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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY AWARDED \$1,000,000 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW PARK BRANCH

**Hartford, Connecticut (December 1, 2015)** – The Connecticut State Library Board voted to approve Hartford Public Library’s construction grant for \$1,000,000 at its November 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Funds will go towards the construction of the new Park Branch in the city’s Frog Hollow neighborhood. Final approval of this award is contingent upon favorable action by the State Bond Commission.

Hartford Public Library will relocate the current Park Branch to the site of the historic Lyric Theater. This move will allow the library to expand high demand services in Frog Hollow by providing equitable access to technology, learning and civic development. The new branch will also contribute to the revitalization and economic development of the neighborhood.

“The new Park branch will have significantly more space to provide additional resources, programming and services, many that will leverage community assets” said the Library’s CEO Matthew K. Poland. “Over the last 20 years the community has patiently waited for a new library branch and this step gets us closer to making it happen”

This new Park Branch will feature innovative library initiatives and services such as *Leap into Learning*, an early literacy initiative focusing on families with children birth-3, the formal library/school partnership, and *Umigo*, the Library’s partnership with the City and the National League of Cities to provide early elementary age children with the building blocks that will help them acquire early math skills, encouraging them to become active learners, critical thinkers and problem solvers.

The new branch is scheduled to open mid-2017.

#### 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 833,000 visits per year from adults, children and families seeking early literacy opportunities, work skills training, civic engagement, arts enrichment, and so much more. Visit [www.hplct.org](http://www.hplct.org).

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