

President and CEO Report

February 2023

	PAGE NO.
Overview	2
Finance	3
Public Services	8
Public Programming	13
The American Place	19
Culture & Communications	23
Development	32
Capital Projects	33
Statistics	34



OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2022

at a glance



42,397

ITEMS CHECKED OUT



94,044

SYSTEMWIDE VISITS



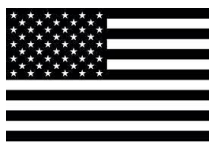
1,137

TOTAL PROGRAM
ATTENDEES



10,351

REFERENCE QUESTIONS
ANSWERED



59

NEW CITIZENS
NATURALIZED



11,464

COMPUTER SESSIONS



200

MUNICIPAL IDS



\$161K

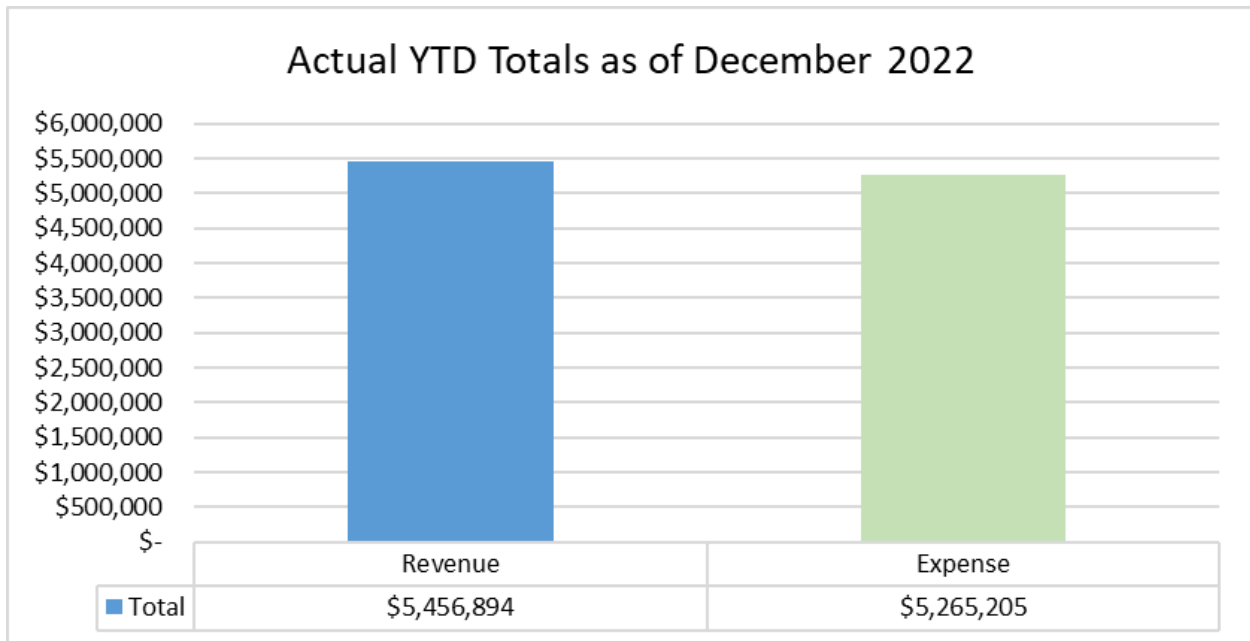
GRANTS AWARDED

FISCAL YEAR 2023—OPERATING BUDGET SUMMARY

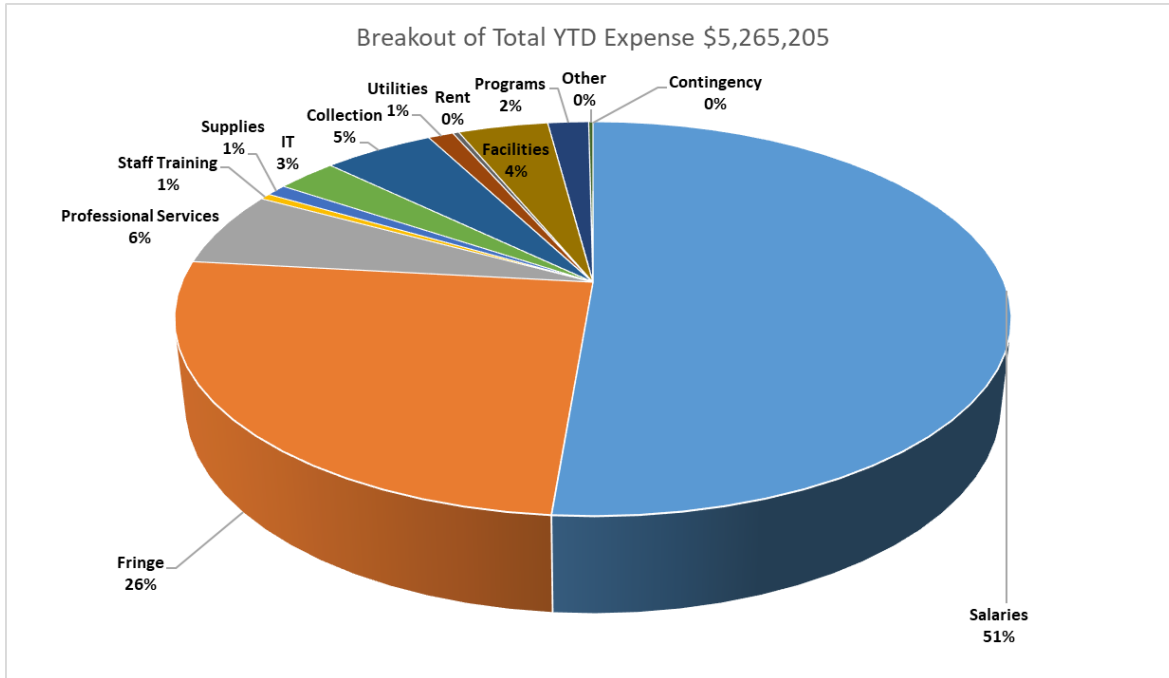
As of December 31, 2022—50% through Fiscal Year

For the period ending 12/31/22, the Hartford Public Library has expended an estimated total of \$5,265,205 which represents 46.8% of the revised operating budget of \$11,242,504. HPL has also collected an estimated \$5,456,894 in operating funds, or 48.5% of the Fiscal Year 2023 budget.

	FY23 Budget	FY23 Actual	Variance	% Variance
Revenue	\$ 11,242,504	\$ 5,456,894	\$ 5,785,610	48.5%
Expense	\$ 11,242,504	\$ 5,265,205	\$ 5,977,299	46.8%
Variance		\$ 191,689.14	\$ (191,689.14)	



