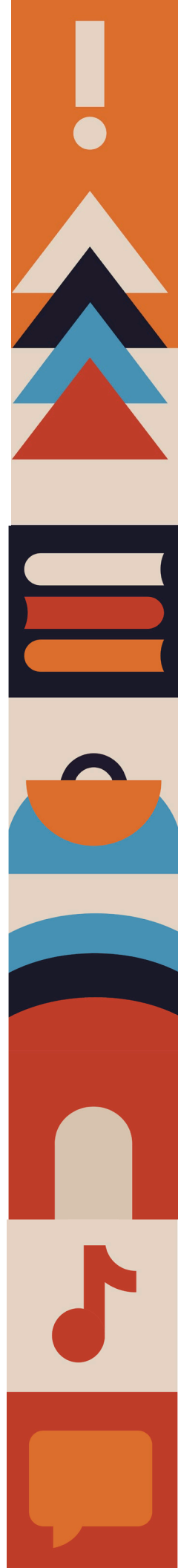




President and CEO Report *December 2024*

FISCAL YEAR 2024–25
FIRST QUARTER
(JULY - SEPTEMBER 2024)

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At a glance



79,749

total visits

43,014

items checked out

17,540

wifi sessions

16,411

computer sessions

10,034

reference questions answered

6,173

youth program participants

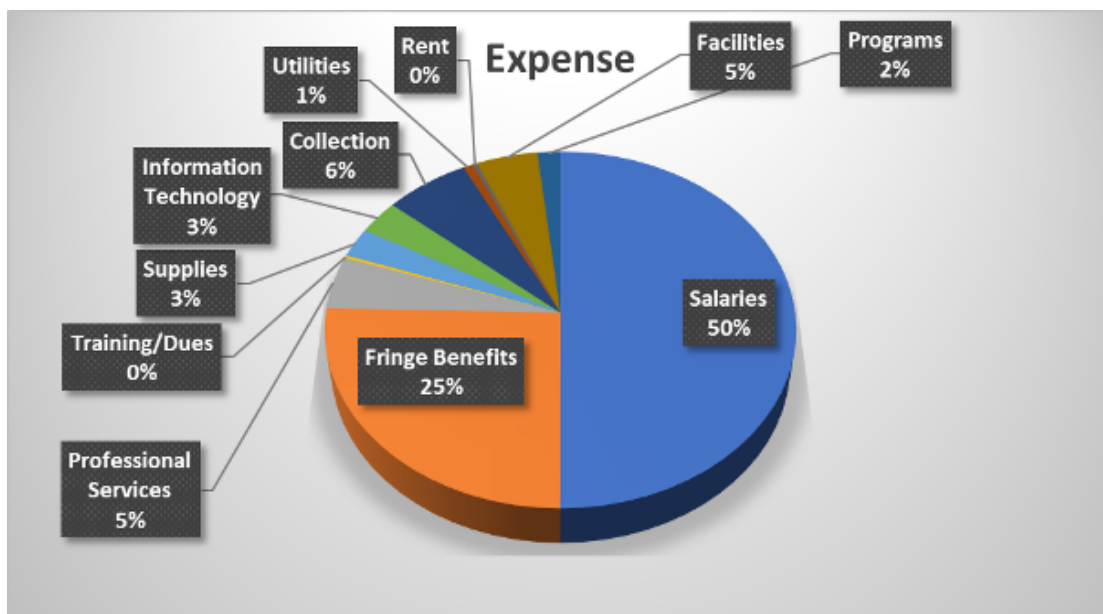
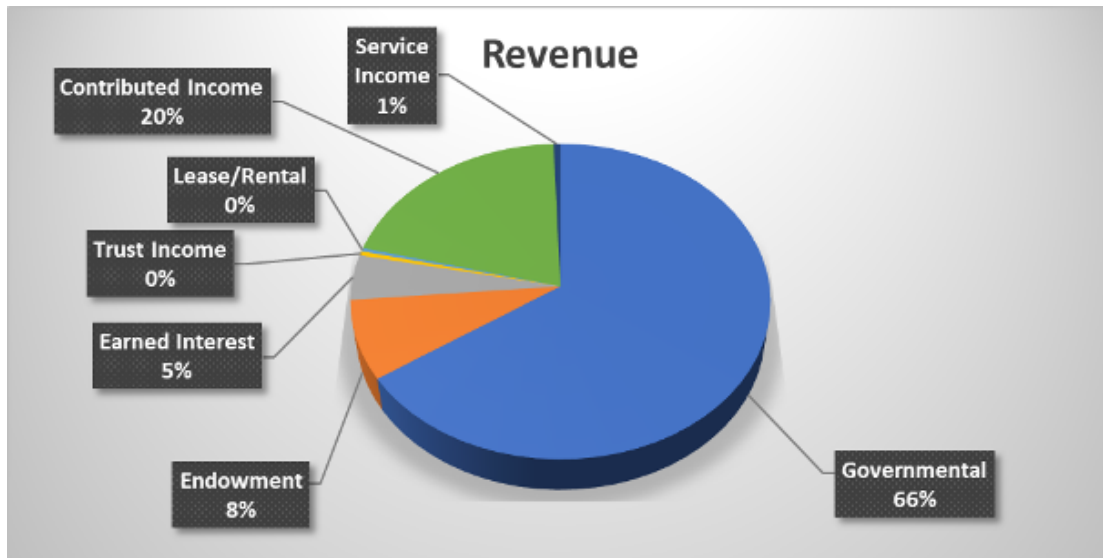
250

