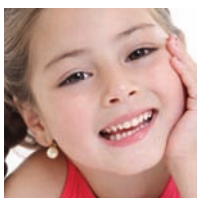
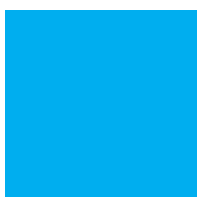




TOGETHER



we are the LIBRARY



2010

HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
ANNUAL REPORT



MATTHEW K. POLAND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Seeing our libraries filled to capacity is wonderful. Today, people are finding their way to our libraries in greater numbers – some for the first time. Whether they're families wanting to save the cost of DVD rentals, people who can no longer afford to buy books or someone needing help with resume writing, customers are streaming in every day. Take a quick walk through one of our branches or the Downtown Library and you'll be astounded at how much is going on and it's all free.

The extraordinary support from the Library's staff, the Board, the Mayor and the City Council, corporations, foundations and private donors reflects an appreciation that Hartford Public Library serves a vitally important function in our city – connecting people to the knowledge and inspiration to help them achieve their dreams. So it is not surprising that demand for the Library continues to rise. In fact, in-person visits to the Library increased by almost **4%** in 2010, while online visits went up by more than **17%**.

This Annual Report illustrates the wide range of connections that are made every day throughout the Library system – an intricate tapestry of people and place.

It's been a great first year as chief executive officer. I appreciate your support of Hartford Public Library. And a **BIG THANKS** to the Library's Board and staff who make all things possible.

Onward.



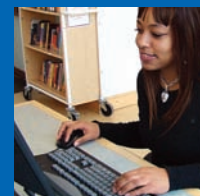
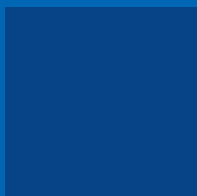
highlights

HIGHLIGHT SUMMARY

Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes in a year. How can we fully measure twelve months filled with so many moments of accomplishment and challenge? It is not easy, but this report will illustrate in images and words the best of what we do every day, every hour, every year.

- The **ARTWALK** produced four successful exhibitions over the year. Attendance at the opening receptions has reached 200 people. Thousands of people have visited the exhibitions over the last year.
- This year's **BIG READ** celebrated *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, principal partner Mark Twain House & Museum, along with the Hartford Stage and 22 partnering libraries attracted 28,367 adults and 12,815 children to 496 programs, a 45% increase over the previous year.
- The **VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA)** program prepared and transmitted 701 returns, an increase of 18% from 2009.
- **NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES** are increasing dramatically. ESOL classes have increased by 58% and the number of students by 41%.
- The most successful ever **ONE BOOK FOR GREATER HARTFORD**, featuring Junot Diaz, author of *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, attracted 450 attendees.

- Received **URBAN LIBRARIES COUNCIL TOP INNOVATIONS AWARD** for HartfordInfo.org. Use of HartfordInfo.org rose 57%, an average increase per month of 494,733 hits.
- The **CONNECTICUT BOOK AWARDS** recognized and honored the best books written, illustrated, or designed by Connecticut residents in 2009. Attendance increased by 13% over 2008.
- **HELD 17** Democracy in Action, HartfordInfo Today, and One City One Plan public programs with various collaborators. Nearly 1,000 people attended.
- **COLLABORATED WITH** 269 neighborhood/community groups, 568 non-profits, 30 youth organizations and 80 government agencies.



- **CHILDREN GROW AND LEARN** through 5,900 story times, enrichment activities and field trips, a 40% increase in the number of programs offered last year. Attendance was 59,000.
- **HARTFORD'S CITY COUNCIL** approved the transfer of Hartford Town and City Clerk Records, documents dating back to the 17th century, to the Library that will allow public access to these important documents for the first time in more than a century.
- The number of **JOB AND CAREER WORKSHOPS**, including workplace literacy and census testing, increased 116% from 2009; attendance increased 79%.
- Federally-subsidized **SUMMER LUNCH**, made possible through a collaboration with the City's Department of Health and Human Services, continued to draw Hartford youth to all 10 locations. Students often stayed for reading and enrichment programs. This year the Library served 9,482 lunches, an 8% increase over last year.

- Twenty-one teens engaged in the Library's positive youth development/employment initiative, **THE TEEN LEADER PROGRAM**. This is the first time in the initiative's 14-year history that the program was funded by an outside source, in this case the Travelers Foundation.
- **THE SEWING CIRCLE**, brings together 20 immigrant and refugee women at the Library weekly, where they develop friendships, exchange weaving techniques, and build marketing skills.



