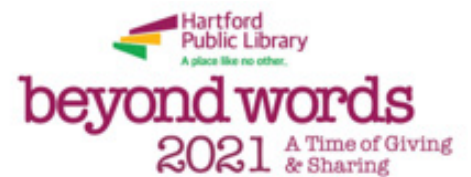


## Board Giving

» We are happy to report that Board giving is at 100% participation for calendar year 2021. We thank our very generous board members!

## Beyond Words 2021

- » Beyond Words welcomed 176 guests on December 9th at the Hartford Marriott Downtown with additional friends watching via live stream online. The total amount raised as of 1/14/2022 is \$254,000. In addition to thanking each and every one of you, we'd love to share some photos featuring a few of our Board Members who helped make the event so special.
- » This year, Beyond Words will be held on Thursday, December 9 from 6-8 p.m. at the Hartford Marriott Downtown. A streaming option is available for those who wish to attend virtually.
- » The evening's program will be a making-of documentary and discussion of the Hartford Public Library film *Thoughts Are Things*. Written and directed by Christopher T. Brown, the film is inspired by his true-life story at the Albany Library.
- » \$125,000 in confirmed Sponsorships
- » Invitations mailed November 12th
- » Website ([hplbeyondwords.com](http://hplbeyondwords.com)) has been upgraded to register people for tickets or tables with immediate confirmations emailed and data going directly into new Bloomerang donor management system. Donors may choose to cover credit card processing fees or make a gift in lieu of participating.



*Albany Library Hub Manager Christopher T. Brown discussed the film he wrote and directed *Thoughts Are Things*, inspired by his true-life story.*



*We thank Dan O'Shea for the Premier event sponsorship from Global Atlantic Financial Group and promotional video on our website: [hplbeyondwords.com](http://hplbeyondwords.com).*



*We thank Andrew Diaz-Matos of CapSpecialty for his amazing contributions to BW21 and also recording a promotional video for our website.*



*We are grateful to Sarah G. Needham of The Hartford for leading the sponsorship committee for BW21.*





» Generous HPL donors have contributed \$18,775 to HPL's Endowment Fund at Hartford Foundation for Public Giving as of 1/14/2022.

## **Corporate and Foundation Relations**

- » Assisted grant writing leads Nancy Wheeler and Ellie Kendall of Community Solutions on U.S. Economic Development Administration grant to support build out of Swift Factory's second floor space. The second floor will be a one-stop comprehensive workforce development, skills training, job placement, and learning center run by HPL. Goodwin University will offer courses in light manufacturing, and Capital Workforce Partners and Capital Community College will create pipelines to post-secondary education for adult learners and provide training to help the under-employed secure better jobs and help the unemployed get back to work. The project aims to serve residents of Hartford and particularly residents of the North Hartford Promise Zone.
- » Working with Board members who have connections with local and regional corporates, identifying areas of synergy and potential advocates on their staff who can help move the relationships forward.
- » Initial internal conversations on strategies to continue support from the Big 3 (The Hartford, CVS/Aetna, and Travelers Insurance) with a second multi-year pledge in 2023.
- » Development of a series of one-page promotional handouts that highlight the library's programs in print and digital formats, for distribution to donors and prospects; working with the communications and leadership teams on content and formatting, with a goal of having these complete within the next few months.
- » Prospect Research on local and regional corporates, consolidating information into briefings to help prioritize and build engagement strategies; conducting initial outreach.

Below is a highlight of Human Resources activities for the second quarter:

## **Talent Acquisitions**

9 hires, 8 separations, 5 position changes.

### **NEW HIRES**

- » Michael Martin, *YOUmedia Mentor*
- » Justin Dake, *Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations*
- » Madison Gaucher, *Floating/Substitute Library Asst.*
- » Erna Alic, Program Coordinator, *ELS (English Learner Success)*
- » Catherine Holloman, *Human Resources Generalist*
- » William Kemp, *Community Safety Manager*
- » Tanajhia Cabral, *Human Resources Coordinator*
- » Candyce Smith, *Security Guard*
- » Awilda Saez, *Maintainer I*

### **SEPARATIONS**

- » Harry Hardy, *Security Guard*
- » Kaitlin Clark, *Digital Learning Lab Manager*
- » Leah Early, *Digital Library Lab Project Manager*
- » Catherine Holloman, *Human Resources Generalist*
- » Heather Gomes, *Human Resources Associate*
- » Joseph Cardinale, *Immigration Counselor*
- » Jennifer Shakshober, *Librarian Trainee*
- » Candyce Smith, *Security Guard*

### **NEW POSITIONS**

- » Tiffany Cooper, *Accountant*
- » Victoria Palmatier, *Teen Service Librarian*
- » Juanita Montalvo, *Library Assistant G-III*
- » Ivelisse Ortiz, *IT Business Analyst*
- » Gabriela Pagan, *Library Assistant G-III*

## **Human Resource Administration**

- » Pre-employment screenings—44
- » Payroll Actions—97
- » Medical Leaves—10

### **STAFF ENGAGEMENT & WELLNESS INITIATIVE**

- » Jackpot Weight Loss Challenge
- » Alzheimer's Association Virtual Workshop
- » On-Site Flu Clinics

## PROGRAMS 2nd QUARTER October - December 2021

Downtown	FY 2020-2021			FY 2021-2022		
	Programs	Attendance	Views	Programs	Attendance	Views
American Place	159	1,891	0	265	2,216	0
Finance	0	0	0	5	274	0
Hartford History Center	3	78	268	13	368	0
Programming	24	375	7,454	33	403	0
YOUmedia	106	336	291	107	367	140
Youth Department	62	798	3,303	65	1,170	717
<b>Totals</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>3,478</b>	<b>11,316</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>4,798</b>	<b>857</b>

Branches	Programs	Attendance	Views	Programs	Attendance	Views
Albany Adult	0	0	0	4	35	30
Albany Youth/Teens	23	103	469	25	278	0
Barbour Adult	4	99	0	5	48	0
Barbour Youth	34	255	1,318	26	224	104
Camp Field Adult	6	48	0	7	43	0
Camp Field Youth	52	1,029	540	26	208	273
Dwight Adult	2	9	0	18	159	0
Dwight Youth	45	548	1,137	51	719	0
Park Adult	11	113	0	24	1,089	0
Park Youth	7	15	2,481	43	818	929
Ropkins Adult	5	42	0	11	86	86
Ropkins Youth	47	443	2,454	52	512	1,215
Library on Wheels	0	0	0	4	50	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>2,704</b>	<b>8,399</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>4,269</b>	<b>2,637</b>

Pilot & Other Programs	Programs	Attendance	Views	Programs	Attendance	Views
Rawson	0	0	0	8	171	0
Boundless @ HPHS*	37	134	0	52	510	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>0</b>

## HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY 2nd Quarter Programming Totals

	FY 2020-2021	FY 2021-2022
Virtual + Onsite Programs	627	844
Live Virtual + Onsite Attendance	6,316	9,748
Recorded Program Views	19,715	3,494

\*Hartford Public High School

## VISITS SYSTEMWIDE 2nd Quarter

# 46,495