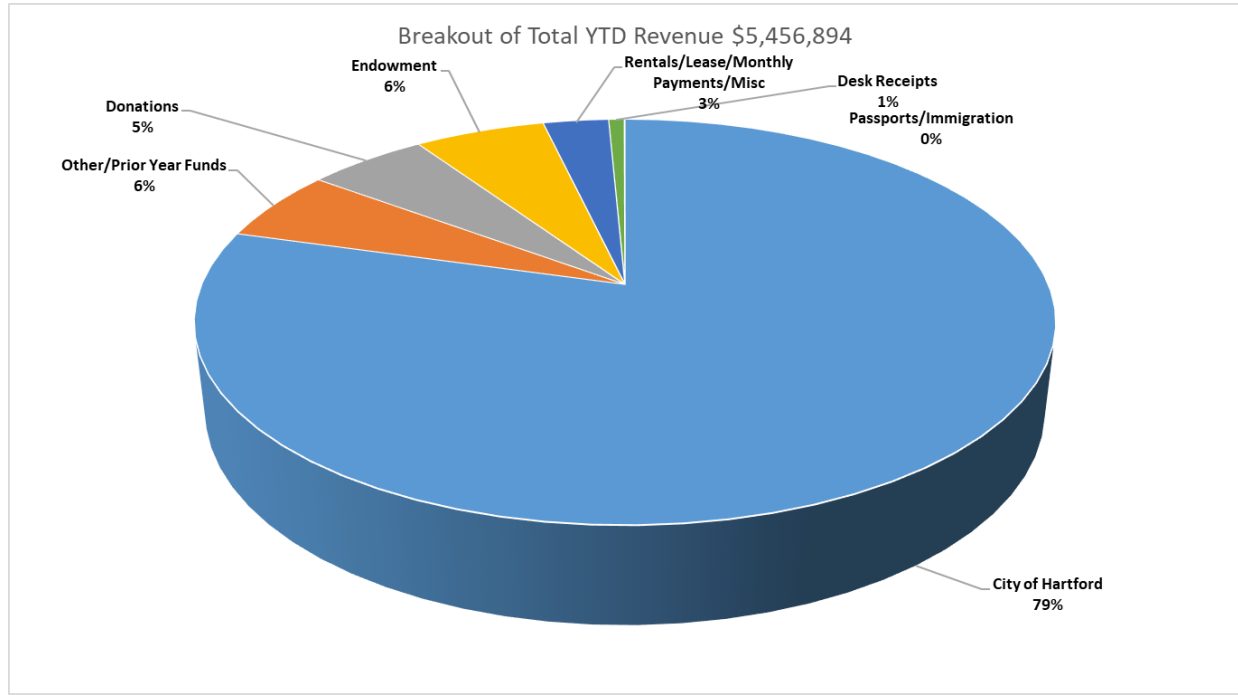
TOTAL EXPENSE



Expense	FY23 Budget	FY23 YTD Actual	Variance	% Spent as of 12-31-22
Salaries	\$6,339,262	\$2,701,746	\$3,637,516	42.6%
Fringe	\$2,543,960	\$1,339,678	\$1,204,282	52.7%
Professional Services	\$673,918	\$325,197	\$348,721	48.3%
Staff Training	\$86,775	\$26,075	\$60,700	30.0%
Supplies	\$124,400	\$50,184	\$74,216	40.3%
IT	\$231,176	\$147,440	\$83,736	63.8%
Collection	\$536,282	\$269,527	\$266,755	50.3%
Utilities	\$111,050	\$61,484	\$49,566	55.4%
Rent	\$32,431	\$15,000	\$17,431	46.3%
Facilities	\$405,050	\$219,141	\$185,909	54.1%
Programs	\$158,200	\$99,258	\$58,942	62.7%
Other	\$0	\$10,473	-\$10,473	100.0%
Contingency	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Total	\$11,242,504	\$5,265,205	\$5,977,299	46.8%

Note: The pie chart represents the total expenses as of 12-31-22 and the relationship the sub-accounts factor into the total expense. The table represents the 12-31-22 year to date actual expenses, the remaining that is available to be spent, and the percentage of expenses that has been spent as of 12-31-22.

TOTAL REVENUE



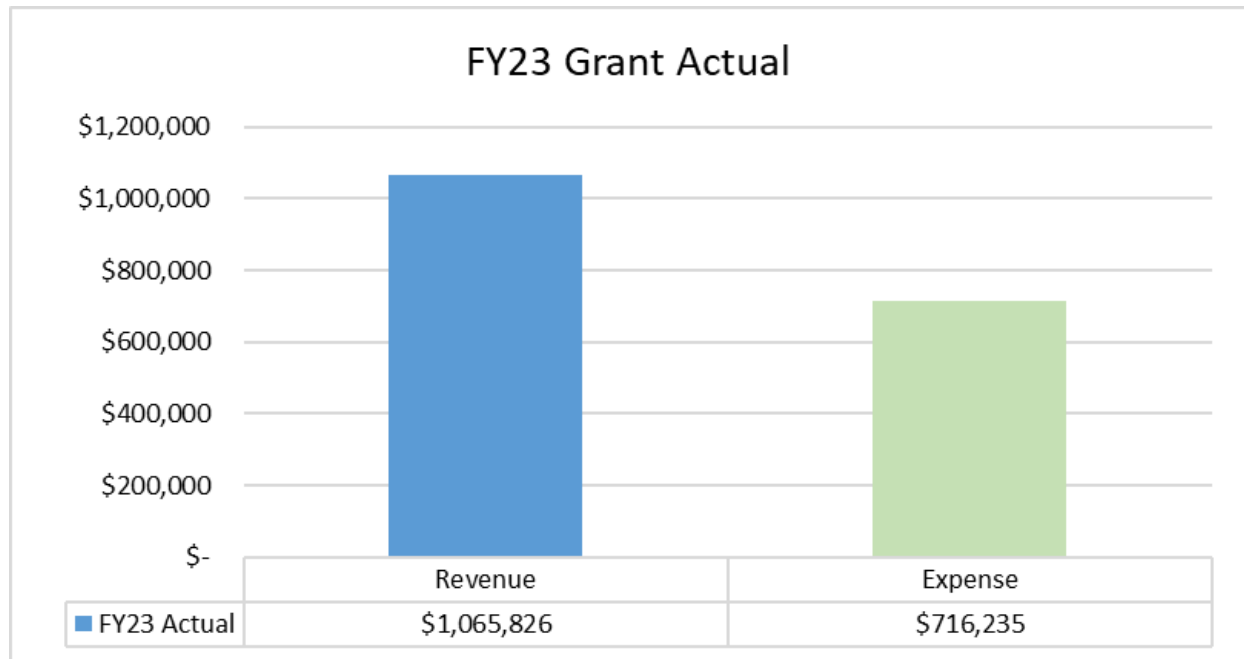
Revenue	FY23 Budget	FY23 YTD Actual	Variance	% Received as of 12-31-22
City of Hartford	\$8,663,336	\$4,331,668	\$4,331,668	50.0%
Other/Prior Year Funds	\$313,000	\$313,000	\$0	100.0%
Donations	\$750,000	\$292,701	\$457,299	39.0%
Endowment	\$898,134	\$319,305	\$578,829	35.6%
Rentals/Lease/Monthly Payments/Misc	\$548,534	\$160,376	\$388,158	29.2%
Desk Receipts	\$32,000	\$38,106	-\$6,106	119.1%
Passports/Immigration	\$37,500	\$1,737	\$35,763	4.6%
Total	\$11,242,504	\$5,456,894	\$5,785,610	48.5%

Note: The pie chart represents the total revenue received as of 12-31-22 and the relationship the sub-accounts factor into the total revenue received. The table represents the 12-31-22 year to date actual revenue received, the remaining that needs to be collected, and the percentage of revenue that has been collected as of 12-31-22.

FISCAL YEAR 2023 - GRANT BUDGET SUMMARY

As of December 31, 2022 - 50% through Fiscal Year

	FY23 Budget	FY23 Actual	Variance	% Variance
Revenue	\$ 2,817,706	\$ 1,065,826	\$ 1,751,880	37.8%
Expense	\$ 2,817,706	\$ 716,235	\$ 2,101,471	25.4%
Variance		\$ 349,591.00	\$ (349,591.00)	



In the 2nd QT, the Library received \$161,140 in Awarded Grants (consisting of Foundation, Corporate, Federal, State, and City Grants). This brings the FY23 year-to-date up to \$1,889,585. There is currently \$310,020 in Pending Grants (as of 12/31/22).

One of the pending Library grants is for educational programs for Immigrant, Refugee, and English learner students in the amount of \$305,000. This is part of more than \$236 million in FY23 Omnibus Appropriations bill passed by the U.S. Senate on December 22. The bill, once passed by the U.S. House of Representatives and signed into law by President Biden, will fund 99 congressionally directed spending projects requested by Senators Murphy and Blumenthal.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

The City of Hartford awarded the Library a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the amount of \$47,740 in support of the Immigrant Career Pathways Initiative. This program offers immigrants, interested in food service careers, increased access and opportunities for entry and upward mobility in the industry, with specific focus on benefited opportunities offered at institutional kitchens found in schools, hospitals, and nursing homes. This initiative is offered in partnership with the Hartford Public Schools' Food Services & Child Nutrition.

FOUNDATION GRANTS

The Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund approved \$75,000 grant towards the purchase of another Library vehicle that will expand mobile outreach services, resources and materials into areas considered "information deserts" with limited coverage or access to quality high-speed internet. The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving has approved a grant of \$5,000.00, to the Library, to support the TAP Emergency Assistance Fund basic human needs. The Nellie Mae Education Foundation, awarded the Library (Albany Branch) a grant in the amount of \$23,400 to support Mindful ARTS. The objectives of this program are to teach youth and families mindful practices that can be used in everyday life, give youth the opportunity to express feelings and concerns in a safe space, and showcase youth in performing arts. The Bissell Foundation awarded the Library \$10,000 in support of its Annual Hartford Harvest Celebration of Native American, Indigenous and Cross Cultures that will be hosted in October of 2023 as an Indigenous Peoples' Day celebration

CORPORATE GRANTS

None to report.

QT 2, FY23			Year to Date, FY23		
AWARDED			AWARDED		
SOURCE	NUMBER OF GRANTS	AMOUNT	SOURCE	NUMBER OF GRANTS	AMOUNT
Government	1	\$47,740	Government	11	\$1,379,450
Foundations	4	\$113,400	Foundation	11	\$480,135
Corporations	0	0	Corporation	2	\$30,000
TOTAL	5	\$1,161,140	TOTAL	24	\$1,889,585

ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND SERVICES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO WELL-BEING

» In the second quarter, HPL saw:

- 94,044 visits
- 200 Municipal IDs created and 135 documents notarized
- 42,397 items checked out
- 11,464 computer sessions and 18,681 wifi sessions
- 10,351 reference questions answered

» During this quarter, HPL continued system-wide efforts promoting voter registration. In addition to computer kiosks for registration, Hartford NEXT provided HPL with informational handouts. Throughout the month of October, registration events were held at all the branches. Hartford resident Anderson Curtis, with the ACLU, worked most of the events encouraging people to get registered and vote to let their voice be heard!