years of Hartford Public Library

FISCAL YEAR 2025 QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

For the period ending 9/30/24, 25% through the fiscal year, Hartford Public Library has expended a total of \$3,508,116 which represents 25.7% of the budget of \$13,669,669. HPL has collected \$3,628,113, or 26.5% of the Fiscal Year 2025 budget.

Account	Budget	Actual	Variance	% of Budget Collected/Expended
Revenue	\$ 13,669,669	\$ 3,628,113	\$ 10,041,556	26.5%
Expense	\$ 13,669,669	\$ 3,508,116	\$ 10,161,553	25.7%
Variance	\$ -	\$ 119,997	\$ (119,997)	



Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Report - as of September 30, 2024

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>BUDGET FY25</u>	<u>ACTUAL FY25</u>	<u>VARIANCE</u>	<u>% VARIANCE</u>
Governmental				
City of Hartford	\$ 9,512,786	\$ 2,378,197	\$ 7,134,589	25.0%
State Library Support	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000	0.0%
Subtotal	\$ 9,513,786	\$ 2,378,197	\$ 7,135,589	25.0%
Endowment				
Restricted	\$ 315,000	\$ 161,578	\$ 153,422	51.3%
Unrestricted	\$ 526,000	\$ 131,548	\$ 394,452	25.0%
Subtotal	\$ 841,000	\$ 293,126	\$ 547,874	34.9%
Earned Interest (Endowment)	\$ 410,000	\$ 167,864	\$ 242,136	40.9%
Subtotal	\$ 410,000	\$ 167,864	\$ 242,136	40.9%
Trust Income	\$ 80,000	\$ 16,136	\$ 63,864	20.2%
Subtotal	\$ 80,000	\$ 16,136	\$ 63,864	20.2%
Lease/Rental				
Verizon Lease	\$ 39,000	\$ 10,079	\$ 28,921	25.8%
Café Rental	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000	0.0%
Uconn Rental	\$ 209,178	\$ -	\$ 209,178	0.0%
Room Rental	\$ 25,000	\$ 2,157	\$ 22,843	8.6%
Subtotal	\$ 283,178	\$ 12,236	\$ 270,942	4.3%
Contributed Income				
Individual	\$ 400,000	\$ 30,927	\$ 369,073	7.7%
Corporate	\$ 400,000	\$ 59,250	\$ 340,750	14.8%
Foundation	\$ 373,000	\$ 386,724	\$ (13,724)	103.7%
Government Grants	\$ 1,033,705	\$ 262,547	\$ 771,158	25.4%
Subtotal	\$ 2,206,705	\$ 739,448	\$ 1,467,257	33.5%
Service Income				
Digital Library Lab	\$ 215,000	\$ 602	\$ 214,398	0.3%
Guard Card Program	\$ 15,000	\$ 3,400	\$ 11,600	22.7%
Immigration Services	\$ 55,000	\$ 2,429	\$ 52,571	4.4%
Desk Receipts	\$ 50,000	\$ 12,872	\$ 37,128	25.7%
Other	\$ -	\$ 1,804	\$ (1,804)	100.0%
Subtotal	\$ 335,000	\$ 21,106	\$ 313,894	6.3%
Total	\$ 13,669,669	\$ 3,628,113	\$ 10,041,556	26.5%
Expense				
Salaries	\$ 7,981,306	\$ 1,754,558	\$ 6,226,748	22.0%
Fringe Benefits	\$ 2,673,886	\$ 891,310	\$ 1,782,576	33.3%
Professional Services	\$ 862,415	\$ 167,682	\$ 694,733	19.4%
Training/Dues	\$ 94,200	\$ 8,441	\$ 85,759	9.0%
Supplies	\$ 352,152	\$ 94,083	\$ 258,069	26.7%
Information Technology	\$ 208,875	\$ 109,172	\$ 99,703	52.3%
Collection	\$ 546,282	\$ 222,601	\$ 323,681	40.7%
Utilities	\$ 123,100	\$ 25,902	\$ 97,198	21.0%
Rent	\$ 36,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 24,000	33.3%
Facilities	\$ 443,000	\$ 161,676	\$ 281,324	36.5%
Programs	\$ 348,453	\$ 60,690	\$ 287,763	17.4%
Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
Total	\$ 13,669,669	\$ 3,508,116	\$ 10,161,553	25.7%
Variance	\$ -	\$ 119,997	\$ (119,997)	

