



**Hartford
Public Library**

A place like no other.


**ANNUAL REPORT
2020**

STATE OF THE LIBRARY

2020 was a year like no other. And while we have faced challenges, Hartford Public Library has shown why it is a place like no other—adapting to ensure that we were here for our community, both remotely and in-person as safely and as quickly as possible.

We were able to do this because we are dedicated to service. Our incredible, creative staff immediately found new ways to connect with our customers and with each other, to provide information and continue services. We are committed to finding the path to yes—we don't let challenges stop us short or prevent us from finding a work-around to continue the work we do. The health and safety of our employees and community comes first—and after ensuring we had strong (and ever-adapting) safety protocols in place, HPL staff was able to find the path to restoring services, and even creating new ones!

That is what makes HPL a place like no other—we find a way. We are resilient, flexible and ready to shift if and when we need to. We're all ready to be back to whatever will be normal post-COVID. But until then, HPL will continue to make sure we get to yes, continue to adapt and continue to serve.



Bridget Quinn-Carey, President and CEO
Gregory Davis, President, Chair, Board of Directors



Cover: “Watch My Back” by Master Quilter Linda Martin is photographed in HPL’s new Digital Library Lab. Please see back cover for quilt details.

“Hartford Public Library is one of our city’s most important and effective organizations, providing access to quality resources and services to every resident who needs it. I am extremely proud of our library, which is a bold, progressive institution and a changemaker in our capital region.”

Mayor Luke A. Bronin

2019-2020
AT A GLANCE

TOTAL CIRCULATION (INCLUDING E-BOOKS)

198,418

TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS

571,082

ONSITE PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

56,893

REFERENCE QUESTIONS ANSWERED

65,473

DATABASES ACCESSED

34,087



Top Titles for 2019-2020

ADULT BOOKS & ADULT EBOOKS

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

YOUTH BOOKS

Dog Man
by Dav Pilkey

TEEN BOOKS

Black Bird
by Kanoko Sakurakōji

ADULT MOVIES

Game of Thrones

YOUTH EBOOKS

Pug by Ethan Long

TEEN DVDS

The Hate U Give

ADULT MUSIC

Billboard Top Hits,
1980-84

YOUTH DVDS

Paw Patrol

TEEN MUSIC DOWNLOADS

LSD featuring Sia,
Diplo, and Labrinth

ADULT "LIBRARY OF THINGS"

Sewing Machines

YOUTH "LIBRARY OF THINGS"

Toy House Kit

ADULT STREAMING TITLES

My Life Is Murder

YOUTH STREAMING TITLES

*Don't Let the Pigeon
Drive the Bus*

WHERE WE WORK

DOWNTOWN

500 Main Street, Hartford,
CT 06103
860-695-6300
Mon-Thurs: 9:30am-8pm
Fri & Sat: 9:30am to 5pm;
Sun: 1-5pm
(Sundays: 1-5pm,
November-April only)

ALBANY

1250 Albany Avenue,
Hartford, CT 06112
860-695-7380
Mon & Wed: 10am-8pm /
Tues & Thurs: 10am-6pm
Fri & Sat: 10am-5pm

BARBOUR

261 Barbour Street,
Hartford, CT 06120
860-695-7400
Mon & Wed: 10am-6pm /
Tues-Thurs: 10am-8pm
Fri: 10am-5pm

CAMP FIELD

30 Campfield Avenue,
Hartford, CT 06114
860-695-7440
Mon & Wed: 10am-6pm
Tues & Thurs: 10am-8pm
Fri: 10am-5pm

DWIGHT

7 New Park Avenue,
Hartford, CT 06106
860-695-7460
Mon & Wed: 10am-6pm
Tues & Thurs: 10am-8pm
Fri: 10am-5pm

PARK

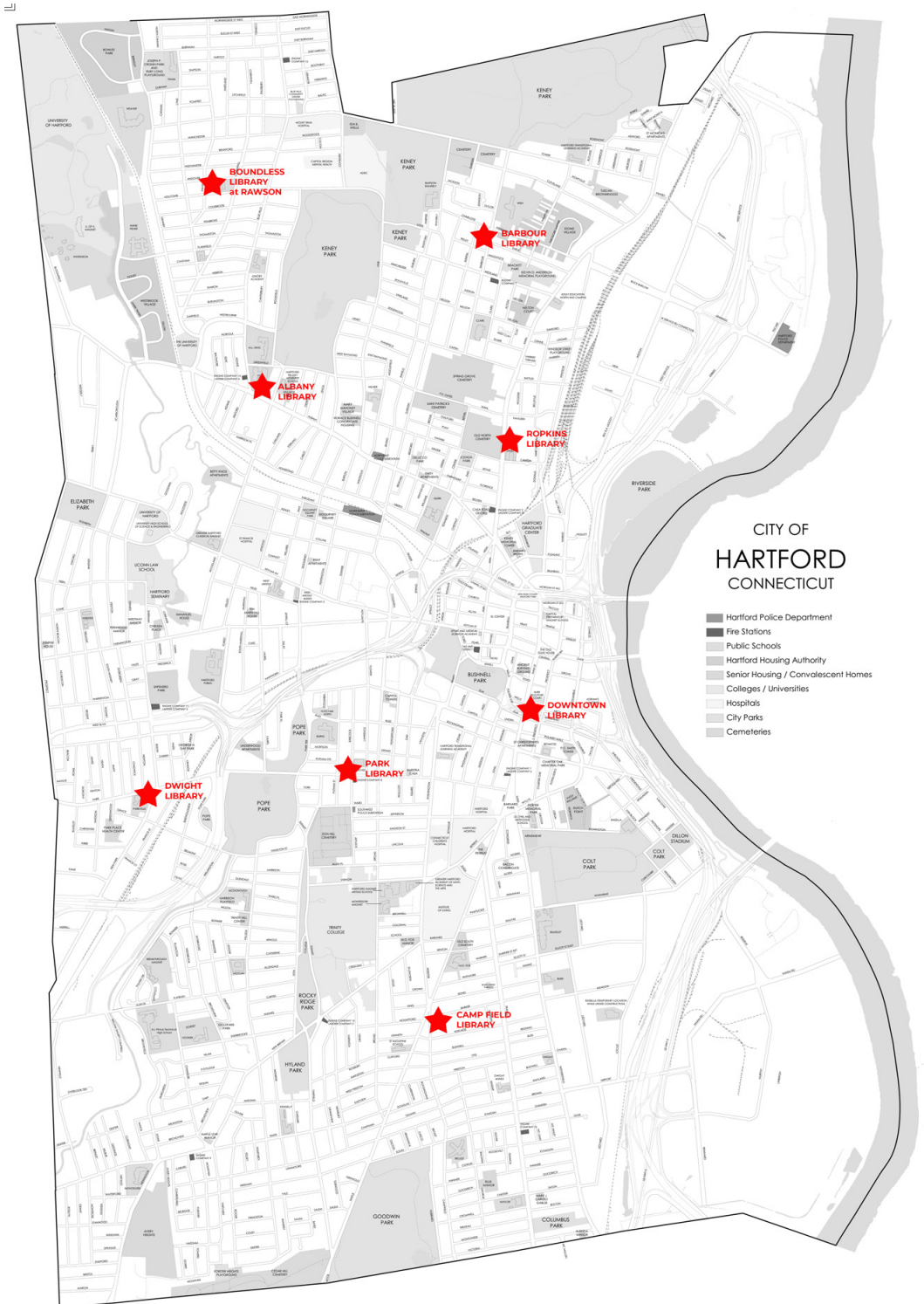
744 Park Street, Hartford,
CT 06106
860-695-7500
Mon & Wed: 10am-8pm
Tues & Thurs: 10am-6pm
Fri: 10am-5pm; Sat:
10am-5pm