» In October, the Park St. Library @ the Lyric worked in partnership for the fifth straight year with the Hispanic Health Council (HHC) to recognize Domestic Violence Awareness month. They offered a menu of programs around the topic of domestic violence including an awareness walk from HHC's headquarters to the Lyric with a small resource fair, a suicide prevention awareness yoga session with Nikki Adams, and a Poetry Slam with Bessy Reyna and Interval House.



PUBLIC SERVICES

(continued)

» Beginning in December, branch locations launched their adult computer and digital literacy classes. Using both NorthStar and Digital Learn, branch managers are meeting one on one and in small groups with customers to meet them where they are and help them achieve their digital literacy goals.



» The programs and services offered by the Library have a lasting impact on the lives of its customers. Recently, one customer commented on the nutrition classes that Irene Blean organized at Barbour several years ago. She said that she still uses the concepts that she learned in these classes to manage her diet and health today. A customer, who did the ServSafe food handler's training at Barbour went on to become a line chef at a restaurant and is now talking about starting her own food truck business. An elderly gentleman, who visits the Dwight Library daily, shared that he was homeless and was sleeping in a basement. Liz Matias took the time to sit with him and call 211, since he did not have a phone, and make an appointment for intake. He returned the following week to inform us that he was placed in a shelter and then relocated to a room. Awilda Saez also went above and beyond by providing the elderly gentleman a cot for him to sleep on.



» Eleven customers at Barbour enjoyed making beaded bracelets with Jackie Bright in October and Branch Manager Irene Blean took six customers on a trip to the Wadsworth Atheneum to see the Fired Up: Glass Today Exhibit. One attendee, a long time Hartford resident, had never been to the museum. She enjoyed the tour of the exhibit so much she asked about membership to the museum. Camp Field continued its offering of arts and crafts programming including creating a fall votive holder, gnome ornament, and photo collage.

» Park St. Library @ the Lyric worked with Emanuel Lutheran Church, Forward CT, and friendly neighbor Susan Sarmiento to honor and celebrate families who were spending their first Christmas in Hartford. They invited 30 families to celebrate with holiday food staples from their native country, gifts parents would select and wrap to give to their children on Christmas day, clothes donations, winter coats, and a special visit with Santa and a printed picture as a memory from Levy Photography. Families who attended are originally from Peru, Brazil, Liberia, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Honduras, St. Lucia, Venezuela, etc. 20 volunteers from the different agencies involved including students from the UCONN Latino Medical Student Association whelped make the event possible.

YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

- » Barbour Youth Librarian Trainee Felicia Gardner along with Teen Librarian Victoria Palmatier and Youmedia Manager Marc Pettersen planned a spooktacular trunk or treat Community Halloween event for North End families in collaboration with several community partners: Friends of Keney Park; No Pork on Dis Fork LLC; Keney Park Pond House, Ebony Horse Women; Webster Bank and many more. The event was a huge success with music, food, dance, arts & craft activities, costumes/cosplay, free books, toys giveaways, hotdogs, popcorn, and a lot more side attractions for the entire family. Approximately 170 parents and children were in attendance.
- » Families had a lot of fun celebrating Diwali 2022 post pandemic. This event brought a strong sense of normalcy for everyone. We had a wealth of adult and youth participation in the following acts: Kids Shlokas (prayers); Diwali Poetry; Singing and dance performances; Guest Bollywood Dance performer: Mahi Arora sponsored by CT Humanities Council. Dinner provided by Spice Restaurant.
- » Our 14th Annual Kwanzaa Festival was celebrated on Thursday, December 29th, at the Albany Library. The event was moved to Albany Library as a result of extensive water damage at the Downtown Library. Activities included a stilt walker, Kwanzaa photo booth, drumming and dance by Master Drummer Inara Ramin, Kwanzaa storytelling by Master Storyteller Andre Keitt, face painting, mask decorating, henna, African jewelry food from Black Eyed Sallys.
- » Leap into Learning Home Daycare Coordinator Nichole Hawkins worked with providers and their families to contribute a multicultural Christmas Tree for Wadsworth Atheneum's 48th Annual Festival of Trees Celebration. The children and families were excited to visit and see their tree decked with the ornaments they decorated. The group also enjoyed story time with Ms. Lina and decorated snowflakes in the Avery Lobby.
- » HPL Librarians Lina Osho-Williams and Katherine Trouern-Trend teamed up with United Way and Hartford Public Schools to celebrate the 17th anniversary of Jump-



start's Read for the Record, a campaign mobilizing volunteers to read to students in classrooms. The selected book was *Nigel and the Moon* by Antwan Edy. HPL Director of Public Services Marie Jarry was a guest reader at the event's kick-off at Betances Early Reading Lab. Five HPL Youth Librarians joined other volunteer readers all over Hartford visiting students in their classrooms.

- » To honor Hispanic Heritage Month, the Library received a special request from Naylor School to have Youth Assistant Librarian Linda Montañez visit the school for a bilingual read aloud session of the book *Mango, Abuela and Me* by Meg Medina. Approximately 250 Prek-3rd grade students and 55 adults were in attendance. The Library donated 190 copies of the book to give to students in Prek-2nd grade. HPL also added additional electronic copies of the book for teachers to read to students in their classroom.



TEEN SERVICES

- » YOUmedia Albany continues to thrive. One of the biggest hits of the quarter was the bracelet-making program. Despite not expecting the level of interest and engagement, many teenagers, in particular, were highly interested in making bracelets with beads and gems. Even more surprising than the students' interest in bracelet making was their interest in the embroidery machine. During slow days, YOUmedia mentor Michele Rosas set up the embroidery machine and created projects of her own. Every time she had the machine out, two or more kids would ask her how it works and if they could make something too. One particularly notable moment was when a 10-year-old boy shared his desire to make an embroidered towel as a gift to show his gratitude to his foster mother.
- » In today's digital age, providing sensory activities for teens is crucial. The programs offered by Michele were not just arts and crafts projects, they were bonding tools that allowed teens to relax, stay present, and connect with their peers and with her throughout the activities. These programs are important for this generation of teens, who are constantly stimulated by technology, providing them with the opportunity to create tangible.



PUBLIC SERVICES

(continued)

» During the last quarter, the 21st Century Community Learning Center at HPL & HPHS, also known as the Boundless Enrichment Program, began its fourth school year with ESL, Driver's Education, Financial Literacy, and Hartford Athletic programs, focused primarily on the HPHS multi-lingual population. The program completed several benchmarks this year and greatly improved progress towards compliance compared to the previous year. The program's functioning and accommodation of student needs were much better than in previous years. Goals for English language learning, college readiness, and enrichment were reached. However, the program faces many challenges related to the damage of the downtown building and we are working to find new spaces and re-envisioning how the program will function in the coming quarter. The program is hoping to recruit new students and improve retention of the current ones.



» Mentor Eli Williams ran numerous in-person audio production workshops for studio sessions. These sessions were focused on recording and studio etiquette, aimed at helping students record their own tracks. Over 30 teenagers attended the workshops. Eli helped several young artists such as Nate Myles, CJ Billz, BMC Blazed, and Freddy Moore complete independent singles to be released on their social media platforms. He taught them how to record, mix, and master their songs.



» In November, the STEP Transition Program visited and explored the space, drawing designs that will later be turned into a virtual world. Marc also created a 3D model of parts of the Downtown Library which was used to give a presentation by keynote speaker Joe Gianni at the Beyond Words fundraiser. This model will be used as a catalyst for students, who will learn how to create virtual spaces and different parts of the library, ultimately creating a virtual branch that the public can explore.

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING



During the second quarter, HPL Public Programming Department offered a total of 38 in-person programs with a total attendance of 1,137 attendees, and 76 instances of use of community space.

HARTFORD HARVEST FESTIVAL

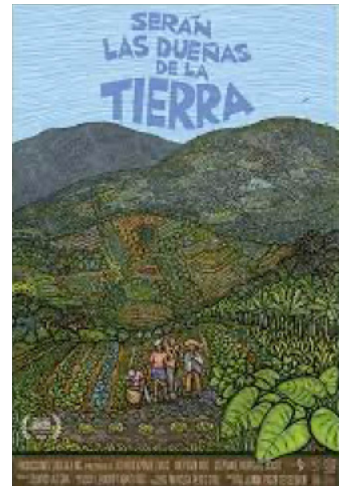
- » Around Indigenous Peoples' Day in October, HPL and Ebony Horsewomen, Inc. alongside a planning committee of local Indigenous community members planned and hosted the 2nd annual Hartford Harvest Festival. The event celebrated Indigenous identity and culture by featuring live music and dance performance by CT tribal representatives, free food from Sly Fox Den Catering, vendors and community organizations.
- » The event was supported by Ebony Horsewomen, Inc. Equestrian and Therapeutic Center, Friends of Keney Park, Connecticut Land Conservation Council, Connecticut Historical Society Museum and Library, Connecticut's Old State House, Hartford 311, the City of Hartford and Witness Stones Project.

