



For Immediate Release

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HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY RECEIVES CORNELIA T. BAILEY FOUNDATION GRANT TO LAUNCH PROJECT SUPPORTING WOMEN WRITERS OF COLOR

‘Our Narratives, Our Power’ will include workshops, weekend writing retreat and two-day conference

(Hartford, CT) – Hartford Public Library has received a \$25,000 grant from the **Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation** to fund workshops and other programming as part of a new project to support Hartford-area women of color in writing and publishing their own narratives.

“Our Narratives, Our Power” will include a series of writing workshops for adults and teens throughout the winter and spring of 2023, a weekend writing retreat and a two-day conference that will invite publishers, literary agents and guest speakers include 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 of color 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 of color already present in Greater Hartford and are thankful to the Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation for supporting this important work.”

A Women Writers' Café for adults will be held on three Saturdays in March and April and a Girls' Writing Club for teens will be held on two Saturdays in February and April. Workshops will focus on the basics of writing as well as an introduction to fiction, character and plot devices. There will be question-and-answer periods and takeaways for attendees. The Women Writing and Marching into History Conference will be held in March.

The Weekend Writing Retreat in June will be available for women interested in a more intensive writing program for adults. The retreat will feature workshops facilitated by women authors including members of the Connecticut Poetry Society, Journey Writers, Inc., When Women Speak and The Every Kinda Lady Literacy Art Wellness Coach.

The project will conclude with the fifth annual Hartford Book Festival, scheduled for Sept. 22-24, 2023.

Goals of the project include:

- Encouraging women and girls to use writing to work through trauma, loss, daily stress and internal and external conflicts
- Expanding and diversifying Hartford-area literary art
- Fostering balance, mindfulness and emotional wellness for participants
- Bringing awareness around societal and social inequities that affect Black, Indigenous women of color (BIWOC)
- Building capacity around continued collaboration and advocacy among BIWOC writers and artists within Connecticut and globally
- Producing an inclusive anthology written by diverse women regardless of race, background, sexual orientation, class or disability

Hartford Public Library received the grant under the **Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation's New Era Writers Program** that aims inspire those who seek to improve their current abilities or find a community with like-minded individuals and writers as well as providing support and resources to writers and writing programs to help amplify their voices and improve their capabilities.

A full schedule of programming for "Our Narratives, Our Power" is below.

Girls' Writing Club

Saturdays February 25 and April 29, 2023

Ages 13-19

Women Writers' Cafe

Saturdays March 18, 25, April 1, 2023

Ages 18+

Women Writing and Marching into History Conference

March 11th (in-person) & March 12th (virtual), 2023

Weekend Writing Retreat

Friday June 9th to Sunday June 11th, 2023

Ages 21-plus

5th Annual Hartford Book Festival

Friday, September 22 to Sunday, September 24, 2023.

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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.