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024, AND 2023

	9/30/2024	9/30/2023
ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 528,094	\$ 295,752
Investments	\$ 34,866,876	\$ 30,497,282
Accounts Receivable	\$ 10,519,773	\$ 1,606,567
Contributions Receivable	\$ 385,079	\$ 496,179
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 84,559	\$ 41,175
Property and Equipment, Net	\$ 11,849,872	\$ 7,025,457
Right of Use Assets - Operating, Net	\$ 40,722	\$ 90,283
Total Assets	<u>\$ 58,274,975</u>	<u>\$ 40,052,693</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ -	\$ -
Deferred Revenue	\$ -	\$ -
Lease Liabilities - Operating	\$ 44,722	\$ 94,283
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 44,722</u>	<u>\$ 94,283</u>
NET ASSETS		
With and Without Donor Restrictions	\$ 58,230,253	\$ 39,958,411
Total Net Assets	<u>\$ 58,230,253</u>	<u>\$ 39,958,411</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 58,274,975</u>	<u>\$ 40,052,694</u>

DEVELOPMENT

GRANTS

In the 1st QT, the Library received \$440,833 in Awarded Grants (consisting of Foundation, Corporate, Federal, State, and City Grants).

There are \$2,936,354 in Pending Grants for this period. Declined grant applications include CHC Quick Grants for \$5,000 and HPL Film Series

Fiscal Year	Restricted and Unrestricted "Grants"	Annual Fund/250th***	Annual Fund Restricted	Legacy	Beyond Words**	Total
2022	\$1,182,003	\$124,446	\$44,970	\$21,649	\$260,924	\$1,633,992
2023	\$3,150,362	\$96,603	\$9,925	\$11,612	\$281,703	\$3,550,205
2024	\$1,611,344	\$143,503	\$8,370	\$3,854	\$315,516	\$2,082,587
2025	\$279,997	\$18,541	\$0	\$0	\$147,294	\$445,832
Goal	\$1,500,000	\$150,000	\$25,000	\$10,000	\$350,000	\$2,035,000
% to Goal	19%	12%	0%	0%	42%	

Fiscal Year	Restore and Renew*	RRR	Barbour Branch Library
2023	\$427,133		
2024	\$3,577,685		\$ 2,000,000
2025	\$0		0
Goal		\$ 5,000,000	
TOTAL*	\$4,004,818		

AWARDED GRANTS

Government Grants

The City of Hartford Community Development Block Grant Funding for \$64,997 to support the Career Pathways Program.

Corporate Grants

The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation for \$10,000 to support STEM Programming for Hartford Public School Students for the 2024/2025 school year. Capital Workforce Partners for \$200,000 to support the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) for Youth from August 2024 through June 30, 2025. Greater Hartford Arts Council for \$5,000 to support Hartford Creates Event - HLIT Festival in September 2024.