ARTLINK

- » Through the third iteration of the program series ArtLINK, HPL continued to offer mental and social health support to adult customers. ArtLINK consisted of three, six-week workshop series: Clay Design and Wheel Throwing, Introduction to Podcasting, and Just Art.

SERÁN LAS DUEÑAS DE LA TIERRA / STEWARDS OF THE LAND

- » HPL hosted a film screening of "Serán las dueñas de la tierra / Stewards of the Land," a documentary about Stephanie, Ian, and Alfredo, three young landless ecological farmers in Puerto Rico



PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

(continued)

striving to produce healthy food for local consumption. The Film Director, Juan Manuel Pagán Teitelbaum, was present for a talk back after the screening.

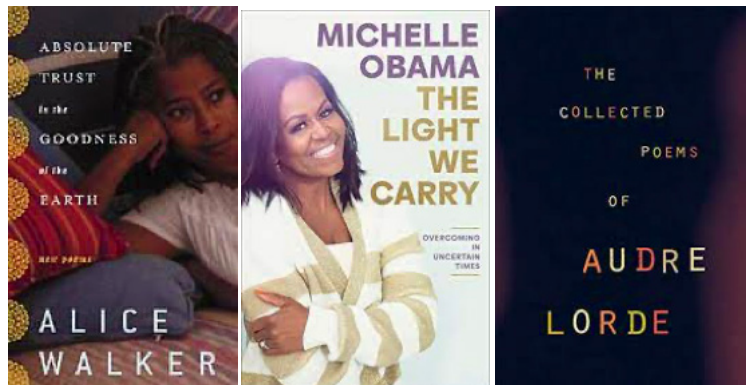
CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JOHNNY EGAN

- » HPL hosted a celebration of the life of Weaver High School basketball legend Johnny Egan and a tribute to the undefeated 1957 state and New England championship Weaver High School basketball team. This event was co-sponsored by Mike Copeland and Howie Greenblatt, co-authors of *Oh What a Move!: Profiles of Hartford Basketball Players 1954-1984*, in conjunction with the Weaver High School Over 80 Reunion Committee.



ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

- » Ballet Hartford performed in the Downtown Atrium excerpts from *The Nutcracker* featuring professional company artists who offered a glimpse into the life of a professional dancer.
- » The Programming Department worked with the Dwight Library to host a Hartford Changemakers Documentary Photography exhibit at the Dwight location. The 3rd annual Hartford Changemakers project took place during the summer of 2022, and celebrates Hartford Black, Latinx, and Indigenous historical changemakers as well as our own neighborhood stories and visions of shaping the history of Hartford through art and creativity. The Summer 2022 Documentary Photography workshop series was taught by Jasmine Jones, and the exhibit featured workshop participant photos.
- » HPL and The Friends and Enemies of Wallace Stevens co-hosted the annual “Wallace Stevens Birthday Bash” in November, featuring keynote speaker Simone White, who gave a keynote address called “I am not Wallace Stevens.”
- » The book club Hartford Reads in Color, led by Hartford’s L.I.T. continued to meet on a monthly



PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

(continued)

basis. Their book selections were; *Absolute Trust In The Goodness Of The Earth- New Poems* by Alice Walker, *The Light We Carry* By Michelle Obama, and *Collected Poems of Audre Lorde*.

- » The Hartford City Steppers continued teaching Chicago Style Steppin' at the Library. This is a partnered dance class that welcomes individuals, couples, or a group and is taught by experienced instructor Jannett Jennings.

LIBRARY ON WHEELS / OUTREACH

During this quarter the Library on Wheels was open an average of 12 hours per week, made 11 outreach site visits and provided services to 332 individuals.

- » During this time, the outreach team consists of one part-time Outreach Assistant, and was not able to make as many outreach visits as usual.
- » The LOW finished out the end of the farmers' market season with regular visits to the West End Farmers' Market, North End Farmers' Market, and Broad Street Farmers' Market, where books were circulated, and free books were distributed.
- » With help from the Barbour Library staff and Camp Field Library staff, the LOW also continued services to the South End Senior Center, North End Senior Center, and the Immanuel House.



PROGRAM PRODUCTION AND ENGAGEMENT

During the second quarter, Program Production & Engagement focused its efforts on supporting the programming department's 'Intro to Podcasting' program series, leading an aspect of the expansion for the HPL/UConn-Hartford partnership, as well as on the promotion, producing, and hosting of the inaugural 'Live, on The Beat' concert.

PRODUCTION

- » PP&E led the creation of promotional assets, which were used for marketing purposes, in various forms by HPL's communication department and The Bushnell's marketing team. The Bushnell's marketing team utilized the assets as inserts in the program booklets for their run of Mean Girls plays, and also contributed an article about The Beat and one of its inaugural artists, Jonathan Barber, in their quarterly publication, Muse. HPL's communication department

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

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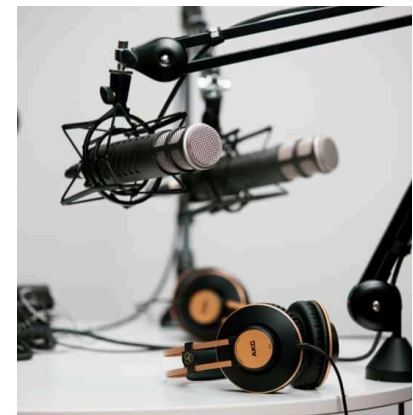
was responsible for promoting the concert on social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, as well as sharing it through newsletters.

- » The event was held at The Bushnell, as the organization is a partner for HPL's The Beat initiative; and the lineup for the first inaugural 'Live, on The Beat' concert included: Mixas-hawn Rozie, Ghazi Omair, and The Lost Tribe. There were 61 attendees, most of whom were on their feet dancing and grooving for the better part of the evening, as each performer brought the house down. Prior to the show, performers were able to take advantage of their own dressing rooms, as well as dinner and refreshments courtesy of our partners at The Bushnell.
- » Program Production & Engagement was also responsible for filming, and documenting the live show on video. The recording will be rebroadcasted on HPATV, during the promotional campaign for the 2nd concert, coming Summer 2023.



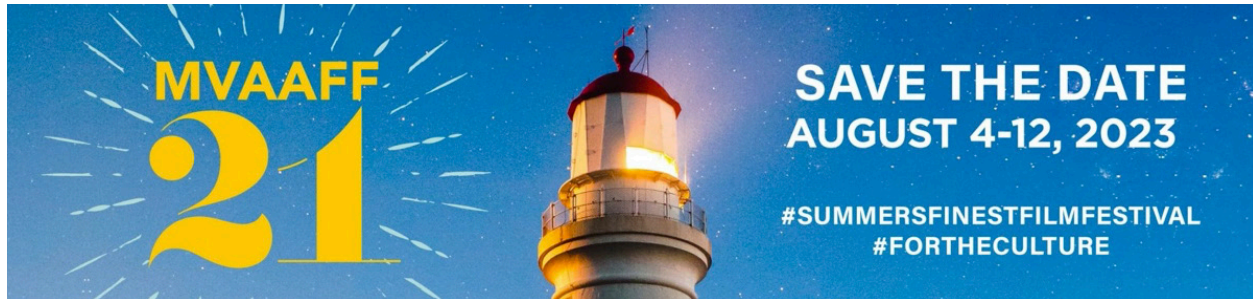
PARTNERSHIP

- » The Program Production and Engagement Coordinator also looked to broaden an existing partnership by working with UConn-Hartford to expand access of their production room to HPL customers for programs. The initial purpose of this increased access was to support the 'Intro to Podcasting' workshop series that the programming department coordinated; however, access to this space will also increase the potential number of participants that HPL Studios programs will be able to serve as they are further developed and launched. The added benefit of customers being able to utilize this space for digital media productions, is that it offers high level acoustics which will amplify the overall quality of projects that users create.



PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

(continued)



HPL STUDIOS

FILM FESTIVALS:

The Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival 2023

- » The Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival (MVA AFF) is one of the most acclaimed short film showcases for content created by an African American in the world. HPL Studio's short film *Thoughts Are Things* participated in the Facebook Virtual Winter MVA AFF from December 23-31, 2022, where it accumulated over 17.5k views by 12/31/23 and is an official selection at Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival Winter Virtual Screening Series, August 4-12, 2023.
- » *Thoughts Are Things* won Platinum Remi Award for Dramatic Original short film production. The film was submitted to be considered for Salute your Shorts and the African American Film Festival for HBO. It is an official selection at the San Diego Black Film Festival, April 26, 2023.



