



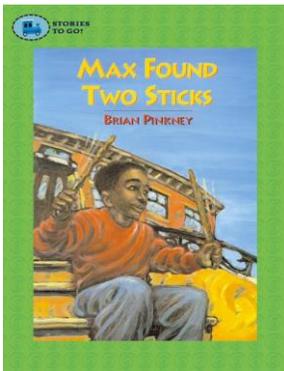
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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Third StoryWalk™ in Hartford will be in the Blue Hills Neighborhood**

*Two-week program promotes reading, community engagement, and outdoor activity*

**HARTFORD, Connecticut (September 21, 2015)** – Hartford Public Library announced today the start of Hartford’s third StoryWalk™. After successful walks in Frog Hollow and the Northeast neighborhoods, the next celebration will be in the in the Blue Hills neighborhood with a kick-off dinner and event on Tuesday, September 22 at 4 p.m. at the Hartford Public Library Blue Hills branch, 649 Blue Hills Avenue. StoryWalk™ activities will run from September 22 through October 6.



**StoryWalk™** is a fun, engaging, community project that promotes reading and outdoor physical activity for kids and families. Activities will lead kids and families on a trip through the Blue Hills neighborhood and local business storefronts where pages from ***Max Found Two Sticks*** by **Brian Pinkney** will be reprinted on large, weather-resistant boards and placed in participating store windows.

This year, families are invited to take their own trek around the Blue Hills neighborhood and visit businesses in search of all the pages of *Max Found Two Sticks*. Families will be given a passport with the location of each page. Each business will stamp the passport leading the families through the stories ending at the Blue Hills branch library where they will receive a free copy of the book.

Families can participate at any time during the two-week period. The Blue Hills branch library will have maps and passports available for families wishing to join **StoryWalk™**.

“We now know that children gain significant knowledge of language, reading, and writing long before they enter school,” said Hartford Public Library Chief Executive Officer Matthew Poland. “Early literacy skills are developed in real life settings through positive interactions with literacy materials and caring adults. That’s what **StoryWalk™** is all about.”

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This program is made possible through the collaborative efforts of Hartford Public Library, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving/Hartford Area Child Care Collaborative, and Mega Education.

**ABOUT StoryWalk™**

**StoryWalk™** is a component of an early literacy approach called *Let's Talk... It Makes A Difference*. **StoryWalk™** was created by Anne Ferguson and developed in collaboration with the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition and the Kellogg Hubbard Library.

**ABOUT HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY** As a finalist for the 2013 and 2014 National Medal from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, Hartford Public Library has been recognized as a national leader in redefining the urban public library in the 21st century as an innovative and stimulating place where people can learn and discover, explore their passions, and find a rich array of resources that contribute to a full life. Hartford Public Library provides free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Serving the residents of Hartford and beyond at its nine branches and Downtown location, Hartford Public Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year from adults, children and families seeking early literacy opportunities, work skills training, civic engagement, arts enrichment, and so much more. Visit [hplct.org](http://hplct.org).

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