SAND/ROPKINS

1750 Main Street,
Hartford, CT 06120
860-695-7520
Mon, Wed & Thurs: 3-6pm
Tues: 1:30pm-6 pm

BOUNDLESS AT RAWSON SCHOOL

260 Holcomb Street,
Hartford, CT 06112
860-695-7481
Tues & Thurs: 3-6pm



*Due to state-mandated COVID19 closing protocol,
Hartford Public Library closed its physical locations to
the public from March 13 - June 30, 2020.*

LEADERSHIP

Bridget Quinn-Carey
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mary T. Tzambazakis
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Leticia Cotto
CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE OFFICER

Marie Jarry
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICES

Brenda Miller
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CULTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS

Homa Naficy
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE AMERICAN PLACE

Gilda Roncari
DIRECTOR OF DONOR RELATIONS

Diana Smith
DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

HPL BOARD MEMBERS

2019-2020

Gregory C. Davis, *Chair*
David Barrett, *Vice Chair*
Ana Alfaro, *Secretary*
Rick Costello, *Treasurer*
Arunan Arulampalam
Melvyn Colón
Andréa Comer
Andrew Diaz-Matos
Floyd W. Green, III
Steve Harris
Sara Lashetski
Antonio J. Matta
Daniel P. O'Shea
Mark Overmyer-Velázquez
Beth Papermaster
Phyllis Shikora
Geraldine P. Sullivan
Karen Taylor

Bridget Quinn-Carey, *President & CEO*

Hon. Luke A. Bronin, Mayor, *Ex-Officio*

The library is an arena of possibility, opening both a window into the soul and a door onto the world.

—Rita Dove, former U.S. Poet Laureate



UCONN
LIBRARY

Lost in Color:
Erik Williams,
Book from Vision

LOST IN COLOR
ERIK WILLIAMS
BOOK FROM VISION

DURING THE COVID₁₉ CLOSURE, MARCH–JUNE 2020

Our physical locations were closed to the public on March 13, 2020, but we were ...

- Using our Library on Wheels to bring library resources and Wi-Fi to transitional and assisted living spaces throughout the city.
- Delivering Wi-Fi hot spots loaded with our Pop-Up Library.
- Extending the period of all library loans and waiving all fines.
- Answering your questions via phone and e-mail.
- Adding additional online resources, including the most up to date data on COVID₁₉, information for people experiencing homelessness, and help for recent immigrants, and adult learners.
- Increasing our already vast catalogue of online digital resources. Our collection includes eBooks, newspapers, magazines, music, movies, television and more. All available from the comfort of home to stream or download with a library card.
- Utilizing our social media platforms to extend our programming and reach our community directly during this challenging time.
- Maintaining the role of the library as a place where everyone can obtain content for learning & enjoyment, as well as for trusted information and valuable resources.

When you could not come to
Hartford Public Library,
we brought our innovative local programming to you...

In late March, our children's department created a daily online children's show with stories in English and Spanish, fun crafts, and STEM activities.

On April 5, we launched daily online programming for adults, featuring local author talks, topics on health & wellness, arts & crafts, home improvement, music, and much more.

Online programming was accessible via our Social Media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter). HPL has great reach and engagement through Facebook and our virtual programming performed very well. HPL's Instagram channel also experienced a notable surge in growth and engagement since launching our online programming on the IGTV platform.

The American Place continued to improve people's lives...

- » Ramped up technology and wellness checks
- » Moved ESL, citizenship, and food service industry classes online
- » Continued to help with citizenship applications



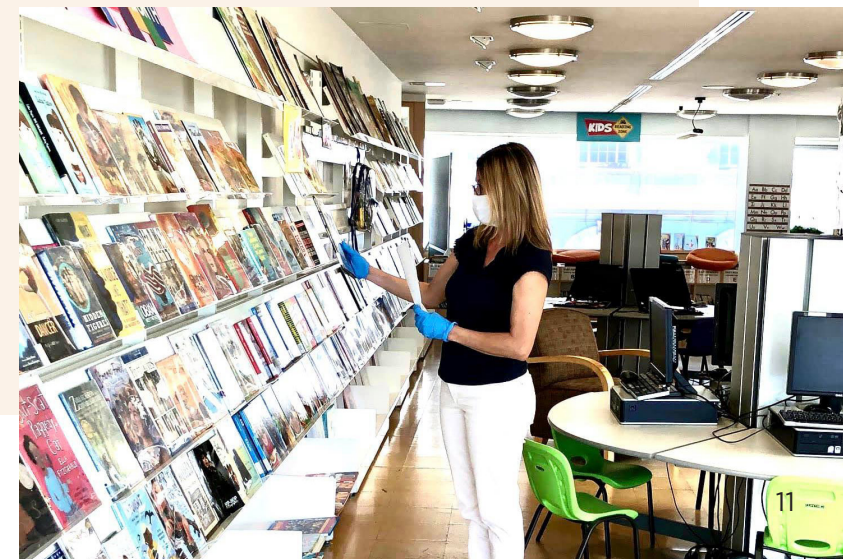
We kept building and innovating...

- » The Hartford Public Library's new social enterprise, the Digital Library Lab (DLL), completed its first customer-based project on schedule – digitizing and describing over 200 images for the Hartford Public High School Museum.
- » Park Library construction moved forward on schedule



And, we found other ways to help ...

- » Using our 3D printers to make mask adapters for UConn Health
- » Distributing free children's books to each of Hartford's 14 food distribution centers



We continued to show that Hartford Public Library is a place for all.



YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

Learning at HPL goes beyond books. Learning comes through cultural festivals like this winter's popular Diwali and Kwanzaa festivals, resource fairs, and "Take Your Child To The Library Day." It comes through HPL's robust Summer Learn programming that engaged 364 participants in the FY20 who together read a total of 2,009 books.

It comes from partnerships with organizations like the Connecticut Children's Museum, the Connecticut Science Center and the Connecticut Children's Medical Center, partnerships that made possible STEM workshops and other literacy programming. HPL's 2019 Summer Camp enrichment program spread to over 30 camps throughout the city, giving help with everything from double-dutch to STEM activities.

Through its Youth and Family Services, the Library offered bilingual storytimes at daycares to help promote early literacy as well as provide storytimes in city parks, serving the community in public places outside Library walls.

And, knowing that a full stomach leads to a healthy mind, the Library, in partnership with Hartford Public Schools, served 4,500 free lunches at all HPL locations.

During the challenging 4th quarter when the Library closed its physical locations due to the COVID19 pandemic, the Youth Services Team continued to learn and grow to meet the needs of Hartford's children and families. The department immediately pivoted to virtual programming which resulted in a 63-day period in April, May, and June when the Library was able to provide 57 programs with 28,224 online views.



YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES SPOTLIGHT

Boundless / First Book

In October 2019, Hartford Public Library was awarded a \$40,000 grant in book credits from First Book as part of its OMG Books Awards: Offering More Great Books to Spark Innovation. This generous award enabled the Library, in partnership with Hartford Public Schools, to distribute more than 24,000 books to Hartford school children through the Library's Boundless @ Home Project.

Kick-off parties were held in December at all branch locations with over 1,000 books given away. Ninety percent of the grant was distributed through classroom teachers from eight of the City's Boundless partner schools.

When the library closed due to COVID19, HPL Children's Librarian Denise Martens' home became the staging area for First Book. Once the books were packed, Youth and Family Services staff picked the books up and brought them around the city.

Hartford has what has been described as a "book desert"—a large section of the city where books are rare in the home and access to purchasing them is extremely limited. Children make the majority of their neurological connections through the age of three. Without a rich vocabulary that can only be augmented through engagement with print, children from low-income families face another disadvantage. "There are all kinds of studies that show that kids who have access to books have better outcomes in school," Denise Martens, System-wide Manager Youth and Family Services, said. "Our hope is to put books in the homes, giving kids the opportunity to be in more interactive-rich environments."





YOUMEDIA AND TEEN SERVICES

In FY20, Katherine Trouern-Trend, youth services librarian at the Camp Field Library, was a leader on the Teen Media News Literacy project. Along with YOUmedia Coordinator Nygel White, Katherine trained a new group of YOUmedia interns to lead peer media making and learning opportunities based on the Learn 2 Discern curriculum.

At the Dwight Library, youth librarian trainee Rubina Hamid partnered with Real Art Ways to do a series of teen poetry workshops throughout the winter.

YOUmedia mentor Eli Williams organized the return of the popular Producer Showcase, held in the Center for Contemporary Culture in February. Over 40 participants attended which showcased teens' engineered instrumentals and music.

Teen Librarian Eric Ong piloted the inaugural Madden NFL Esports League on console this past winter at the Albany Library. Twelve teens competed weekly for a chance to play in the playoffs and ultimately win an official personalized jersey and bragging rights. The success of this pilot encouraged the expansion of Esports at Albany. The program encourages teens to go to school and be a good citizen while attending. The gaming program will serve about 50 students.

YOUmedia shifted in the last quarter to focus on stream heavy programming. Teen Services launched its new Twitch channel and virtual programming was created and streamed on Instagram Live. Virtual programs included music production, photo editing, collage making, type design, and cover art design.

SPOTLIGHT: YOU MEDIA / HARTFORD HISTORY CENTER

On February 19, “Hartford Riots: A Conversation Between Generations,” program was produced collaboratively between the Hartford History Center’s Education and Community Outreach Manager, Jasmin Agosto, and YOUmedia’s Program Coordinator, Nygel White.

The program’s purpose was to inform the younger generations and community members of Hartford’s Upper Albany and Clay Arsenal communities about the history of injustice, unrest, and activism that took place in the city’s North End during the 1960s.

The program was part of a series planned as a way to deepen the community’s understanding of the exhibit “Hartford ‘67 / Detroit ‘67”, which was produced by Hartford Stage in collaboration with HPL’s Hartford History Center. The Hartford photos featured were from the Hartford History Center’s *Hartford Times* collection.

During the February 2020 program, teens from YOUmedia moderated the discussion, showing historic 1969 Hartford video clips from the Butch Lewis Collection, which is held in the Hartford History Center and available online 24/7 through the Connecticut Digital Archive.

Attendee feedback included, “Great program, it reinforced the importance of cross generational dialogue.” “The program was excellent. I learned about Hartford in the early years.” “Hearing from North End elders left a real impression on me, and I couldn’t stop thinking about the program for the rest of the night.” Leslie Mayes of NBC-CT also attended the event, covering the story in a segment on the 11 o’clock news that evening.





ADULT PROGRAMMING

FY20 was rich in community programming. With National Endowment for the Arts funds, HPL presented its Big Read author event with Stephanie Burt: Advice from the Lights and performances from Robin Fierce, Hartford Poet Laureate Frederick Douglass Knowles, a photography exhibit “They/Them,” by Michael Elder, and “Drag Queen Story Hour,” an open and inclusive story time for all.

During this fiscal year, art workshops included “Paint the City,” a “Bag Share Sewing Circle” series, and “Los Felipe,” a creative music project created by Felipe Saray, a performer from Cirque du Soleil.

Film screenings covered topics on the first HIV/AIDS ward unit in the US; the life of Filiberto Ojeda Ríos and the Puerto Rican Independence movement; and Emilio Estevez’s “The Public,” which focused on issues and intersections of homelessness and public libraries.

Partnerships with UConn and University of St. Joseph resulted in “Pang!,” theater pieces about families facing challenges of contemporary working class life in America—from hunger and gun violence to foreclosure and anti-immigration bias.

Partnerships with several Obama Foundation Community Leadership youth groups led to hosting events aimed at distributing coats and winter wear, backpacks, food, and offering free haircuts for housing insecure individuals.

And, the 17th season of Baby Grand Jazz, funded by the Kaman Foundation, saw the largest audiences to date for the first 10 onsite Library concerts. Due to the global COVID19 pandemic, all performances March 15 and after were postponed until November 2020.



SPOTLIGHT: ADULT PROGRAMMING

Virtual Programming April–June 2020

Hartford Public Library brought its innovative and exciting adult programming, featuring local presenters, online. 38 intergenerational virtual programs were held with 36,409 total program views during the COVID19 closure in the 2019-2020 FY.

