

Hartford's Homa Naficy is a WH Champion

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HARTFORD – Born in Paris, a native of Iran and now an American citizen, Homa Naficy joined Hartford Public Library in 2000 to design and direct The American Place program for Hartford's immigrants and refugees. TAP is now a place for new arrivals seeking immigration information, resources for learning English and preparing for United States citizenship.

That's why Naficy, Chief Adult Learning Officer, was nominated by her colleagues as a "champion of change" for Libraries and Museums. Her accomplishment since her arrival at the library in 2010 include securing two major grants, a citizenship education grant from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (the only library in the nation to receive such funding), and a National Leadership grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services designed to promote immigrant civic engagement.

On Tuesday, the White House honored Naficy, one of twelve people as museum and library "Champions of Change." This Champions event focused on libraries and museums that make a difference for their neighborhoods and for our nation. White House officials said honorees provide powerful learning experiences and are reaching young children and their families with early learning opportunities, offering exciting experiences for teens to develop skills in science, technology, engineering and math, helping immigrants learn English and pursue citizenship and providing services for hard-to-reach populations so that everyone can succeed in school and in life."

According to www.whitehouse.gov, the Champions of Change program was created as an opportunity for the White House to feature groups of Americans – individuals, businesses and organizations – who are doing extraordinary things to empower and inspire members of their communities.

To learn more about the White House Champions of Change program and nominate a Champion, visit www.whitehouse.gov/champions.