PUBLIC SERVICES



43,014

items checked out

17,540

WiFi sessions

16,411

computer sessions

10,034

reference questions
answered

204

municipal IDs created

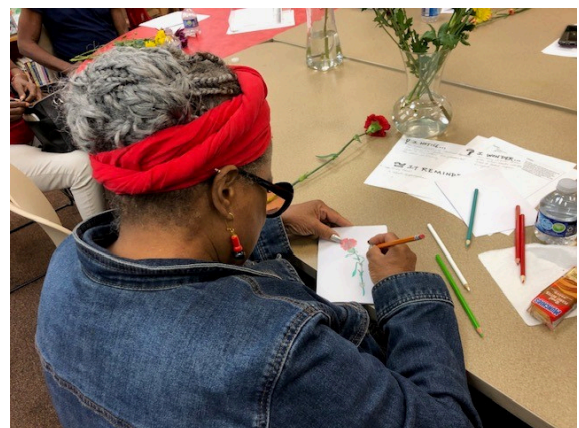
203

documents notarized

- Active with several system wide initiatives. Summer Spark, adult summer learning program, was a success with 50 entries! Participants had their cards stamped for reading, attending library programming and taking part in the 250th HPL scavenger hunt. The grand prize winner, Dina Fullerton, is a regular at the Park Library @ the Lyric and a regular reader. She was super excited to receive her prize!
- Implemented a grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving to promote voter registration and engagement. Purchased pop-up banners for all locations and held voter registration drives at each library location twice a month. When possible, these registration drives were held in conjunction with an event happening at the library. Both Trinity College and the League of Women Voters provided volunteers to assist with these drives. Registered 44 voters and engaged 341 customers in conversation about the importance of voting. On August 14th, HPL hosted a Get Out the Latino Vote event at the Park Library @ the Lyric along with the Hispanic Health Council, Trinity College, the San Juan Center, Inc. and the City of Hartford, offering training in strategies for increasing voter turnout and encouraging people to register to vote. The Latino Way was contracted to capture video and photos during this event and create deliverables for use on HPL's social media account to promote voter participation.
- For the 3rd year in a row, HPL collaborated with Vision to Learn to bring free eye examinations and glasses to anyone 18 years of age and younger. Final distributions were held in September and a total of 109 appointments took place with 80 children receiving a free pair of eyeglasses. On September 19th, 8 HPL families that participated were treated to a CT Sun's game at Mohegan Sun including transportation from the Albany Library.

PUBLIC SERVICES continued

- HPL's relationship with Dignity Grows continues, providing 40 totes of personal hygiene products monthly to distribute. In addition, Amazon donations and All of Us grant funding allowed additional bags with basic necessities. A customer at the Dwight Library shared that he received a tote after being recently let go and evicted. He shared that he was becoming self-conscious about his hygiene and how helpful this was in a time of great need.
- In spite of the Downtown Library remaining closed during this quarter, the demand for Municipal IDs (204) and Notary services (203) has remained strong. Everyday Tech Help also continues to be offered on a regular basis at all locations. During scheduled blocks of time, customers can receive more in-depth computer mentoring and access to modules in Northstar Digital Literacy.
- The Downtown Library continued to host patio service on Wednesdays and Fridays. In July, there were 177 customer visits, in August 298, and in September 330. Lots of great information about programs were shared, circulated materials, registered people to vote, and promoted the branch operations while Downtown remained closed. The American Job Center joined every Friday on the patio as well. Patio hands-on programming included Mandala Rock Art and Decorating Mugs.
- HPL implemented a grant from the National Library of Medicine, hosting a variety of health-related workshops and providing information on the All of Us program. This summer, HPL received additional funding for workshops, and the Albany Library was selected to host the All of Us Journey Van offering five adult programs designed to boost engagement and participation. One highlight was a beginner-friendly salsa dance class led by the owner of Acacia Dance Studio in Hartford. They also organized a t-shirt decorating program, a terrarium building workshop facilitated by Gloria Jenkins, a healthy cooking demonstration by a local nutritionist, and a pottery painting session with The Claypen of West Hartford. Each program focused on different aspects of health, promoting physical activity, healthy cooking, and creative expression for emotional well-being as well as giving them further opportunity to learn about the health benefits related to the All of Us program. In total, 56 adults participated in these enriching activities.