Library programmers commissioned Hartford artists, healers, authors, and musicians to virtually share their craft with customers. Every weekday, HPL shared a pre-recorded program video on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. At a time when Hartford was first under quarantine with much uncertainty, HPL customers saw familiar Hartford faces leading Library programming. Customers shared, interacted, and posted their own work made from attending the program.

Program offerings included:

ART INSIDE: Every Monday, programs featured arts and crafts to try at home—from making origami cubes to painting a still life scene in your kitchen.

READS FROM THE HART: Every Tuesday, local authors read their work—from poetry performance to sharing memoirs.

WELLNESS WEDNESDAY: Each Wednesday featured programs for being your healthiest and best you—from sound healing to zumba.

HOME HACKS: Every Thursday, cooking, gardening and more—from Top 3 Houseplants for Beginners to Tortillas Caseras/ Homemade Tortillas.

FRIDAY JAMS: Each Friday featured local musicians— from conga drums 101 to soul music performance.

SUMMER LEARNING KICKOFF: FriendZ World Music kicked off Summer Adventures 2020, virtually!



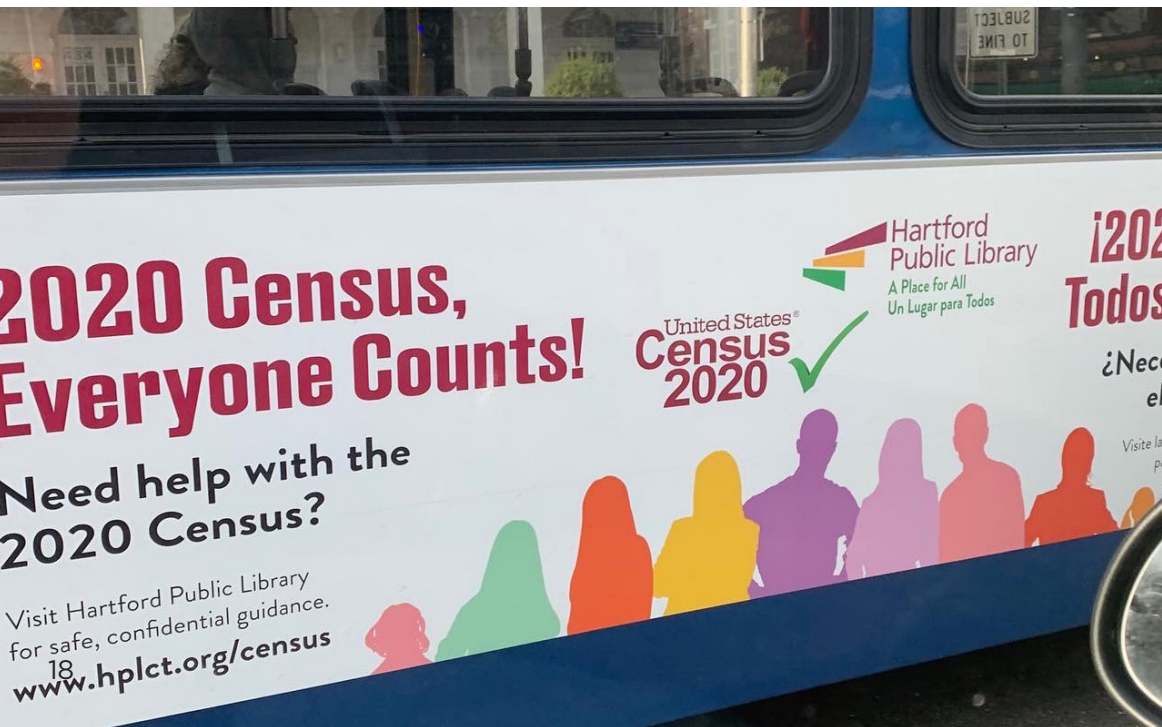


TECHNICAL SERVICES

Last year, the Library's Technical Services launched the RFID Self-Checkout in all locations. The Self-Checkout Stations reached 20 percent of overall circulation in the first two months. In spring 2020, the U.S. Census, through its program "Ideas that Count" recognized HPL for its creative use of the self-check machines to promote census participation.

The HPL App was used thousands of times throughout the year to view e-book titles and to download e-books and e-audiobooks. Most users used the app to look up titles, gather information about their account, and place holds on both physical and digital materials. Other main uses included viewing the Library's museum passes, reviewing information about HPL's pop-up libraries, and locating the nearest branches. The HPL app, supported in five different languages, allowed customers to access Census and voting information. The app also offered easier access to contact-free checkout pages during the Library's COVID19 closure.

Technical Services expanded access to customers amid COVID19. Over 1,500 new titles were added to the e-Resource collection in the March-June period. Also during this period, the Library's catalog of resources became discoverable through Google searches.



OUTREACH SERVICES

LIBRARY ON WHEELS

The Library on Wheels (LOW) expanded its reach in FY20 and operated as a WiFi Hub and Outreach office during the COVID19 pandemic. LOW staff managed the re-allocation of deaccessioned Library books and set up community collection sites throughout Hartford, where they replenished shelves monthly.

During FY20, the LOW Outreach Team added two additional staff members which allowed the Library to extend its LOW service throughout the city. The LOW staff provided story times and literacy support for afterschool programs in Hartford. They also shared voting registration and Census 2020 information at Foodshare sites and school food distribution locations.

LOW staff collaborated with the North End Senior Center and the Hartford History Center to create a Black History Photography Exhibit featuring prominent iconic leaders from Hartford and the LOW Outreach Team Manager spoke about the role of the public library in the Hartford community during a special program at the senior center.

Additionally, LOW Outreach staff attended the Resettlement/Welcome program for convicted felons who are re-entering the community. Participants received information on HPL programs, resources and free books. LOW Outreach continues to collaborate with local shelters to provide literacy support and reading materials for all guests.

SOCIAL WORK INTERNS

Through Hartford Public Library's partnership with UCONN, HPL hosted 2 interns from the UConn School of Social Work who, together with staff, organized customer socials and separately met with customers to provide assistance ranging from helping customers fulfill housing and food needs to providing brief counseling and referrals to legal services. In a 6-month period, the two interns hosted 6 customer socials with an average of 5 customers at each. Below is the breakdown of their work between September 2019-March 2020.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Assist in State Services | 3 |
| Referral to legal supports | 6 |
| Assistance with Transportation | 2 |
| Referral to housing | 12 |
| Referral to mental health service | 2 |
| Family Support Resources | 1 |
| Educational Services | 3 |
| ID referral | 2 |
| Referral to Library service / program | 3 |
| Assistance w/ Clothing & Furniture | 2 |
| Referral to food | 8 |
| Assist w/ Phone Usage | 5 |
| Referral to Community Resources | 9 |
| Emergency/Transitional Shelters | 7 |
| Brief Counseling | 16 |
| Advocacy | 9 |
| Total Referral | 90 |
| Total Encounters | 63 |



THE AMERICAN PLACE (TAP)

TAP provides industry recognized certificate training, GED preparation services, English as a second language, and a nationally recognized U.S. Citizenship program, supporting immigrants in achieving citizenship and becoming vested citizens.