**SALUTE
YOUR SHORTS
FILM FESTIVAL
2023**

THE AMERICAN FILM MARKET 2022

- » The potential for collaboration between HPL Studios and these AFM22 participants offers several alignment opportunities with NAACP Image Awards, Samuel Goldwyn Films, and the following ODIN'S EYE ENTERTAINMENT, INTERNATIONAL FILM TRUST, FILMAX International Sales, Vision Films, Porter & Craig Film and Media, Thongkham Films, Hollywood Thailand Company, Monumental Studios, Time River Productions, Industry-Works, Euramco Pictures, and EPIC Pictures.

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

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HPL STUDIO PRODUCTIONS

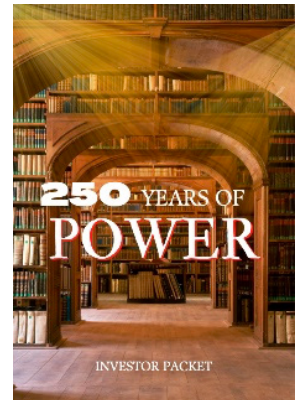
- » Developing the CAST for 250 Years of Power documentary. Oscar award winner for costume design Ruth Carter and Lead Actress in FX'S Snowfall, Angela Lewis have expressed interest.
- » Working with UCLA's Film and Television Archive to acquire archival footage for 250 Years of Power.

HPL STUDIOS DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATION

- » Production Manager has consulted with independent film producer Polina Gorbacheva to develop a fundraising plan for required production budget. The actionable approach is to create a digital pitch deck for potential investors.
- » An HPL Studio's camera and postproduction equipment list was created to meet the studios' non-fiction future production needs.

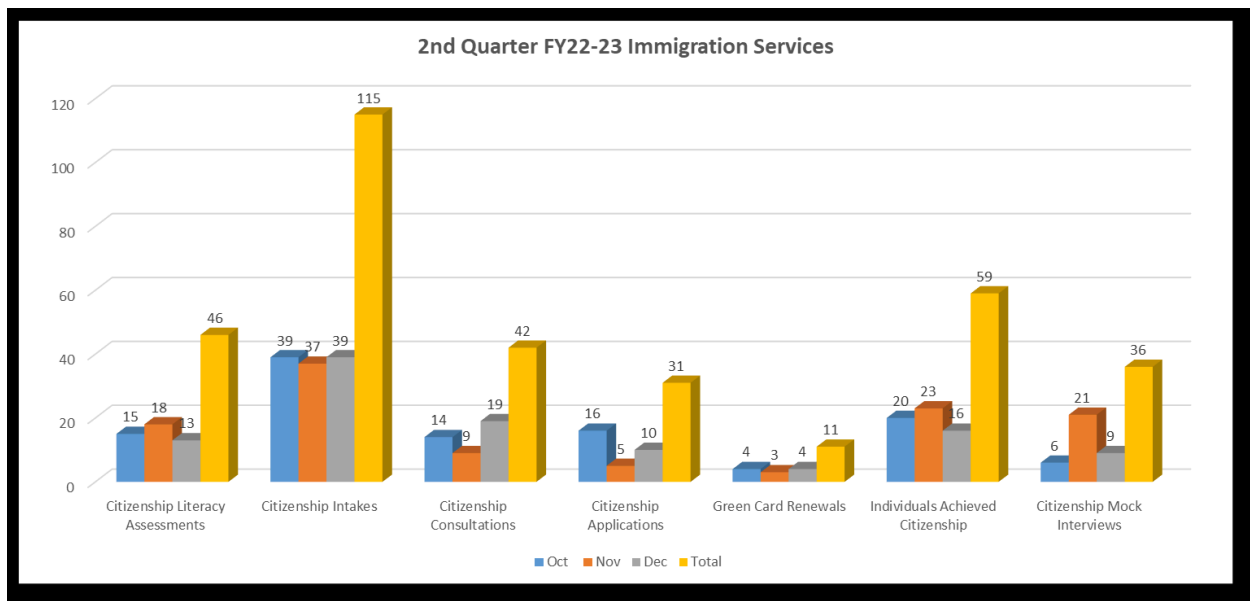
DIGITAL MEDIA LIBRARY CONSULTATION

- » PM is meeting with Alyce Benevides, Supervisor of Digital Media Library and lead of Filmmakers Workshop at NYU Tisch School of the Arts to further develop library programming to better help serve the unique needs of Library Users.



CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION SERVICES

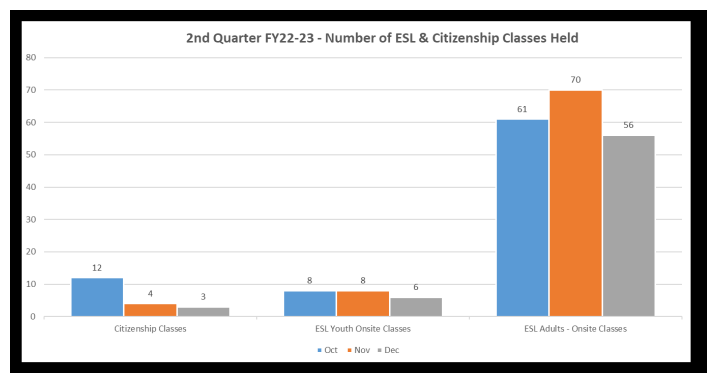
The American Place staff responded to 211 immigration reference questions during this quarter. One-hundred and fifteen (115) immigrants were screened for Citizenship eligibility, including 46 reading/writing literacy assessments. Immigration counselors conducted 42 legal consultations. Immigration counselors also prepared and submitted 31 citizenship applications. Adult education staff conducted 36 citizenship mock naturalization interviews. Fifty-nine (59) clients were naturalized, achieving U.S. Citizenship. Eleven green card renewal applications were prepared and submitted.



ESL & CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

187 Adult ESL classes were held at Central on weekday mornings, evenings, and Saturday morning serving beginning literacy, level 1, and level 2 ESL students. Additionally, 19 citizenship classes were held on Saturdays. ESL students enjoyed learning about the holiday season in the U.S. and participated in several holiday activities.

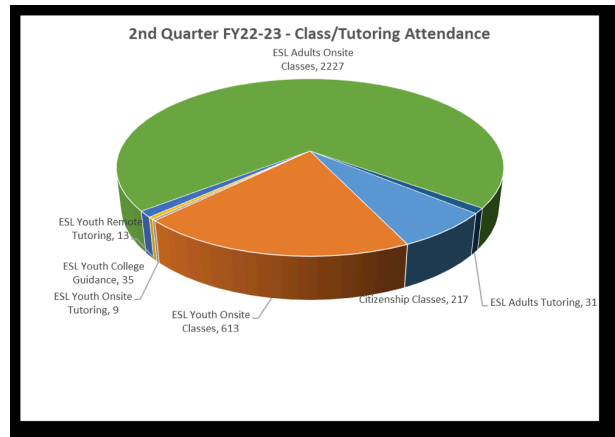
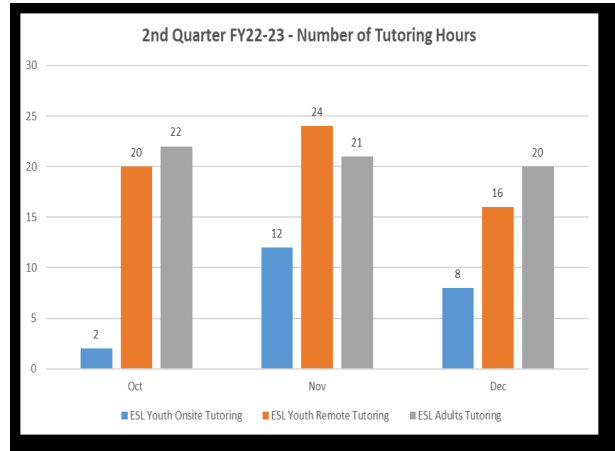
The Fall English Learner Success after-school program, which supports migrant and immigrant high school youth, fully launched with strong and consistent daily attendance. The program offered several enrichment opportunities this past quarter for both program participants and recent program graduates, including:



THE AMERICAN PLACE

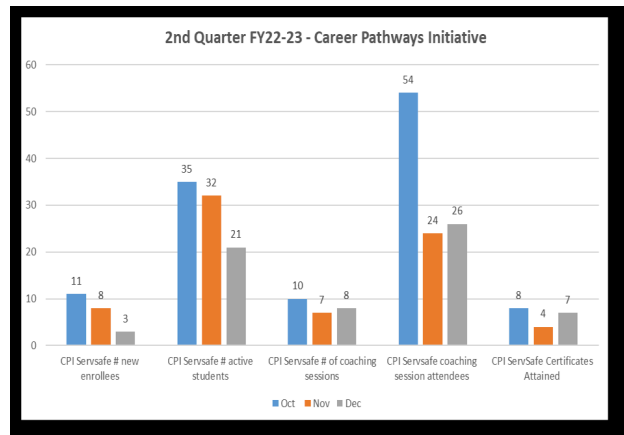
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- » The Aurora Women and Girls Luminary event at Dunkin Donuts Park
- » Women’s Leadership Forum sponsored by the Aurora Women and Girls Foundation
- » A free community performance of “It’s a Wonderful Life” at the Hartford Stage Company
- » Ice skating in Bushnell Park for Winterfest
- » Holiday Party with food, craft, games, and gifts



CAREER PATHWAYS INITIATIVE: SERVSAFE COURSES

TAP is currently offering four strands of ServSafe courses, ServSafe Food Handler, ServSafe Food Manager, and ServSafe Alcohol Server, and ServSafe Allergens. Post-pandemic challenges continue to pose barriers to participant program completion. As such, we continue to administer the programs in a hybrid environment – instructional sessions may be offered both onsite and remotely based on student preference, childcare needs and work schedules. Students also receive, 1:1 and small group coaching, wraparound services, digital literacy, and employment counseling.