- After receiving the Mindfulness Facilitator's Certificate, Irene Blean, Barbour Library Manager, applied these principles through five programs this quarter incorporating mindfulness. Lava bead bracelets were made, and a 5 senses meditation was taught, in addition to being given a Self-Soothing or Emotionally Regulating Another Tip Sheet. A salon called Unity Gathering was done with participants watching Sam Horn's Ted Talk, SOMEDAY is Not a Day in the Week, doing Happiness Box and engaging in a lively discussion. After listening to the talk, one participant decided to act on getting conservatorship of her mentally ill son, who is currently living on the streets. Irene gave her contact information to the Connecticut Women's Education & Legal Fund (CWEALF) to assist her in this legal process.
- The Camp Field Library celebrated National Ice Cream Sandwich Day on August 2nd, where adults and youth made the popular treat using ice cream, cookies, and sprinkles. Adults created an ice cream cone garland using yarn and brown craft paper. A beginner jewelry-making workshop was held on August 20th for adults interested in learning how to make bracelets and earrings with Natalie Curtis, who facilitated the program. On September 23rd, a workshop on Warli Painting was led by customer-artist Ritu Barna Paliwal. Participants enjoyed learning how to create this brightly colored Indian folk-art.
- Pat Knapp, Camp Field Library Manager, tabled at the annual National Night Out event in Goodwin Park on August 2, 4-8pm. Hundreds of residents came out to join the fun, gather information and resources from community service providers, and enjoy a multitude of free entertainment and food.
- The Dwight Library had Zumba classes on Monday afternoons for the month of July and Silver Social Hour programs continued every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month providing programming for older adults at the Parkville Senior Center. On July 17th, they hosted their annual Community Info Fair, collaborating with multiple partnering organizations tabling at the event and providing information and resources for community members. The Goza Band, funded by the Evelyn Preston grant, played some great music while customers gathered information and enjoyed pizza! On August 8th, they held their Back-To-School event, including a movie with popcorn and pizza, and distributing backpacks and school supplies.
- On August 29th, the Park Library @ the Lyric brought back Family Game Night with a meal, games and giveaways hosting 20 participants. In September, 12 customers participated in a wonderful program, Tote-ally Fun Designs. The tote bags were a hit, and customers enjoyed creating their very own unique bags using a wide variety of iron-on patches and letters and other decorative materials!





- In July, the Ropkins Library hosted a DIY Pickling Workshop drawing over 15 participants and focusing on gut health. Many attendees were surprised by how simple the pickling process can be and left with two jars each. One of the participants shared with Shannon that her family had recently cut sugar from their diet. Since sugar is typically a key ingredient in pickling, this could have posed a challenge. However, she had prepared for the possibility of dietary restrictions and was able to quickly adapt the recipe to offer a sugar-free option. This particular participant had not registered for the workshop and expressed her gratitude for the flexibility and thoughtfulness in accommodating her needs. Both she and her husband enjoyed them so much that they used the recipe to make an additional batch at home.

- On August 1st, a Holistic Wellness workshop was held at Ropkins featuring Connecticut authors, Diane Hubbard and Tracy Arnold, and their book, *Seven Dimensions of Wellness*. This program explored the interconnected aspects of well-being—physical, emotional, intellectual, social, spiritual, environmental, and occupational—offering participants a chance to reflect on their own experiences. Free copies of the book and an accompanying journal were distributed, and many attendees shared personal stories of trauma, healing, and transformation.



- The Library on Wheels was engaged in 11 outreach opportunities in July alone, including several farmer's markets, Immanuel House, the Institute for the Hispanic Family and Capital Towers Housing and connecting with 263 customers. During the months of August and September, worked on hiring a new outreach team, and were able to attend events at Capital Towers, Immanuel House and the Institute for the Hispanic Family interacting with 127 customers. Youth and Family Services Department attended outreach opportunities that were focused on children.
- On August 29th, the Park Library @ the Lyric brought back Family Game Night with a meal, games and giveaways hosting 20 participants. In September, 12 customers participated in a wonderful program, Tote-ally Fun Designs. The tote bags were a hit, and customers enjoyed creating their very own unique bags using a wide variety of iron-on patches and letters and other decorative materials!

YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

- Youth Services staff across the system presented 387 programs for an audience of 9,216 centered around multiple themes including history, Ozobots Coding/Virtual Reality, fieldtrips, double dutch, music and dance, arts & crafts, henna, gardening, games, stories, nutrition, yoga, animal science, and a lot more.