Last summer, TAP received the Library of Congress 2019 Literacy Award for “Linking Learning, Belonging and Community (LLBC)”, an afterschool program held in partnership with the Hartford Public Schools. Created to assist refugee and immigrant high school students who arrived in the US with minimal English language skills, the LLBC program improves the academic achievements and accelerates the social integration of immigrant and refugee high school students. The program has been successful, with many participants graduating at the top of their class and returning to the library to share their stories.

In the Fall of 2019, TAP received a two-year, \$225,000 grant from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). HPL is the only library and the only Connecticut recipient of a USCIS grant in 2019. Only 41 USCIS grants were issued nationwide. The grants are designed to assist organizations that provide education and assistance to lawful permanent residents (LPRs) seeking to obtain U.S. citizenship.

During the COVID19 closure, TAP’s Crossroads to Connectivity (C2C) initiative grew with the Library taking a two-pronged approach to bridge the digital divide. The first step was the thoughtful distribution of laptops and Wi-Fi hotspots to qualified individuals who are working towards educational and career goals. The second step is training. In October 2020, TAP received grant funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to provide critical digital literacy skills training for Hartford residents.



SPOTLIGHT: THE AMERICAN PLACE

I Love My Librarian

Homa Naficy, executive director of The American Place was selected as a winner of last year's I Love My Librarian Award. Recognized for her leadership in her community and her commitment to transform lives, Homa was one of only 10 librarians in the country to receive this national honor.

"Homa is the consummate librarian—passionate about connecting people with the services and information they need to succeed. Her efforts in Hartford are legendary; she has touched the lives of thousands of people and barely takes a breath before embarking on the next project or program that will undoubtedly help thousands more. We are proud to have Homa as part of the HPL family—we love our Librarian!" said HPL President and CEO Bridget Quinn-Carey.

Homa has developed a partnership with Hartford's United States Citizenship and Immigration Services office and received accreditation by the Bureau of Immigration Affairs to provide legal services to immigrants, the first library in the nation to receive that designation. Through her efforts, the library has made its mark as a cradle of opportunity and a springboard of upward mobility, offering programs that help in the acquisition of English language skills, preparation for employment in the health care and food service industries, completion of GED or high school credentials and the attainment of U.S. citizenship.

In March 2020, Homa was named the first "Hartford Changemaker" by Mayor Luke Bronin for her work leading The American Place.





Hartford History Center (HHC)

Hartford History Center, in partnership with Connecticut's Old State House, Real Art Ways, Capitol Community College, and local historians, created an outdoor event commemorating the 200th anniversary of Faith Congregational Church, whose lineage includes the city's oldest African-American congregation established in 1819. The anniversary event was held on the site of the original Talcott Street Congregational Church, home to that early Black congregation.



From August through September, the HHC hosted the annual Hartford Artisan Weavers exhibition in the glass cases outside the Center's doors, celebrating artisans aged 55+, many with limited or no vision. Inside the research room, dolls from HPL's institutional archive, the Caroline M. Hewins Collection and children's books from the Hewins Collection were on display throughout the fall.

Numerous high school and college classes visited the Center for in-depth discussions on HHC resources. In partnership with Hartford Stage, the HHC prepared an exhibit on neighborhood life of the Puerto Rican community in Hartford during the 1950s, '60s and '70s. The exhibit complemented the production "Pike St.," written and performed by Nilaja Sun, on three generations of a Puerto Rican family living in New York's Lower East Side.



The HHC awarded the Outstanding Entry Related to Hartford History prize at the Connecticut History Day competition to JungJoo Kim for her project, "Breaking Barriers in Deaf Education: Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet." And, last winter, the HHC received the Municipal Excellence Award from the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities for its strong partnership between the City of Hartford and the Library in ensuring preservation of and access to information, public records, and historical archives. This is a core tenant of HHC's mission and also drives the mission of the new Digital Library Lab.

SPOTLIGHT: HARTFORD HISTORY CENTER

From Civil Rights to Human Rights: African American, West Indian, and Puerto Rican Housing Struggles, 1940-2019

The Hartford History Center partnered with UConn Professor Fiona Vernal to produce the exhibit, “From Civil Rights to Human Rights: African American, West Indian, and Puerto Rican Housing Struggles, 1940–2019,” which featured photographs and student research from the Library’s Hartford Times and Hartford Housing Authority collections. The exhibit was funded by the Connecticut Humanities Council. In addition to informational panels on the general history of migration, settlement and housing policy in the post World War II period, the exhibit included a large section on the current “No More Slum Lords” movement.

The kickoff program, which featured contemporary Hartford tenant rights activists and public housing leaders, attracted over 125 attendees. Community members were invited to be a part of the exhibition by donating an artifact that was conversant with the theme of housing and economic mobility in the Greater Hartford Region. Artifacts on display included the uniforms and stories of retired Captain Steve Harris (Hartford Fire Department) and retired Chief Charles Teale (HFD); and the business sign of Sedrick Rawlins, DDS from one of the earliest African American dentists in the Greater Hartford area who shared his story of encounters with racial discrimination.

Additionally, scrapbooks and artifacts from longtime Hartford resident Willie Mann’s personal collection were also on display. These materials told the story of his family coming from Georgia and South Carolina, making Hartford home in the late 1940s, his father’s barbershop business, his growing up in Charter Oak Terrace and going to Hartford Public Schools, his schooling and extracurricular activities, and coming back to Hartford to build homes and teach at his high school alma mater, Bulkeley High School.

HHC staff created an accompanying bibliography to share with those interested in further research.





THE ARTWALK

The 2019-20 ArtWalk Gallery series displayed beautiful work that asked hard questions, explored old art in new ways, and reminded us of home.

Ed Johnetta Miller's exhibit, "Among Friends," was a retrospective of her life's work with a focus on pieces that spoke to her close ties to the Hartford community. Ed Johnetta Miller is known as an improvisational quiltmaker, and her creative and colorful approach was reflected in her exhibit.

Sarah Schneiderman mirrored the chaos and uncertainty of modern American politics in the materials she chose for her exhibit "You're Fired! I Quit!" Schneiderman's portraits of political figures look orderly from a distance. When viewing them up close, you see that the portraits are made of debris found on streets and generated through daily living.