The quarter ended with 21 active students and 19 students completing a course, earning ServSafe certificates. Many students select to continue onto the next ServSafe course they are eligible for, increasing their opportunities for upward mobility and growth. Student highlight: One of our ServSafe students who is working on her goal of becoming a restaurant owner completed ServSafe Food Handler, Food Manager, Alcohol Safety, and Allergen courses, as well as the mixology class through Universal class. She is currently working on her business plan through the University of Hartford Entrepreneurial center, worked with the American Job Center to complete her culinary resume, and explored WIOA program to enroll in culinary school.

CROSSROADS TO CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

The Crossroads to Connectivity program continues to support adults in their journey to education and training attainment. Funding for this program ended in June, however, lending of devices resumed in September to students participating in TAPs various education and workforce programs. During this quarter, 22 digital devices and hot-spots were loaned through Crossroads to Connectivity. GED and CASAS Testing 47 GED tests were administered. 186 CASAS reading and math assessments were administered.

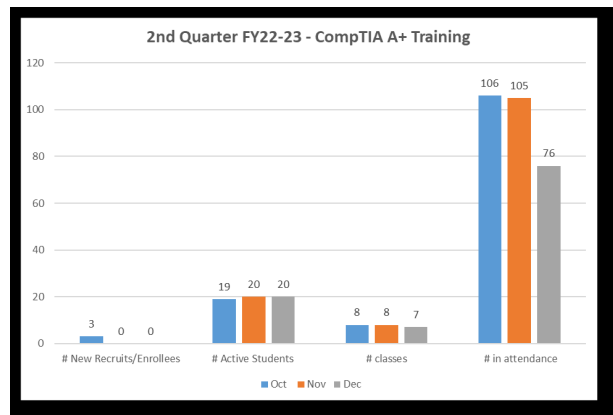
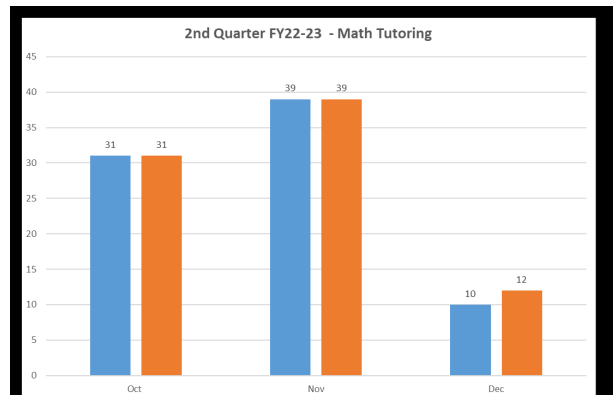
MATH TUTORING

Math tutoring was offered in small groups to youth and adults, onsite and remotely. A total of 80 small group sessions were held supporting 82 students.

COMPTIA A+ NETWORKING ACADEMY FOR YOUTH (18 TO 24 YEARS OLD)

The program offers computer networking certificate training, job shadowing experience, and an internship opportunity at program completion. Currently, there are 20 youth enrolled in the program. Twenty-three classes were held averaging 13 students per session. Classes are live-streamed and recorded on Zoom for students unable to attend the training in person. Additionally, 35 coaching sessions were held supporting student learning.

In December, library staff brought 15 CompTIA students to see the Harlem Globetrotters who are an American International Exhibition Basketball team. The timing of this event was crucial



THE AMERICAN PLACE

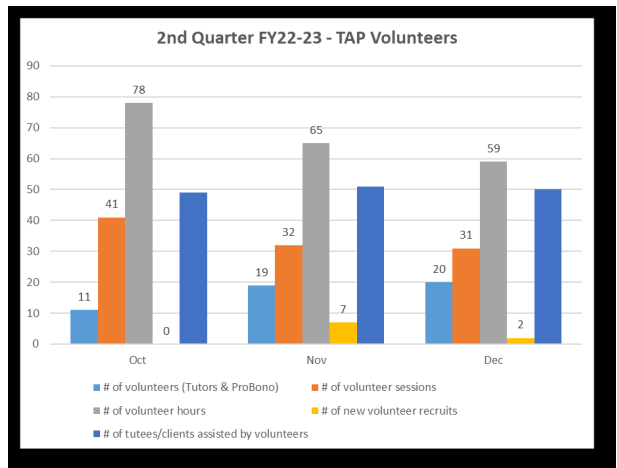
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for many of the participants to create holiday connections and memories. “It was really fun and I enjoyed it a lot. Thank you so much for making the effort to bring me” Rabia (CompTIA participant). - Afghanistan



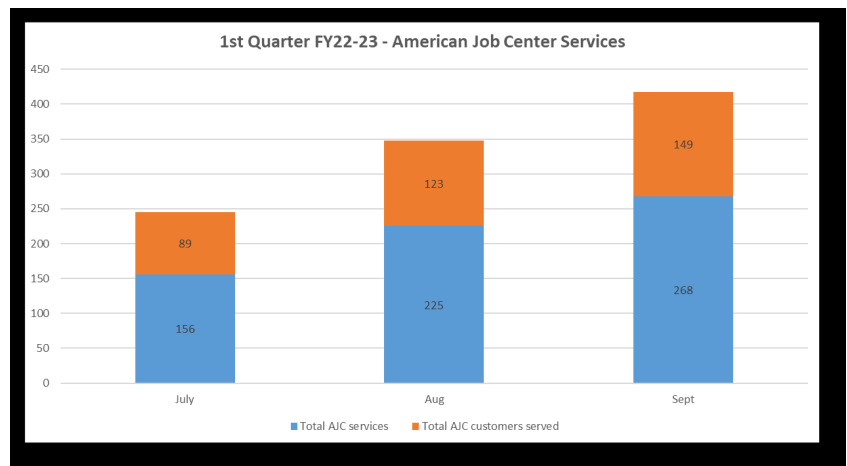
VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

TAP has received continuous support from volunteers. During this quarter, 50 volunteers contributed 202 hours of volunteer support, including pro-bono attorneys. Volunteer citizenship coaches provided 63 hours of small group/individual tutoring in 45 sessions supporting 31 students. The pro-bono attorneys provided 75 hours over 17 sessions supporting TAP clients with application preparation, mock interviews or application review. Volunteer tutors provided 145 hours of support to both ESL Youth and Adults, onsite and remotely.



THE AMERICAN JOB CENTER

The American Job Center has resumed full onsite services. AJC staff provided 649 services to 361 customers during this quarter. Some of the services provided include registration in CT Hires, resume building, and evaluation for WOIA eligible programs.



HARTFORD HISTORY CENTER & ARTWALK

NEWS

- » The HHC is the meeting place for HPL's 250th Anniversary Committee meetings. The committee has been meeting once a month since April 2022. The committee, comprised of HPL staff representing nearly all departments, developed a proposal of events and celebrations to mark this milestone in the Library's history. The proposal was presented to the Library's Board in October. The proposal was well received, and the committee was encouraged to continue making plans. An added benefit from the Board presentation was that the committee gained 4 new members including two members of the Library's Board of Directors. The committee met again in December and created a timeline of events that would begin in October 2023 and run through December 2024.
- » Hartford Public Library's Downtown Library suffered significant water damage after a pipe burst over the Christmas holiday weekend. The Hartford History Center was ground zero for the burst pipe and the public research room was extensively damaged, but no historical collections were impacted. The historical collections in the public research room were stored behind glass and off the ground, protecting them from water damage. The majority of Hartford History Center's collections are kept in the Library's ground floor archival storage area, which remained untouched by water damage.

