

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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My Hartford, My Neighborhood

HARTFORD CT (August 10, 2011) Hartford History Center at Hartford Public Library is working in collaboration with award-winning photographer Bradley E. Clift to create a visual record that reveals and documents the rich diversity of the city of Hartford. The project is titled "My Hartford, My Neighborhood," and will be a photographic essay of how people live, work, play and celebrate life in one of the nation's oldest and historically important capital cities.

Over the course of the next few months, Clift will be photographing the 17 vibrant neighborhoods that make Hartford unique. His images will become part of Hartford Public Library's Hartford History Center to be exhibited and archived for future generations to enjoy, learn from and to help them write new chapters in the Hartford story.

"We are delighted to work with Brad on this project born of his rich experience telling a story through images," said Matt Poland, the Library's chief executive officer. "His artistry and story-telling skills will produce images of great historical and cultural significance for our City."

Clift has a long association with the city, having lived and worked in Hartford for more than 25 years. He is among the most honored photographers of his generation. Among his honors are 10 Pulitzer Prize nominations and the prestigious Robert F. Kennedy Award for reporting on the disadvantaged.

His work has appeared in hundreds of publications and in many books and on notable websites. His photographic assignments have included work for the *New York Times*, *Time*, *Newsweek* and *Smithsonian Magazine*. He is a former photojournalist for *The Hartford Courant*; and his work on human rights has been honored by and is housed in the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center for Human Rights at the University of Connecticut.

"We are undertaking an ambitious and historic photographic project that covers the city of Hartford," said Clift. "From rituals and festivals, parades and rites of passage to private and public life, new residents, new immigrants, to those who have lived here for fifty years or more, we are documenting the life of a city."

When completed, this photographic treasure will consist of thousands of Hartford images, many of which will be available online, through the Hartford History Center's website for digital collections. The Library's Hartford History Center is home to the Hartford Collection, a non-circulating, multi-media

collection comprised of more than 100,000 books, postcards, photographs and memorabilia that convey community life in Hartford spanning nearly 300 years.

About Hartford History Center

Hartford History Center at Hartford Public Library, collects, preserves, and makes available materials and information relating to the history, literature, and culture of Hartford. The holdings include, but are not limited to books; scrapbooks; pamphlets; the City of Hartford archives; the Hartford City Parks collection; image collections; maps; fine and graphic arts, including paintings, posters, prints and drawings; and memorabilia – those materials that preserve and share the story of Hartford, Connecticut - its place, its people, and its past. Located on the third floor of the Downtown Library, 500 Main Street, the Hartford History Center is open 1:00 – 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, please call the Center at 860-695-6297 or visit online at www.hplct.org/hhc .

About Hartford Public Library

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Programs provide education, information and enrichment to the people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of Hartford Public Library is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. www.hplct.org