Alexandra Wahl's "Quilts in a New Light" incorporated light into her quilt designs, bringing a surprising element to a traditional and ordered art form. Fabric and light combined to create the effect of stained glass.

Erik Williams' show of black and white photographs documenting Hartford's streetscapes and personalities was postponed due to the COVID19 state-mandated closure in March. The ArtWalk will show the artist in the 2021-2022 ArtWalk season.



PARK LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION

Construction of the new Park Library began last winter, and a celebratory beam signing was held in June.

Mayor Luke Bronin, HPL President and CEO Bridget Quinn-Carey, HPL board members and local activists left their own imprint, signing a second-floor support beam to commemorate a new phase of the project. The new Park Library is scheduled to open in the summer of 2021.

The new 13,000 square foot facility at the corner of Park and Broad streets will replace the current 2,500 square foot storefront on Park Street. The Library will have a café, learning lab, community room, and a shared space for stacks, reading, and expanded adult, children and teen space.

Graciela Rivera, manager of the Park Library, grew up in the neighborhood and has watched the branch change over the years. “This is a beacon of hope for the neighborhood, something they can really be proud of,” Graciela said when she signed the beam.



2019-20 AWARDS

2019: LITERACY AWARD, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The American Place

2019: BANK OF AMERICA, NEIGHBORHOOD BUILDERS AWARD

HPL's Digital Library Lab

2019: AWARD OF MERIT, CONNECTICUT LEAGUE OF HISTORY ORGANIZATIONS

HipHop Archive, Hartford History Center

2019: AWARD OF MERIT, CONNECTICUT LEAGUE OF HISTORY ORGANIZATIONS

In the Grand Tradition, The Enduring Art of Elbert Weinberg, Hartford History Center

2019: CLA SUPPORT STAFF PERSON OF THE YEAR

Elizabeth Davis

2019: NAMED TO MAYOR'S CABINET FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Marie Jarry

2019: SALMA KHATOON FARID AWARD

Nancy Caddigan

2019: NAMED TO THE HARTFORD 400 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Jasmin Agosto

2019: 30 WOMEN OF DISTINCTION, HARTFORD MAGAZINE

Bridget Quinn-Carey

2019: AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION'S I LOVE MY LIBRARIAN AWARD

Homa Naficy

2019: MUNICIPAL EXCELLENCE AWARD "ACCESS TO ARCHIVES: PROVIDING ACCESS TO RICH HISTORICAL PUBLIC DOCUMENTS"

Hartford History Center

2020: NAMED TO THE NORTHEAST DOCUMENT CONSERVATION CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Brenda Miller

2020: CLA PUBLICITY AWARD, HONORABLE MENTION

Summer 2019 HPL Magazine

2020: HARTFORD STAGE'S INAUGURAL INSPIRATION AWARD

the HPL/Hartford Stage partnership

2020: HARTFORD BUSINESS JOURNAL'S 2020 WOMEN IN BUSINESS AWARD

Bridget Quinn-Carey

2020: U.S. CENSUS, IDEAS THAT COUNT

Recognition of HPL's use of the self-check machines to promote census participation

2020: CITY OF HARTFORD'S HARTFORD CHANGEMAKER AWARD

Homa Naficy

HPL HUMAN RESOURCES

Hartford Public Library operates under a philosophy of continuous improvement. Whether the focus is services, collections, employee relations, community engagement or internal operations, HPL invests time and resources to ensure that the Board and its employees are informed, well trained, and following best practices.

In FY20, the Board of Directors completed a complete review and update of the organizational Bylaws, which was the culminating result of a three-month Board governance training initiative. This training program focused on developing and maintaining good governance practices, ensuring appropriate policy, oversight, fundraising, and succession planning and community engagement.

Throughout the year, the Library actively trained staff in Trauma Informed Practice (TIP). HPL serves a community that includes people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity, documented and undocumented immigrants, refugees, people with mental illness and others who have experienced trauma associated with these and other issues including health conditions, poverty, or unemployment. TIP is critical and appropriate training necessary to support Library customers and staff—thoughtfully and professionally.

Each year, HPL takes one day to focus on staff development and closes the system down for Staff Day. The last two years have focused primarily on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion workshops and staff engagement training. The Library's EDI efforts span the entire organization from programming to staff training to HR recruitment and retention practices.

The strength of Hartford Public Library is its people—HPL has an amazing team who are creative, dedicated and committed to the Hartford community.





Many thanks to Aetna/CVS, The Hartford, and Travelers for their multi-year pledge to support the City of Hartford and HPL. Pictured L-R Bridget Quinn-Carey, HPL President & CEO, Luke Bronin, Mayor of Hartford, Andy Bessette, Executive VP and CAO at Travelers, David Robinson, Executive VP and General Counsel at The Hartford, and Floyd W. Green III, VP and Head of CALM at Aetna/CVS.

Hartford Public Library Thanks You, Our Donors

July 1, 2019–June 30, 2020

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Thank you to Bradley Harper, an attorney who practices immigration law at Shipman & Goodwin, LLP. Bradley has been donating his skill and knowledge to HPL's Naturalization program since 2018. In addition to meeting and advising clients on their immigration process, Bradley also helped The American Place develop a pro bono partnership with Shipman & Goodwin, which led to over 250 volunteer hours since February 2019.

Bradley stated “[The American Place] is very special to me ... I believe in its mission and believe that now, more than ever, our community should stand behind our neighbors who are immigrants.”

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Marie Denise Voltaire
Sally Whipple
Carole Williams
Raymond & Sarah Winter
Ruth Yancovich

Tributes

IN HONOR OF

African American Literature Club
ArtWalk
Black Lives Matter
Teresa Chavez and Cesareo Hernandez
Arlo Dulle
The Mandell-Braunstein Family
Elizabeth Freedman & Trey McPherson
Hearthstone Apartment Tenants
HPL Staff (2)
Hannah Hughes and Trevor Ngo (2)
The Kaminski Family
Judith Keppelman
Tai Soo Kim (5)
Nancy Macy (2)
Brenda Miller
Dan & Angie O'Shea
Bridget Quinn-Carey
Belle Ribicoff
Gilda Roncari
Phyllis Shikora
Adrienne Snair-Trothier
Robyne Watkin-Anson

IN MEMORY OF

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Mary J. DeVine
Michael D'Italia (7)
Aracelly Garay
Stephen B. Goddard (45)
Sarah Haskett Green
Mimi Lynch (4)
Kenneth A. McClen
Dorothy Moskey (5)
Hilda Iris Negrón
Elizabeth Brad Noel
Sharon R. O'Meara (2)
Amy B. Robinson (2)
Dr. Edwin Vargas Santana
Robert & Harriet Weinerman
Henry Yancovich

BABY GRAND JAZZ

\$1,404

IN-KIND GIFTS

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Sandra Bender Fromson &
Howard Fromson

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Beth & Daniel Papermaster
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FUNDS

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Adelaide Stoughton Fund

We strive to recognize our donors accurately and in accordance with individual preferences.
Please inform our Director of Donor Relations at groncari@hplct.org of any errors and accept our apologies for any oversight.

