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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Events in Honor of Veterans at Hartford Public Library**

**HARTFORD, CT (October 20, 2015)**—Hartford Public Library, in partnership with the Connecticut State Library, will celebrate Veterans Day this year with back-to-back programs honoring those who have served our nation in the armed forces.

On November 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm, Hartford Public Library will present a special screening of *The Borinqueneers*, a 2007 documentary about the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. The 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment was the only all-Puerto Rican regiment in the United States Army and its history spans from WWI to present-day. The regiment was nicknamed The Borinqueneers in reference to Puerto Rico's original Taíno name, Borinquen.

A photo exhibit and a lecture by the film's executive producer, Noemí Figueroa Soulet, will accompany the program. Soulet will address Hispanic military contributions and discuss the making of the documentary film. A question and answer session will follow the screening. HPL will be showing the film in its Center for Contemporary Culture as a part of both our Veterans Day and Hispanic Heritage Month programming.

On November 10 at 6:00 p.m., in partnership with Ballet Theatre Company, HPL will present "Moving Toward Social Change". This dance performance, choreographed by Artistic Director and U.S. Marine Iraq War Veteran Roman Baca, will incorporate recent veteran initiatives, artwork, and poetry. The anticipated audience will bridge the civilian/veteran divide by bringing together local civilians, advocates for art, advocates for social justice, veterans, art aficionados, and fans of poetry and dance.

The program's choreography is inspired by the veteran experience, the art of veteran artist Romare Bearden, and the poetry of Hartford's Lynn Hoffman. A panel discussion will follow the performance, featuring Dierdra Harris Kelley (Co-Director of the Romare Bearden Foundation), Lynn Hoffman (poet and mother of a U.S. Marine Afghanistan War Veteran), and Aaron Thao (dancer and son of Hmong refugees). The performance will take place in the Center for Contemporary Culture at Hartford Public Library and light refreshments will be provided.

"This Veterans Day, together with the Connecticut State Library, we will celebrate the enduring contribution and legacy of all our servicemen and women," said Hartford Public Library's chief executive officer Matt Poland. "Their contributions do not stop at the end of their military

service. Our veterans offer us a crucial perspective on our own culture—one that we should consider everyday, but especially on Veterans Day.”

Both programs presented in honor of our veterans are free and open to the public.

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**ABOUT THE STATE LIBRARY** The Connecticut State Library is an Executive Branch agency of the State of Connecticut. The State Library provides a variety of library, information, archival, public records, museum, and administrative services to citizens of Connecticut, as well as the employees and officials of all three branches of State government. The Connecticut State Archives and the Museum of Connecticut History are components of the State Library. Visit the State Library at <http://www.museumofcthistory.org/> | <http://twitter.com/LibraryofCT> | <http://www.facebook.com/CTStateLibrary> | <http://www.flickr.com/photos/ctarchives/>

**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).