



For Planning Purposes  
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February 14, 2023

## HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY, HARTFORD'S L.I.T., EVERY KINDA LADY CO. HOST WRITING WORKSHOPS, PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT WOMEN TELLING THEIR STORIES

*Funding from Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation will support partnership*

(Hartford, CT) – Hartford Public Library, in partnership with Hartford's L.I.T., and Every Kinda Lady Co., have received a \$25,000 grant from the **Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation** to fund workshops, a Literary Art Wellness Retreat and other literary programming as part of a new project to support women in the Greater Hartford area in writing and publishing their own narratives.

Workshops for adults and teens will be held throughout the winter and spring of 2023, as well as a weekend writing retreat and a two-day conference that will invite publishers, literary agents and guest speakers including a keynote author.

Hartford Public Library is partnering on the project with Hartford's L.I.T. (Literary Integrated Trailblazers), an organization of local authors, artists and entrepreneurs that organizes the annual Hartford Book Festival and the Hartford Reads in Color book club; and the Every Kinda Lady Co., which seeks to strengthen the voices of women and teen girls from all backgrounds and advocate for and offer emotional equity access to Black, Indigenous women of color.

"This funding will allow us to launch a new programming series that will elevate the voices of women ... by providing them with the training and tools needed to share their powerful, impactful stories," said **Liz Castle, Hartford Public Library's programming and events manager**. "We look forward to our participants building on the community of women authors already present in the Greater Hartford area and are thankful to the Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation for supporting this important work."

Hartford Public Library (HPL) is partnering with local writing groups to offer a breadth of programming for women writers. The project will consist of four components:

### **5th Annual Hartford Book Festival**

Friday, Sept. 22, 2023, annual Writing Conference, 10 am – 4:30 pm (Location TBD)

Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023, annual Hartford Book Festival, 11 am – 4 pm (Location TBD)  
Sunday, Sept. 24, 2023, An Evening of Poetical Musings, 3-8 pm (Free Center, 460 New Britain Ave., Hartford, CT)

Hartford's L.I.T., along with local artists, business owners and Hartford residents, came together for the last four years to host and coordinate the Hartford Book Festival at the Hartford Public Library. The upcoming year will be a celebration of reading and writing for children, teens and adults in the City of Hartford. The festival will feature local authors, book stores, workshops, panels, a live stage, youth activities, open mic, literary highlights, publishers and a vibrant cultural live stage and more. This festival has been volunteer run for the past four years, relying on a large team of local writers to lend their time to organizing, hosting, and facilitating festival activities. This year's festival will also include a focus on literary women's groups.

### **Writing Workshop Series**

#### **Women Writers' Café, Park Street Library @ the Lyric, 603 Park St., Hartford, CT 06106**

Saturdays: March 18, March 25, May 6, 2023, 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 pm

Serving 12 women in the Greater Hartford community, ages 21-plus

Register [HERE](#)

#### **Girls' Writing Club, Albany Library, 1250 Albany Ave., Hartford, CT 06112**

Saturdays: April 22, April 29, May 20, 2023 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 pm

Serving 12 girls, ages 13-19

Register [HERE](#)

Workshops focusing on the basics of writing as well as an introduction to fiction, character and plot devices. There will be question and answer periods to allow for providing adequate resources and take-ways for attendants. As with most Hartford's L.I.T. programming there will also be an opportunity for the writers to showcase their talent in a virtual/in-person reading.

### **Writing Wildly to Wellness & Connect Within & Without Every Kinda Lady Literary Art Wellness Retreat**

June 8–11, 2023, two-night or three-option

28 participants, ages 21-plus

The Weekend Writing Retreat hosted and facilitated by Every Kinda Lady Co., in partnership with the Hartford Public Library and Hartford's L.I.T. will be available for women interested in a more intensive writing program for adults. The retreat will feature writing workshops facilitated by women authors, including members of, Journey Writers, Inc., When Women Speak, The Every Kinda Lady Literary Art Wellness Coach and founder Nzima Hutchings. The Every Kinda Lady Co. encourages women to write their narratives, to make the important meetings with themselves and use writing as a healing tool as they piece their life's puzzle pieces. Women will exercise self-care, connect with themselves through nature and writing workshops, brave space, practice mindfulness and build positive communities amongst other women.