INCREASED ENGAGEMENT WITH THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES THROUGH ACCESS AND EXPOSURE

- » The ArtWalk continued to be a busy gallery this quarter as we hosted an artist talk by Brigid Kennedy on Saturday, October 22, where she shared her own artistic history from largescale abstract work shown in the 1980s and 90s to her currently smaller works inspired by critical socio-political issues of our times. On December 2, the latest ArtWalk exhibition by Barbara Hocker opened, showcasing gorgeous, meditative works that brought audiences through water-centric natural environments. The opening saw over 70 people in attendance.
- » A major partner exhibition, *Picturing the Pandemic*, opened on Thursday, October 27, with over 100 people from UConn, Hartford, and Providence in attendance. The opening featured speakers such as



Encounters: Picturing the Pandemic (small groups & reflections with content specialists: Sarah Willen, Ray Shaw, Jasmine Jones)



Encounters: Picturing the Pandemic (small groups & reflections with content specialists: Sarah Willen, Ray Shaw, Jasmine Jones)

Mayor Luke Bronin, UConn's President Radenka Maric, and the Pandemic Journaling Project's co-founder, Sarah Willen. Alongside the exhibition that featured a selection of images from everyday people who participated in the online journal from around the globe, photographs from Hartford History Center's Hartford 2020 collection were on display, showcasing documentation of everyday public life in the pandemic by three Hartford based photographers: Andy Hart, Jasmine Jones, and Ray Shaw. On November 16, over 25 students and community members participated in our biannual partner program, Encounters, where they engaged in small group discussions inspired by the exhibition.

STRONGER RELATIONSHIPS AMONG COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

» On October 15, HHC staff member Jasmin Agosto represented the Hartford History Center at the Puerto Rican Studies Association Conference in Holyoke, MA and participated on a panel discussion regarding Puerto Rican history in Connecticut. The panel was organized by a Hartford History Center frequent researcher, Elena Rosario, PhD Candidate.

DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SELF AND CONNECTION TO COMMUNITY BY LEARNING HARTFORD HISTORY

» This Fall, the Hartford History Center continued to support student and teacher groups doing research on Hartford history. On October 3, UConn Prof. David Olio brought his first-year introduction to academic writing classes, which explored a wide range of collection materials for inspiration as they developed Hartford-based research and writing projects. On November 8, HHC staff led a half day professional development with grades 6-12 social studies teachers from CREC, inspiring teachers to reignite their passion for history. On December 14 and 20, a high school teacher from CREC's Impact Academy brought students to dig into materials pertaining to Hartford's Puerto Rican history. On November 10, Trinity students who had done extensive research and community interviews, presented their work on five Hartford



Professor Olio class, October 3, 2022

Changemakers to a student, faculty, and public audience. These historic Black and Puerto Rican history makers will be added to our online reference guide in the Spring.

» Anecdotally, from Maureen Heher, HPL reference and research librarian:

“We had one particularly good reference request outcome. HPL staff Bonnie Solberg received a phone call from a woman in Massachusetts. She was hoping to find a photo of her late husband from an article in the Hartford Courant about his arrival back from serving in Vietnam. After talking with her a bit and not being able to find the article readily, Bonnie thought it might have actually been in the Hartford Times. Bonnie passed the questions to the HHC.

“The woman couldn’t remember if it was July or August in 1964, 1965 or 1966. I spoke with the woman to gather more information and she told me that due to some circumstances that she and her daughters didn’t have any remaining photos of their father/husband when he was a young man. She was hoping to find this photo to surprise her daughters. It was very important to her. I told her that because it meant scanning months of microfilm, I would have to do it little by little when I had some free moments. I had spent a little time on this but the HHC got busy with classes and in person requests, so I put it aside.

“One morning, I decided to give it another try and I decided to start with July 1965 and something made me skip to July 30th and there it was - a great big photo and a wonderful article. I sent off scans of the page of the paper, close-ups of the photo and article and the masthead from the front page of the paper. I sent it off via email and cc’d Bonnie. The woman was thrilled because she had pretty much given up hope. She said that Bonnie and I were her superheroes. It’s a great day when you get make someone happy.”



Puerto Rican Studies Association Conference, CT Puerto Ricans Panel, Oct 15, 2022. Pictured (left to right): Luz Burgos-Lopez, Elena Rosario, Glaisma Perez-Silva, Jasmin Agosto. On screen: Addys Castillo.

PRESERVING HARTFORD’S HISTORY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

- » During the 2nd Quarter, the archivist focused on finding aid creation and the continued setup of ArchivesSpace, a collection management tool that provides broad online access and searchability. New finding aids are in process for the City Parks photographs, the Hartford-specific pamphlet collection that dates back to the late 18th century, and some smaller collections, such as Aetna Life and Casualty collection.
- » The Hiram Percy Maxim films were returned to the Hartford History Center after the early 20th century films were cleaned up and digitized. This work was made possible through grant

CULTURE & COMMUNICATIONS

(continued)

funds. The Hartford History Center will upload these films to the Connecticut Digital Archive (CTDA) next quarter where they will be available for viewing and public research.

- » The Hartford History Center continues our participation in the Internet Archives' Community Webs program and is capturing news of Hartford people and places via their websites.
- » G. Fox nostalgia is always popular on social media, particularly at Christmas. This year we digitized negatives from the Hartford Times collection and shared images new to most of us. While we usually get 20-30 likes each week, the post with the two exterior images garnered 175.

DIGITAL LIBRARY LAB

CLIENT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	START DATE	COMPLETION DATE	INVOICE DATE	PAID	AMT	NOTE
Hartford Public High School Museum	HPS Yearbooks and Supplementals	5/1/21	ongoing	5/14/21	Y, partial	\$3,705	50% paid. Awaiting CTDA upgrade to be completed, which will fix thumbnail presentation problem. Target date for the CTDA upgrade is 1/31/2023
Hartford History Center	Digitized early 20 th Century glass negatives of activities at Elizabeth and Goodwin Parks in Hartford		10/1/22	n/a	n/a	n/a	See attached sample photographs (A + B)
HPL general	Participated in the 2022 library Staff Day		10/7/22	n/a	n/a	n/a	
McDowell Communications Inc. LLC	Digitization, OCR, & shredding of 7 years of company documents (10 banker's boxes) and delivery of password encrypted usb.	9/20/22	11/25/22	10/21/22	Y	\$1,349	Final 3 of 10 banker's boxes were completed on 10/21. Awaiting HPL shredding schedule to include McDowell material
Hartford History Center	Ongoing Hartford Times Digitization	7/1/22	ongoing	n/a	n/a	n/a	618 photos scanned. 8 folders (8 "HT Boxes") have been sent for metadata creation and CTDA ingest.
University of CT Advanced Pavement Laboratory	Digitized 366 black and white prints and 138 glass lantern slides of road building throughout the 20 th Century	10/25/22	11/2/22	11/2/22	Y	\$2,425	See attached sample photographs (C, D, + E)

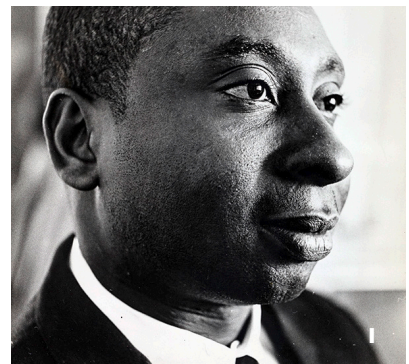
CULTURE & COMMUNICATIONS

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Hartford History Center	Assisted with HHC's bridge exhibit prep. Edited digitized 1940-1942 16mm color JPEGs of the original Charter Oak Bridge obtained from CTDOT into MP4 digital movie format.		11/9/22	n/a	n/a	n/a	See attached sample photograph (F)
Photographer Phil Trager Collection Tests	Received and digitized 5 prints and 5 negatives from Mr. Trager's collection. He is evaluating the work.	11/10/22	ongoing				Mr. Trager requested the DLL hold onto his materials until we receive the Epson Perfection V850 Pro Scanner that was approved and ordered in December to scan his negatives.
Northeast Document Conservation Center Meeting	Attended NEDCC annually strategic planning meeting		12/9/22	n/a	n/a	n/a	Home — NEDCC Three main topics discussed were sustainability, increase revenues, and improve and expand services and support
Hartford History Center	Digitized the 56-page 1919 "The Hartford Handbook for New Citizens - and Old" for use by local teachers.	12/11/22	12/12/22	n/a	n/a	n/a	The document was uploaded to the CTDA on 12/20. To view: http://hdl.handle.net/11134/50002:17481
HPL General	Digitized 35 ViewMaster photo disk images detailing the construction of the HPL		12/20/22	n/a	n/a	n/a	See attached sample photographs (G + H)
Hartford History Center	Digitized 26 photos of John Stewart, Jr., Collin Bennett, and Richard Battles to augment Hartford's Black Hero Trail currently being created by Renato Calle		12/29/22	n/a	n/a	n/a	See attached image of Collin Bennett (I)
HPL General	Director-led DLL 2023 marketing planning meeting						

CULTURE & COMMUNICATIONS

(continued)



ANTICIPATED WORK FOR NEXT QUARTER

- » High School Yearbook digitization for the Housatonic Region HS Alumni Association
- » Monitor CTDA upgrade to complete Hartford High School yearbook project
- » Continue to digitize the Hartford Times collection
- » Digitize ad hoc for HPL/HHC
- » Attend February 3rd NEDCC Meeting
- » To grow the DLL and its revenue generating capability, continue marketing planning activities and identify applicable bids for digitization services

