



For Immediate Release  
September 30, 2021  
Contact: [Russell Blair](#)  
(860) 559-4873

## HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY CELEBRATES COMPLETION OF NEW PARK STREET LIBRARY AT THE LYRIC

*Public invited to grand opening celebration Saturday*



*Hartford Public Library President and CEO Bridget E. Quinn, left, watches at the podium as Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin, Hartford Public Library Board of Directors members Ana Alfaro and Chairman Greg Davis, state Rep. Minnie Gonzalez and Eversource Executive President of Corporate Relations, Sustainability and Corporate Secretary Jim Hunt cut the ribbon on the new Park Street Library at the Lyric.*

(Hartford, CT) – Hartford Public Library President and CEO Bridget E. Quinn joined library, state and local leaders Thursday, September 30, for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the completion of the new Park Street Library at the Lyric.

Ground was broken on the \$12.5 million project in July 2019. The two-story, 13,000-square-foot library replaces the old Park Street branch that was located in a 2,000-square-foot storefront. It includes a 3,000-square-foot reading room, a separate 1,200-square-foot children’s room, a small café and an enclosed outdoor patio area for performances and events. The second floor features a learning lab, conference room and a nearly 2,000-square-foot community room able to accommodate more than 150 people for meetings, lectures, performances and other events.

The library, at the corner of Park and Broad streets in Hartford’s Frog Hollow neighborhood, stands on the site of the former Lyric Theater, which was demolished in 2020 after decades of neglect and disinvestment. The new building honors the history of the Lyric Theater in both its name and its design features, including reproductions of murals that were commissioned in 2000 and installed in the second- and third-floor window openings of the theater.

The Park Street Library at the Lyric will have the largest Spanish-language collection of any Hartford Public Library location and includes thousands of new titles.

Funding for the project includes \$11.1 million from the State Bond Commission, \$1 million from the Connecticut State Library and additional funds from the City of Hartford. TSKP Studio of Hartford designed the building and Downes Construction Company of New Britain was the construction manager on the project.

A grand opening celebration will be held Saturday, October 2. The library will be open Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. More information is available at <https://hplibraryct.wixsite.com/park-library>.

“It’s thrilling to celebrate today the completion of a project that has been decades in the making,” said **Hartford Public Library President and CEO Bridget E. Quinn**. “We know this new library will be transformative for the Frog Hollow neighborhood and we look forward to generations of children and adults visiting with us. The Park Street Library at the Lyric will be a vital anchor in the neighborhood for decades to come. It will truly be a palace of literacy, learning and culture. With the completion of the new branch we are redoubling our commitment to the neighborhood and our city.”

“For years, the community has asked, and worked, and hoped for a library branch worthy of the kids and families who use it, and today, we open a beautiful, new, world-class library branch on Park Street,” said **Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin**. “This new Park Street Library will be more than just an important resource for learning and enrichment outside the classroom, it will also serve as a gathering place that strengthens this neighborhood and celebrates the vibrant culture of this community.”

“This library represents the kind of investment which we know will make a difference in the Hartford community in the Frog Hollow neighborhood,” said **Gov. Ned Lamont**. “This library will serve as a pillar of the community with access to all kinds of resources in multiple languages, and it will inevitably be the venue for many residents to further their education and their careers. I am proud to be able to say the State of Connecticut partnered on this project and I can’t wait to see what the future hold for this library, for Hartford, and for Frog Hollow.”

“This is a proud moment for me and all of the board of directors for the Hartford Public Library,” said **Gregory C. Davis, chairman, Hartford Public Library Board of Directors**. “This is not a good day, it’s a great day, not only for the Hartford Public Library but for the city of Hartford and the community here in Frog Hollow. I can’t wait to see the building bustling with young and old.”

“Hartford Public Library is such an important city resource,” said **Speaker of the State House of Representatives Matt Ritter**. “I am glad to see their vision to turn a long-vacant property into a hub of learning and community activity here at the new Park Street Library at the Lyric come to fruition.”

“Today is a bittersweet day as 25 years later we finally have this facility that will serve children and adults who were children when this effort began,” said **State Representative Minnie Gonzalez**. “I would like to thank Governor Ned Lamont, Speaker Matt Ritter and a huge thank you to Senator John Fonfara who without his help this would not have been possible. Also a thanks to Celestino Jimenez, Sr. for his involvement and activism in this project.”

“At Eversource our mission is to provide our customers with reliable service, and we’re also firmly committed to making a difference in the communities we serve so they can thrive,” said **Eversource Executive President of Corporate Relations, Sustainability and Corporate Secretary Jim Hunt**. “Libraries are a fundamental part of the fabric of any community — serving people of all backgrounds, ages and interests — and we’re proud to support the new Park Street Library and sponsor the Eversource Community Room which we hope will energize learning and community engagement here in Hartford for generations to come.”

“Hartford Public Library is an exemplar, offering not only traditional library services, but citizenship and social programs, arts engagement activities, and access to cutting edge technology,” said **Deborah Schander, Connecticut State Librarian**. “With the opening of this new location on the site of the historic Lyric Theatre, it deepens its commitment to the Hartford community and its citizens for today and tomorrow.”

“This library is very important because it is not just a library, it is a community center, with a cafe, large community room, educational classroom and community garden,” said **Tai Soo Kim, partner at TSKP Studio, the architect for the project**. “I believe this building will become an oasis and living room for the Frog Hollow community.”

“Downes values our long-standing partnership with the City of Hartford, and we’re honored to be the construction manager on the new Park Street Library @ the Lyric,” said **Joseph Desautel, Jr., CEO of Downes Construction Company**. “The new state-of-the-art facility is a wonderful addition to the Frog Hollow Community for many years to come.”



*The new Park Street Library at the Lyric.*

-30-

### **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).