† Deceased



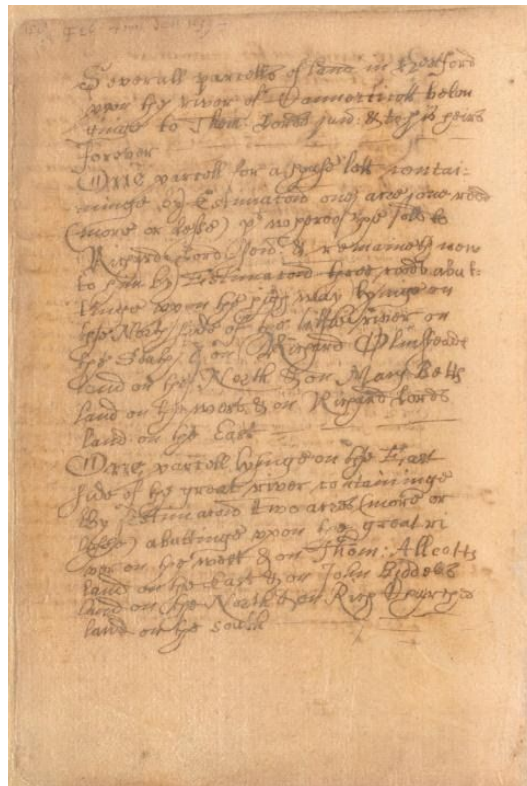
Through the support of our community and our generous donors, we successfully launched the Digital Library Lab earlier this year. Even in the midst of the pandemic, we've been able to move forward with the implementation of this exciting and important project. Here are some highlights of our work:

- » The DLL@HPL has a new logo! Hartford graphic artist and HPL corporator John Alves created the logo this spring (see image on left).
- » The DLL@HPL finished its first job on schedule this spring!
- » Leah Early joined the Library as the Digital Library Lab Project Manager.
- » The DLL@HPL website is in the works and will launch this winter.
- » This September, the DLL@HPL will have an automated 35 mm slide scan installed and will be accepting jobs to digitally capture large slide collections.

A sincere thank you to our generous DLL investors!

Bank of America —
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 J. Walton Bissell Foundation, Inc.
 Barry N. Lastra
 Brenda J. Miller
 Gerri and Timothy Sullivan
 Nancy Wheeler and Tom Willits



*Thank you to all who helped make
Beyond Words 2019 a success!*

**Honorary chairs
Joyce and Andy Mandell**

**BW 19 co-chairs
Cate D'Italia & Beth Papermaster**

**The Beyond Words Committee
& Table Captains**

*Over 460 people attended Beyond Words event on Wednesday,
November 20! We are pleased to announce that we successfully
raised over \$220,000 (net).*



Photos, top to bottom: Featured author Reyna Grande; 2019 Caroline M. Hewins Medalist Tai Soo Kim with HPL Board Chair Greg Davis and HPL President & CEO Bridget Quinn-Carey; Beyond Words Committee Member Meryl Braunstein with her mother, Beyond Words Honorary Chair Joyce Mandell; Members of YOUmedia and HPL's English Language Learners program with Mayor Luke Bronin

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 Mary Coursey
 Mally Cox-Chapman
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 Keith Victoria Darby
 Jennifer DiBella

Catherine D'Italia
 Anne Melissa Dowling
 Judy Dworin
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 Ruth Fitzgerald
 Jerry Franklin
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 Brian Gallagher
 Cate Grady-Benson
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 Constance Belton Green
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*2019 Corporator of
 Distinction Charles
 Teale with HPL Board
 Member Steve Harris and
 HPL President & CEO
 Bridget Quinn-Carey*