CULTURE & COMMUNICATIONS

(continued)

COMMUNICATIONS

- » The Communications team developed the 2022 Annual Report, working with departments and staff across HPL to capture highlights and statistics from the year. A photographer took group photos at each branch and some of the larger departments that were used on the cover to celebrate the staff at HPL who are dedicated to serving their community.
- » Communications continued to support Hartford Public Library's partnership with The Bushnell to promote The Beat, the library's music streaming platform. This included the design and production of palm cards featuring artists who are part of The Beat, an advertisement in The Muse, The Bushnell's quarterly magazine, social media posts and email marketing by The Bushnell in consultation with HPL and the creation of pull-up banners that were placed in The Bushnell lobby.
- » In partnership with Cinestudio and Hartford Stage, Communications developed marketing and promotional materials for an October screening of the documentary *When My Sleeping Dragon Woke*, a behind-the-scenes look at the development of Sharon Washington's critically acclaimed play *Feeding The Dragon*. The screening was followed by a talkback hosted by HPL President and CEO Bridget E. Quinn and Hartford Stage Artistic Director Melia Bensussen. The event was covered by *The Courant*.
- » Also in October, Communications worked directly with the curators of the Pandemic Journaling Project from UConn to develop marketing and promotional materials for the opening of the exhibition. The project was covered by Hearst Connecticut Media.
- » Throughout the quarter, Communications met bi-weekly with the Town & City Clerk's Office and other stakeholders on a voter engagement campaign that led to the development of "B.B. The Ballot Box," a character designed by local artist Joe Young that was featured in a public service announcement, newspaper ads, music video, posters, social media posts and a comic book-



PICTURING THE PANDEMIC

Images from the Pandemic Journaling Project

OPENING: Thursday, Oct. 27, 5-7 PM | Hartford Public Library | 500 Main St., Hartford, CT 06103

Please join us for a reception to launch the Pandemic Journaling Project's first public exhibition of photographs and journal entries chronicling the experience of ordinary people during COVID-19. Refreshments will be served.

Scheduled speakers include:

- Hartford Mayor **Luke Bronin**
- Hartford Public Library President & CEO **Bridget Quinn**
- UConn President **Radenka Maric**
- **Michael Lynch**, director of UConn's Humanities Institute
- **Kathryn Libal**, director of UConn's Human Rights Institute
- **Ty Hughey**, executive director of Haddam-Killingworth Youth and Family Services
- **Melinda Das**, 10th grader, Wethersfield High School
- UConn faculty and Picturing the Pandemic Co-Curators **Alexis Boylan & Sarah Willen**

HARTFORD EXHIBITION 10/27/22 - 12/18/22

pandemic JOURNALING project

UConn

Hartford Public Library

The Future of



CULTURE & COMMUNICATIONS

(continued)



'A very strong and beautiful heritage'

Kwanzaa celebration in Hartford shares cultural traditions, joy

By Deivid Montague | Hartford Courant

You could hear the infectious joy and laughter as children danced to Kwanzaa songs by Master Sherry, father Andre Kete and their friends to the drumming performances by the Kwanzaa Cultural Arts Consortium with their dancer Melissa Cruz. The children expressed the spirit of all the community members who attended the Kwanzaa Community Celebrations program at Hartford Public Library's Albany Avenue Branch. The event was held there as the main branch downtown was closed due to extensive water damage that occurred Dec. 26.



let that was produced and distributed at libraries and other sites across the city. HPL's president and CEO was invited to speak at a news conference at City Hall to launch the campaign.

- » Communications supported the Development team with Beyond Words 2022, developing a script and other assets that were used as part of a virtual reality presentation at the event. The Communications team created the Beyond Words magazine that served as the program for the evening and contracted a professional photographer for the evening.
- » In late December, Communications worked to keep the community informed about library operations after a pipe burst and forced the closure of the Downtown Library. This included the development of temporary signage, a FAQ document that has been regularly updated and many postings to the library website and social media channels. A press walkthrough was organized

LOCAL



HARTFORD · DECEMBER 27, 2022 6:13 PM

Water Damage Forces Hartford Public Library Downtown Branch to Close

A burst pipe on Saturday has impacted every floor of the building, damaging computers, furniture, walls and floors. The book collection ... [Read More](#)

Facebook Twitter YouTube

BRIDGET QUINN
HPL PRESIDENT & CEO

@NBCConnecticut 5:33 30°





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CULTURE & COMMUNICATIONS

(continued)

and attended by local media to spread awareness about how the library was adjusting its operations to continue to meet the needs of the community.

- » Communications has held meetings with the Digital Library Lab team and the Outreach team to begin to develop marketing plans for the DLL and the Library on Wheels. This work will continue into the next quarter.

Hartford Public Library receives nearly \$500,000 grant to assist immigrant communities



A new grant is going to assist the Hartford Public Library teach smart financial habits to immigrant communities.

By Ayah Galal
 Published: Sep. 2, 2022 at 9:49 PM EDT



SOCIAL MEDIA



FACEBOOK

9.3K
FANS

105
POSTS



TWITTER

5.3K
FOLLOWERS

116
TWEETS



INSTAGRAM

3.9K
FOLLOWERS

97
POSTS



E-NEWS

25K
CONTACTS

103K
EMAILS
READ



Beyond Words 2022 hosted 375 guests and raised \$277,000 as of 1/15/23. It was, as usual, a terrific evening with friends and colleagues.

We were delighted with our virtual tour of the Library and are so grateful to Joe Gianni, our tour guide. If you haven't seen the full program, or to see the full list of generous sponsors and donors, visit: hplbeyondwords.com



*Joe Gianni, Master of Ceremonies
Bank of America Greater Hartford Market
President Joe Gianni took guests at Beyond Words 2022 into
the virtual reality world, created by HPL's YOUmedia Center!*

HPL CORPORATORS ARE NOW HPL AMBASSADORS

- » Hartford Public Library held its 183rd Annual Corporators meeting, November 15th at the Downtown Library.
- » HPL Board member Karen Taylor gave a brief presentation on HPL's 2022–2025 Strategic Plan.
- » Board member and Corporator Liaison Floyd W. Green III announced that the Corporators will now be called the Ambassadors, a new name which truly represents their role at the Library!
- » Charmaine Craig, Hartford's Tree Lady, was honored as the 2022 Corporator of Distinction for her tireless advocacy and support of the City of Hartford and the Library.



DOWNTOWN LIBRARY

On December 24, 2022, a pipe burst on the rooftop's mechanical room flooding the Library's 3rd, 2nd, 1st, ground floors and basement. The flood started over the Hartford History Center resulting in extensive damage throughout the building. The Library is expected to be closed for an extended amount of time. The Library is evaluating the damage and has reassigned staff to other locations and has moved programing to other locations as well.

ROPKINS

The redesign of the Ropkins Library is underway which will house the HHC research annex. The project is anticipated to be completed by the end of January 2023 opening sometime in early 2023 to the public. The Hartford History Center operations have moved to that location during the remediation of the damage to the Downtown Library.

PROGRAMS 2nd QUARTER October - December 2022

Downtown	FY 2021-2022			FY 2022-2023		
	Programs	Attendance	Views	Programs	Attendance	Views
American Place	265	2,216	0	327	3,923	0
Finance	5	274	0	2	143	0
Hartford History Center	13	368	0	11	300	0
Programming	33	403	0	38	1,137	0
YOUmedia	107	367	140	71	630	0
Youth Department	65	1,168	717	136	2,796	124
Totals	488	4,796	857	585	8,929	124

Branches	Programs	Attendance	Views	Programs	Attendance	Views
Albany Adult	4	35	30	2	90	0
Albany Youth/Teens	25	297	0	51	1,624	0
Barbour Adult	5	48	0	2	17	0
Barbour Youth	26	224	70	41	560	0
Camp Field Adult	7	43	0	5	32	0
Camp Field Youth	26	208	273	32	131	0
Dwight Adult	18	159	0	14	173	0
Dwight Youth	60	918	0	83	1,477	0
Park Adult	24	1,089	0	18	789	0
Park Youth	42	939	725	27	989	0
Ropkins Adult	11	86	86	0	0	0
Ropkins Youth	52	512	1,215	21	653	3,872
Library on Wheels	5	49	0	0	0	0
Totals	305	4,607	2,399	296	6,535	3,872

Pilot & Other Programs	Programs	Attendance	Views	Programs	Attendance	Views
Rawson - Pilot Program	8	171	0	45	642	0
Boundless @ HPHS*	52	510	0	78	415	0
Totals	60	681	0	123	1,057	0

HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY 2nd Quarter Programming Totals

	FY 2021-2022	FY 2022-2023
Virtual + Onsite Programs	853	1,004
Live Virtual + Onsite Attendance	10,084	16,521
Recorded Program Views	3,256	3,996

*Hartford Public High School

VISITS SYSTEMWIDE 2nd Quarter

94,044