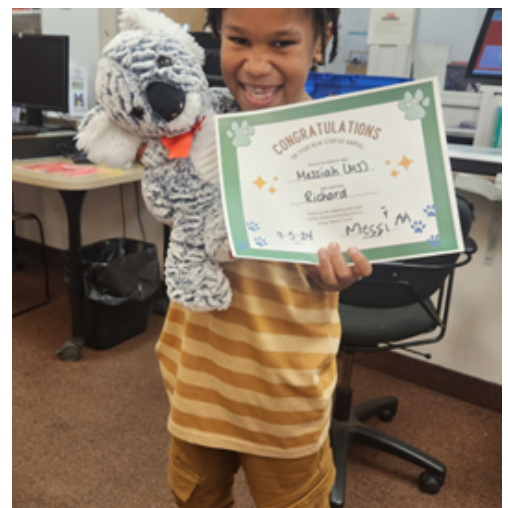
9,216

youth program
participants

- HPL's nine-week history-themed Summer Learning challenge, Reading Through Time, saw a total of 2,665 youths who participated and read 23,515 hours! Youth were charged to read twenty minutes a day and to complete two learning activities on their gameboards. After logging their weekly readings and activities, participants visited their neighborhood libraries to collect small weekly prizes such as bubbles, sand buckets, puzzles, dinosaurs, light up wands, galaxy slime, squishy pets (these were very popular!), books, bookmarks, buttons, and water bottles as a reward for their effort in reading and learning. In addition, 4,110 books were purchased this summer and distributed throughout the city to daycares and early learning centers, community centers, little libraries, parks, camp groups, and community events. Summer Learning participants were entered into weekly raffles to win larger prizes donated by several community partners. Prizes raffled included Kindles, \$25 Amazon Gift cards, \$100 CT Science Center Gift Certificates, lunch with HPL President and CEO Bridget Quinn, and lunch with Mayor Arumpalam. Over 150 prizes were raffled. The continued effort of many community partners like Hartford Public Schools, United Way of Central and Northeastern CT, CT Children's Medical Center, ConnectiKids, the Yard Goats, and the City of Hartford contributed to the successful run of this year's Summer Learning Program.

387

youth programs



- The Summer Lunch program, provided by Hartford Public Schools, was held at six HPL locations: Albany, Barbour, Campfield, Downtown, Dwight, and Park. 2,104 hot meals were served to youth and camp groups visiting the branches throughout the summer.
- The Barbour Library held a Stuffed Animal Adoption allowing kids a chance to pick out a stuffed animal, name it, then get a "Certificate of Adoption". Two women asked if they could adopt two dogs, for their 3- and 5-year-old nieces at home who had lost their father recently in a car accident. The women came back a few weeks later and shared that the children named their new stuffed pets after their dad and they bring the pets everywhere they go with them.

PUBLIC SERVICES continued



- Albany Library established a new partnership with Covenant Prep, an independent day school for boys from 5th-8th grade, allowing students to visit the library once a month to check out books and attend special programs planned by the librarian. On their first visits, students learned how books are organized in the library and how to browse as well as find books in our library. Students were encouraged to share books of interest that could be added to the library's collection.
- Stories Through Time, a story time series featuring old and new children's books featured in different historic locations each week, continued through July and August at historic locations like South Church, Burr Mall and Bushnell Park. Downtown Youth Services staff hosted the series at South Church, a well-loved community space where many youth programs were hosted during the Downtown Library's closure. During one of the July events, Pastor Adam shared historical facts about South Church and Downtown Hartford landmarks then took everyone on a tour of the historic building which included a visit to the organ loft!
- Dwight Library's Youth and Family Services Librarian Erin Williams collaborated with Real Art Ways to support their Park Art program this summer. She curated books based on weekly themes chosen by Real Art Ways for camp counselors to share with the children. This partnership culminated with the children making a visit to the library for a STEM Ozobot program. Building a relationship with RealArt Ways increased registration at their program, while simultaneously providing an opportunity for the youth librarian to introduce children to Dwight.



- Youth and Family Service Librarians across the system took part in promoting the library at back-to-school events across the city. Albany's Youth Librarian tabled at Jumoke's Back to School event and gave out free books, signed up families for library cards, and handed out flyers. Dwight's Youth Librarian tabled at Parkville's Back to School event on August 21st. Families received program flyers, free books, colored bookmarks and signed up for library cards. Boundless @ Rawson Librarian Alexa Esposito joined school administration to kick off the year with a welcome party for students and their families. Many received books and library information from the Boundless Library table. Hosted an inaugural Back to School event at the Downtown Library called Little Learner's Liftoff on August 22 in collaboration with the HPL RSCO and the Regional School Choice (RSCO) Central Office. Families with PreK students who were new to the magnet school program were invited to attend. Families participated in a scavenger hunt, received branded giveaways, met HPL School Choice Coordinators, and RSCO Central Office staff and learned about a range of library services available for families from HPL Staff in English, Spanish and Portuguese.



- The Connecticut Association of Public School Libraries (CAPSL) sponsored author visits through three HPL libraries. Author Winsome Bingham visited the Happy Little Faces Daycare Center to read her book "Soul Food Sunday," a children's picture book that won the Coretta Scott King Award. Cindy Rodriguez shared her book "Lola Reyes is So Not Worried" with 4th grade students from SAND School at Ropkins. Ronda Roumani read her book "Insha'Allah, No, Maybe So" at Barbour to students from the Community First School.