- **TWENTY-NINE APPLICANTS** representing 22 different nations were sworn in as U.S. Citizens at this year's naturalization ceremony hosted at the Library.
- It was one unforgettable evening June 24, 2010 at the Connecticut Convention Center as 450 guests celebrated the Library's **ONE UNFORGETTABLE BIG SUMMER NIGHT** fundraiser that featured Julie Powell, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Julie and Julia*. Thanks to the generosity of many, the **LIBRARY'S FUNDRAISER** increased its net revenue by 306.2% over last year.
- **ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FOUR MULTICULTURAL CELEBRATIONS** and events were held throughout the system celebrating the great wealth of diversity in our City.
- The **BABY GRAND JAZZ** series on Sundays in the winter featured 16 performances and attracted record-breaking attendance at 1,414 for the series.
- **HONORED AS THE LIBRARY** that Demonstrates a Commitment to the Democratic Humanity of its Community by Librarians for Human Rights for the Neighborhood Teams project.

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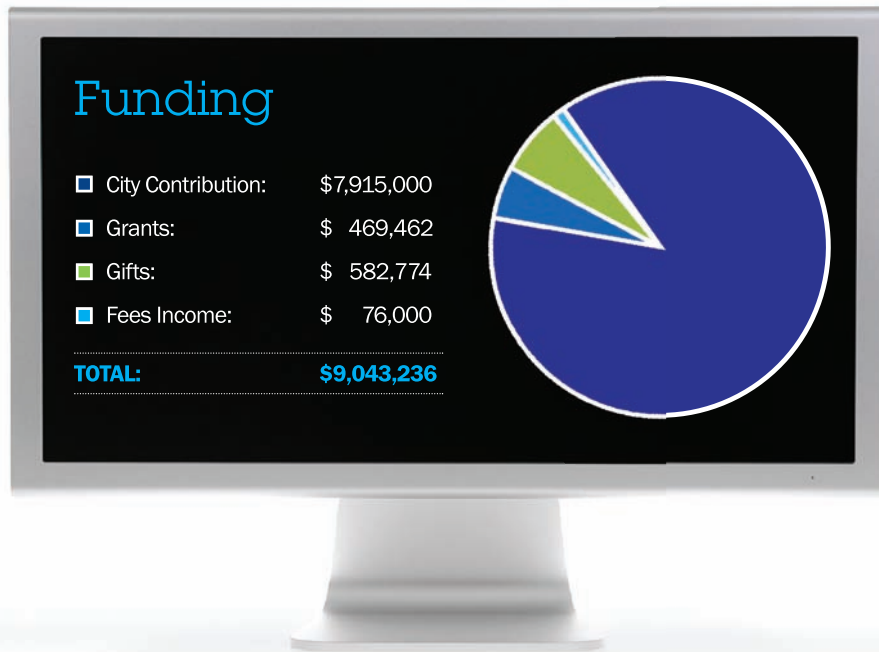
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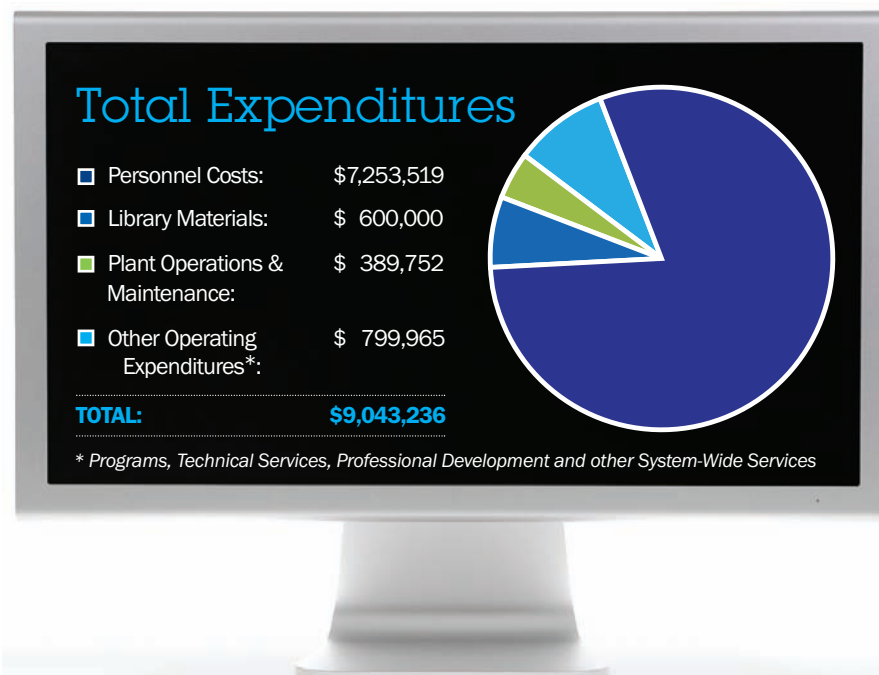
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Service Statistics