### **Women Writing and Marching into History Conference Writers Gotta Write!**

Saturday, March 11, 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (CREC, 111 Charter Oak Ave., Hartford, CT 06106)

Sunday, March 12 (Zoom)

Register [HERE](#)

There are times when writers find they need to learn a new way, method or approach that allows their imaginations to be as free as they need to. A great place to begin the process is a conference. Nothing is more inspirational than being among other writers and finding you are not as alone as you think you are in this journey of creativity. This year Hartford's L.I.T. presents workshops to assist in your approach to your writing while also providing resources to help build out a writer's stories.

Goal to serve: 70 registered participants

The conference will feature a lineup of workshops, access to publishers, special guest speakers, author speakers and a host of literary networks. There will be a focus on writing for advocacy, which will be supported by women-supporting organizations attending the conference. Women or a person identifying as a female authors and entrepreneurs are invited to showcase books or unique products through vending and network building opportunities.

The goals of the above programming are as follows:

- To support the Greater Hartford area women in writing and publishing their own narratives
- To encourage women and girls to use writing to work through trauma, loss, daily stress, and internal and external conflicts
- To expand and diversify in the Greater Hartford's literary arts
- Foster balance, mindfulness, and emotional wellness for participants
- Produce an inclusive anthology written by diverse women regardless of race, background, sexual orientation, class, or disability
- Build capacity around continued collaboration and advocacy for all women with special attention to BIWOC writers and artists within Connecticut and globally.

### **Hartford's L.I.T. Focus**

#### **Published Books**

Hartford's L.I.T. Anthology 2019 How Are the Children?

Hartford's L.I.T. Anthology 2020 Visions and Reflections

Hartford's L.I.T. Anthology 2021 Journal 2020 One Love One Life

Double Up on Your Writing HLIT Writing Prompts; published in 2022

**“Our stories are being told and we need to ensure that they are heard, discussed, written, and learned from.”**

#### **Hartford's L.I.T. Staple Virtual Programming**

\*HLIT Book Chat

\*HLIT Book Club / Hartford Reads in Color w/ HPL

\*Lit Justice Mic

\*Author Highlights

#### **Hartford's L.I.T. Staple Events**

\*Brothas Be Heard

\*Unfinished and Finished Literary Work

\*HLIT Literary Holidays

\*Women & Girl's Lit and Empowerment Program

\*Speakeasy - A Banned Books Cafe Hour

\*HLIT Annual Hartford Book Festival

- \*Annual Writing Conference & Symposium
- \*An Evening of Poetical Musings

### **Annual Community Outreach/Advocacy**

- \*Poetry for A Cause
- \*Book drives, book giveaways and food drives
- \*Annual literary award
- \*Jamilah T. Muhammad Honeywata Literary Art & Community Service Commemorative Award.

### **Hartford's L.I.T. ( Literary Integrated Trailblazers) Team**

#### **Executive Board Members & Founding**

**Nzima Sherylle Hutchings**, Visionary / Founder Curator and CEO

**T'challa Williams**, Executive Founding Member

**Alphonso McGriff III**, Executive Founding Member

**Lashawn Henderson Middleton**, Founding Member

#### **Committee Members**

Barbara McClane

Miosotys Santiago

#### **How to support HLIT:**

We are accepting donations of new children's and young adult books and composition notebooks. We are accepting monetary donations to support our continued efforts. Hartford's L.I.T. is a grassroots literary organization offering opportunities for free community literary art events, vending for local authors and literary workshops, as well as providing professional literary art education, productions and community anthologies.

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#### **About Hartford Public Library**

With roots dating to 1774, Hartford Public Library remains at the forefront of redefining the urban library experience in the 21st century. With seven locations throughout the city, the library provides education, intellectual enrichment and cultural development for thousands of children, youth and adults every year. Hartford Public Library has also gained local and national recognition for its wide range of new initiatives and partnerships designed to meet the needs of a diverse and dynamic city and region, including immigration services, employment assistance and youth leadership training. [www.hplct.org](http://www.hplct.org).