FINANCIALS

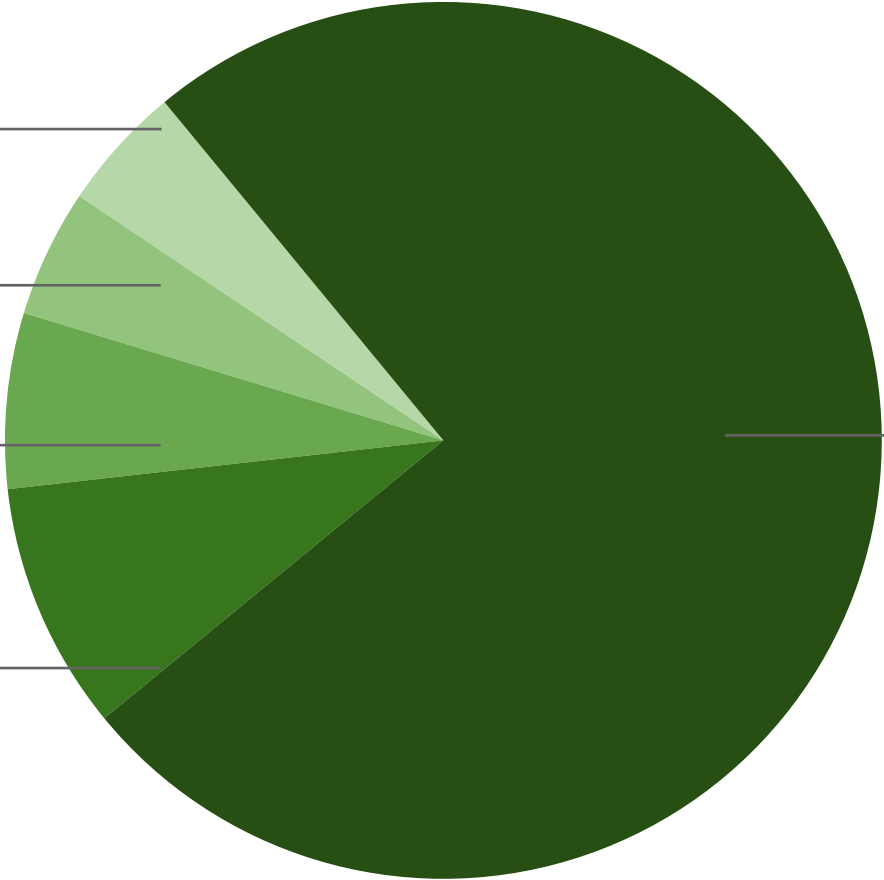
REVENUE

GIFTS
515,000

FEES INCOME
505,246

ENDOWMENT
706,843

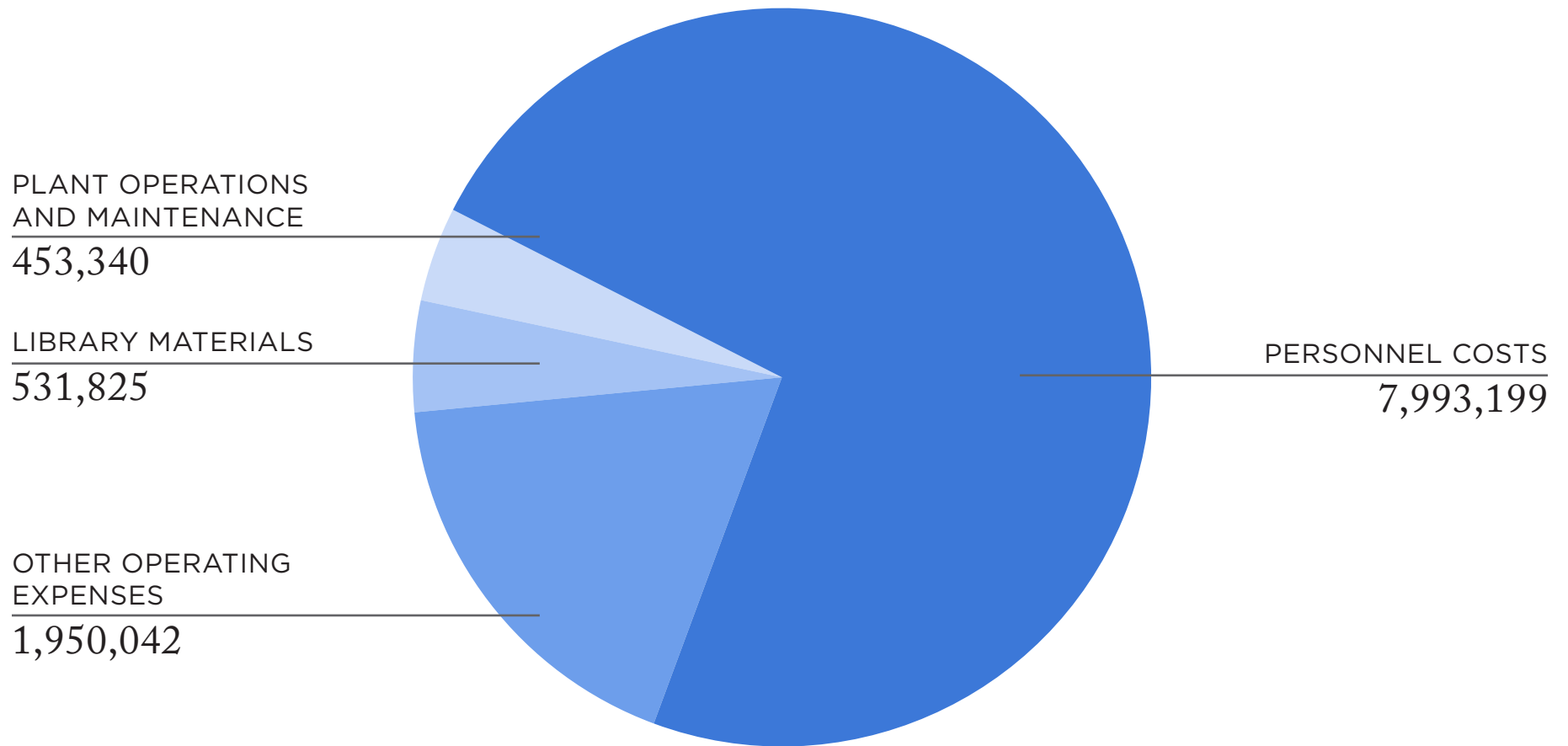
GRANTS
1,000,000



CITY CONTRIBUTION
8,201,317

TOTAL REVENUE 10,928,406

EXPENSE



TOTAL EXPENSE 10,928,406

FY20—STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

| | FY20* | FY19 |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Cash | 1,280,815 | 829,870 |
| Investments | 18,378,303 | 17,494,720 |
| Accounts Receivable | 1,421,543 | 652,851 |
| Contributions Receivable | 474,691 | 280,942 |
| Prepaid Expenses | 93,222 | 129,931 |
| Property and Equipment, net | 8,733,154 | 9,385,655 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 30,381,727 | 28,773,969 |
| LIABILITIES AND NET ASSET | | |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses | 53,909 | 50,125 |
| Deferred Revenue | 48,465 | 5,318 |
| Refundable Advance | 54,511 0 | |
| Total Liabilities | 156,885 | 55,443 |
| NET ASSETS | | |
| Without Donor Restrictions | 24,616,151 | 23,446,864 |
| With Donor Restrictions | 5,608,691 | 5,271,662 |
| Total Net Assets | 30,224,842 | 28,718,526 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | 30,381,727 | 28,773,969 |

**FY20 is unaudited as of the printing of the Annual Report*

HPL STATEMENT AGAINST RACISM

Hartford Public Library shares the nation's anger, sadness, and frustration over the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and the epidemic of violent acts perpetrated against people of color across our nation. We condemn this violence and the microaggressions faced by people in our community and across the country on a daily basis.

We reject any actions that degrade or destroy the human spirit. We stand in solidarity with our community against systemic racism, oppression, and injustice.

HPL is a safe place to explore, to learn, and to convene hard discussions. We are committed as an institution to bridging cultures within our community, addressing anti blackness and any other forms of oppression that destroy and divide. We also know, that like the rest of American society, we have so much more work to do to eliminate racial and social equity barriers. We need to listen, to learn and to act; we are an organization of allies and advocates. Over the coming weeks we will be finding ways to start those difficult conversations and to support our neighbors to make our city, our community, and our country a place for all.



Watch My Back

"I made my quilt titled *Watch My Back* in early 2013 after the murder of Trayvon Martin which occurred in February 2012. The quilt represents the flood of emotions I felt as I watched news reels and read information about yet another young Black person murdered and the killer, while being protected by a biased law, literally walking away. Each of the quilt panels are meant to represent eyes and within those eyes are various images such as tears, a red hand symbolizing 'Stop!', a woman with her back to the onlooker and her arms raised.

I imagine the woman asking 'Why?' My hope is that if we all commit to watch each other's back we may stop the innocent, lawless murdering of Black people. If we witness and say something maybe the murderers will be made to face justice. That was in 2013. We are now in 2020 and nothing has changed. When???"

Master Quilter Linda Martin