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## **HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY LAUNCHES NEW NORTH END LIBRARY AND LEARNING CENTER PROJECT AT THE SWIFT FACTORY**

*State-of-the-art facility inside former gold leaf factory will provide quality programming to help Hartford-area residents prepare for 21st-century jobs*

(Hartford, CT) – Hartford Public Library President and CEO Bridget E. Quinn joined community leaders and residents to celebrate the project launch of its newest library and innovative learning center at the historic Swift Factory in North Hartford, where the facility will be housed. In partnership with poverty-fighting organization Community Solutions, the project is poised to bring economic development and community revitalization to North Hartford.

"Public libraries have long led the way providing free, community-based learning, and opportunities for teens, adults, immigrants, seniors, young entrepreneurs and more," said **Hartford Public Library President and CEO Bridget E. Quinn**. "This project is a natural evolution of that. This is the next generation of the American public library – right here in North Hartford."

HPL's newest facility will become the anchor tenant of the Swift Factory, occupying 15,000 square feet on two floors of the former gold leaf manufacturing plant, creating a one of its kind collaboration laser-focused on building economic opportunity through education, empowerment and access to resources for the thousands of residents it will welcome each year.

"The addition of a new branch of the Hartford Public Library at the Swift Factory marks a powerful investment in North Hartford," said **Community Solutions President Rosanne Haggerty**. "Our long-held vision has been for the Swift Factory to be an anchor for employment, economic development and learning: the urgent priorities named by North Hartford residents. We are thrilled to partner with the Hartford Public Library to advance these critical goals."

The facility will include an intake office, two 25-seat classrooms, a 1,400-square-foot fully networked computer lab and a light manufacturing simulation lab, in addition to a full-service library.

“The new North End Library and Learning Center at the Swift Factory will impact the lives of North Hartford residents, who for generations have struggled economically,” said **Hartford Public Library board member and North Hartford Resident Steven M. Harris**. “This facility will help support our families with educational resources and social services as well as prepare our young people for 21st century family-sustaining jobs and I am honored to celebrate the City of Hartford's bright new future.”

A plethora of services will be offered to North Hartford residents to serve as a multigenerational hub for education, career training and skills building. Some of the services will include:

- Entrepreneurial and small business classes.
- Technology training in a dedicated computer lab space.
- Citizenship classes and legal services.
- GED and pre-GED classes; ESL and English Language Learning; financial literacy.
- Certifications in ServSafe Food Handling and ServSafe Food Managers in collaboration with the National Restaurant Association.
- Light manufacturing such as welding, specific equipment training (such as mills and lathes), Certified Production Technician and Certified Logistics Technician.

“A year ago, we pledged to make the Swift Factory the new home for the Hartford Public Library's new Northeast neighborhood branch, and today we're taking another big step toward making it happen,” said **Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin**. “The funding is in place, the space is ready, and we want to make sure that the community is part of designing a beautiful, welcoming, world-class learning space. And one of the best parts of building the library branch here is that it will be just down the hall from the makers, creators, chefs, and business owners who have turned the Swift Factory back into an engine of economic growth — and who can inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs.”

The anticipated total cost to open the facility is \$8 million; funded by a combination of public and private funding, including a significant \$5.5 million investment by the City of Hartford. The overall redevelopment of the Swift Factory represents a \$41 million investment in North Hartford. Construction is expected to be completed within 18 months; with a target groundbreaking in the fall of 2022.

### **About Hartford Public Library**

Now celebrating its 127th year, Hartford Public Library remains at the forefront of redefining the urban library experience in the 21st century. With 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).

### **About Community Solutions**

Community Solutions is a nonprofit committed to creating a lasting end to homelessness that leaves no one behind. It leads Built for Zero, a movement of more than 90 communities in the United States working to measurably and equitably end homelessness. Using a data-driven methodology, these communities have changed how local systems work and the impact they can achieve. To date, 14 communities have reached a milestone known as functional zero, a milestone for ending homelessness for a population. Learn more at [www.community.solutions](http://www.community.solutions)