TEEN SERVICES

- YOUmedia and Boundless Enrichment Program library services participated in the Back-to-School Event at Dunkin Park, which saw approximately 500 attendees, with about 30 students visiting the Library's booth. The Hartford Pride Event saw similar engagement, attracting 336 participants. Participation in these events increased awareness of library services, particularly among teens and young adults. At Albany, the team successfully reinstated the Afterschool Meal Program, a critical service that meets a long-standing need within the community. Albany also continued to expand its partnerships, particularly with Covenant Prep, where 52 students participated in monthly library visits. Major family events like Pride, Juneteenth, and the Summer Kickoff brought in a combined total of 128 attendees, further establishing Albany as a hub for enriching teen programming.
- YOUmedia continued to develop within its creative programming initiative, particularly with the launch of the AI-driven Game Design Project built in Unity, which captured the interest of tech-savvy teens. In addition to its ongoing esports initiatives and music production workshops, YOUmedia expanded its offerings with new programs like drone usage and AI for artwork creation. The space itself underwent key upgrades to enhance security and improve the organization of activities, boosting participation to 1,221 teens over the quarter.
- Dwight Library saw an increase in teen engagement with the installation of a Driver's Simulation Rig, which was borrowed from the Boundless Enrichment Program for a three-week period in August. This hands-on, interactive resource attracted 32 teen users, providing a unique opportunity to simulate driving experiences and encourage teens to work toward obtaining their driver's license. The Dwight Librarian has also worked to enhance the library's teen space, by making it a more inviting environment through the addition of games, plants, and decorative lighting.
- The Department continued its annual ConnectiCon streak, this time bringing 11 immigrant youth and multilingual learners to ConnectiCon, one of the largest pop culture conventions in the region. These teens, supported by YOUmedia, showcased in-house designed and created cosplay outfits. This creative endeavor allowed them to express their cultural identities, practice design skills, and engage with a larger community of enthusiasts. It also provided an opportunity for these teens to gain confidence and feel a sense of belonging in a new cultural environment, all while displaying the talents honed through library programming.



- Throughout the 4th quarter, Teen and Young Adult Services presented 298 programs to 3,374 participants, an amazing 83% increase in the number of programs and a 133% increase in attendance over this period last year. One of the standout events of the quarter was the Virtual Reality (VR) Creed Boxing Tournament organized by Albany YOUmedia in May. This innovative event brought students from Albany, Barbour, and Park libraries together to compete virtually via Zoom. The tournament was a successful test of cross-branch programming, fostering friendly competition and generating enthusiasm for future events.
- In April and May, YOUmedia Manager Marc Pettersen hosted VR workshops at several high schools in Hartford, reaching 370 students across more than 20 classes. These workshops successfully introduced VR technology to the students, with nearly 100% engagement.
- YOUmedia welcomed a new mentor to the team, Jahmal Reyes in April. Jahmal brings a wealth of expertise in drones, photography, and video editing. He has primarily worked with the Boundless program, where his contributions have significantly bolstered the program's success. Student-driven photoshoots were conducted both indoors and outdoors, giving students valuable hands-on experience both as subjects and behind the cameras. These sessions allowed students to explore different photography techniques and settings, enhancing their practical knowledge and skills. Jahmal also assisted Hartford High seniors with their capstone projects.
- Esports-related programming consistently attracted six to eight unique participants per session. Three "Main Events" were held – NBA 2k, Madden 24, and Smash Bros. tournaments. Additionally, two PCs were set up for team training in games like Apex Legends and Overwatch. Our Main Events introduced shoutcasting and streaming programming alongside esports tournaments. The aim is for students to eventually take on roles in full esports production, ideally hosting community events in the CCC room by 1st QT 2025.
- This past quarter marked a significant milestone as we concluded both the school year and the fifth and final year of the Boundless Enrichment Program at Hartford High School. Over its duration, this program has been a beacon of support and growth, serving 463 students with a rich blend of educational and recreational activities tailored to students' developmental needs. In the last year, the program shifted to focus on workforce development and driver's education in particular: 120 students were enrolled in the 21st CCLC program at HPHS, and of these students 12 earned their permit, 2 earned their license, and 190 hours of driver's education were completed.

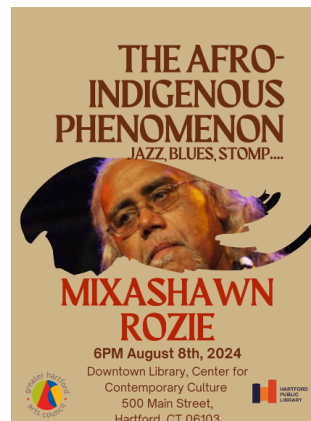
PROGRAMMING

Jazz Activation 2024

The 2024 Jazz Activation Series, made possible by the support of the Greater Hartford Arts Council, was a vibrant celebration of jazz, bringing together music lovers from all walks of life for an immersive experience across Greater Hartford. This series featured a total of 18 diverse programs held at Hartford Public Library and other iconic venues including Black-Eyed Sally's, Artists Collective, Parkville Market, Christ Church Cathedral, and TheaterWorks. Each location contributed its unique atmosphere, enhancing the series' dynamic fusion of live performances, educational lectures, and panel discussions.