Library visits	859,862
Items circulated	710,361
Database searches	433,243
Public computer sessions	238,074
Hours of public Wi-Fi use	15,720
Youth homework assistance sessions	40,947
Youth and parents/caregivers participating in literacy programs	25,598

261	Job & career workshops attended by 1,362 people
436	ESOL classes attended by 835 students representing approximately 58 countries
689	Computer/technology classes attended by 2,237 students
16,415,019	HartfordInfo.org hits



message



GREGORY C. DAVIS

PRESIDENT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

My first year as president of the Library's Board has been a remarkable and rewarding experience. Thanks to the efforts of the staff, our Library remained actively engaged in our City, where it is needed and much appreciated by the people it serves. The appointment of Matt Poland as our first chief executive officer has sparked new energy at the Library and in the City. And, of course, I am proud to lead a Board that is fully engaged in supporting and promoting the Library as one of Hartford's essential resources.

What motivates every one of our Board members is an abiding and passionate dedication to the mission of Hartford Public Library. And I believe that it is because of a constant focus on the Library's mission that we continue to attract talented new board members representing the best of Hartford's leadership community. This year, we welcomed Bill Breetz and Shawn Wooden, who are already proving to be great directors, generously sharing their insights and expertise.

The next year will be an inflection point for the Library, as we complete a period of intensive strategic planning for the future. As technology opens new ways to share information, all public libraries will experience major changes. Hartford Public Library will participate in redefining change, and the exceptional commitment of our Board of Directors will play a key role in bringing plans to reality.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am grateful to all those who supported the Library in 2009-2010, and I look forward to all we can accomplish together in the year ahead.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- William Breetz
- Gregory C. Davis, *President*
- Anne Melissa Dowling
- Michael Gannon
- Stephen B. Goddard
- Connie B. Green
Appt. by Court of Common Council
- William M. Large
- Thea Montañez, *Vice-President*
Appt. by Court of Common Council
- Elizabeth Brad Noel
Appt. by Board of Education
- Enid Rey
- Romulo Samaniego
- Annette Sanderson
- Paul D. Shipman, *Treasurer*
- Geraldine P. Sullivan, *Secretary*
- Carlos Valinho
- Shawn T. Wooden
Appt. by Court of Common Council
- Mayor Pedro E. Segarra, *Ex Officio*

LIBRARY LEADERSHIP

- Chief Executive Officer*
Matthew K. Poland
- Chief Public Services Officer*
Marian Amodeo
- Chief Development Officer*
Mary F. Crean
- Chief Financial Officer*
Julio Molleda
- Associate Librarian for Neighborhood Services*
Anwar Ahmad
- Associate Librarian for Adult Services*
Mary Albro
- Associate Librarian for Reader Services*
Mary Billings
- Associate Librarian for Community Development and Civic Engagement*
Richard Frieder
- Associate Librarian for Youth Services*
Debra Carrier Perry

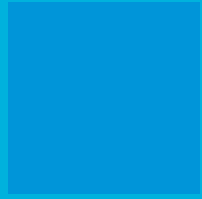
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- Harold D. Abrams
- Ana Alfaro
- Susan B. Aller
- John F. Alves
- Gregory E. Andrews
- Thomas O. Barnes
- Austin D. Barney II
- David Barrett
- Jill Barrett
- Deborah Barrows
- Paul Basch
- Arline Baum
- Linda Bayer
- Patricia L. Berberich
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- John L. Bonee
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- Barbara Chatfield
- Biago D. Ciotto
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- Sanford Cloud, Jr.
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- Robert Emma
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- Sandra Bender Fromson
- Michael Gannon
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- Herman LaFontaine
- Clare Lake
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- Mary Elizabeth Mahler
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- G. Stewart Murchie
- Leah T. Murchie
- Elizabeth B. Noel
- Emily R. Noel
- Elizabeth Normen
- Lynn M. Olson-Douglas
- Dr. Robert L. Painter
- Daniel I. Papermaster
- Flora Parisky
- Margaret Patricelli
- Brewster B. Perkins
- Douglas T. Putnam

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- Francesca Reale
- Glenda C. Reed
- James R. Reed Jr.
- Cynthia W. Reik
- Enid Rey
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- Rosaida Rosario
- Janice Rossetti
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- Josephine Sale
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- Antonina P. Uccello
- Carlos Valinho
- Richard Welling*
- Walter Wick
- Ernest C. Wignall
- Joan Jacobs Williams
- Shawn T. Wooden

144 MEMBERS
4/30/10
* DECEASED



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CAMP FIELD BRANCH

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