Designed to explore jazz's profound cultural impact and contemporary relevance, the series brought together renowned musicians, scholars, and industry voices who offered insights into jazz's historical roots and its modern transformations. Audiences were treated to lively panel discussions on jazz's intersection with social movements, its influence on other musical genres, and the lived experiences of today's jazz artists. Lectures further enriched attendees' understanding, delving into jazz's origins, its enduring artistic legacy, and its cultural significance.

The concerts, a centerpiece of Jazz Activation, showcased an impressive variety of styles, from classic and experimental to cutting-edge contemporary jazz. These performances captivated audiences, illustrating jazz's versatility and inspiring listeners to connect with the music's soul-stirring energy. The series also engaged new audiences, fostering an inclusive community of jazz enthusiasts and novices alike. This series underscored jazz's continued importance in Hartford's cultural fabric, uniting people in appreciation of a genre that is both timeless and ever-evolving.



The 4 events that took place at Hartford Public Library:

- *Jazz and Social Justice*
- *Jocelyn Pleasant - African Drumming in the Black American Diaspora*
- *The Afro Indigenous Phenomenon: Jazz, Blues, Stomp" with Mixashawn Rozie*
- *Women In Jazz Panel*



Jazz 201: Professor Atla DeChamplain

With the support of Richard P. Garmany Fund, the final Jazz 201 lecture series ended in July. This educational program featured Professor Atla DeChamplain, a Connecticut native and Jazz and Commercial Music Vocal Teacher at the University of Rhode Island. With a background that includes a Bachelor's degree from the University of Hartford and a Master's degree from the University of Toledo, Professor DeChamplain brought a wealth of knowledge and passion to this workshop, guiding participants through the history and evolution of jazz vocals.

Focusing on the unique role of jazz singers in shaping and interpreting the genre, Professor DeChamplain discussed influential vocalists, signature styles, and key developments in jazz vocal performance. Through listening exercises and vocal demonstrations, attendees gained a deeper understanding of how jazz singers contribute to the genre's expressive depth and artistic legacy. This interactive session offered participants valuable insights into jazz history and vocal techniques, blending academic knowledge with practical appreciation for jazz's vocal tradition.



A Night with Mahmoud

In partnership with MPACT Mentoring, Inc., A Night with Mahmoud provided an unforgettable evening featuring Mahmoud Rauf, an NBA legend, whose story of resilience and triumph over adversity has inspired countless people. The evening included an exclusive viewing of his Showtime Sports documentary, "Stand", offering a profound look into his life, achievements, and the challenges he has faced.

The documentary highlighted Mahmoud's journey, from his experiences navigating life with a disability to overcoming racism, hate crimes, and discrimination. Following the screening, Mahmoud engaged with the audience, sharing personal insights and reflections on his story and expanding on themes

from the film. Known for his commitment to mentorship and community building, Mahmoud used this platform to inspire attendees, emphasizing the power of resilience, self-advocacy, and the importance of unity.


An interactive Q&A session allowed attendees to connect with Mahmoud's journey on a deeper level, discussing his experiences, values, and advice for others facing similar challenges. By the end of the program, participants left with a renewed dedication to fostering inclusive communities and supporting one another, moved by Mahmoud's enduring strength and unwavering spirit.




Author Talk with Petulia Blake


As part of a community programming, this quarter featured a captivating author talk with Petulia Blake, author of *My Happy Escape*. In an intimate setting, Petulia shared the journey behind her memoir, a story of resilience, self-discovery, and finding joy in the face of adversity. During the talk, Petulia engaged with the audience, reading selected passages that highlighted key themes in her book, and offering insights into her writing process and the personal experiences that inspired her work.

Attendees were moved by Petulia's openness and her reflections on overcoming challenges, resonating with her messages of hope and personal empowerment. The event concluded with a Q&A session, where Petulia addressed audience questions and shared advice for aspiring writers. This author talk left a lasting impact, with participants gaining not only an appreciation for her work but also a deeper understanding of the power of storytelling.

 HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
 hplct.org



ALBANY BRANCH
 1250 Albany Ave
 Hartford, CT



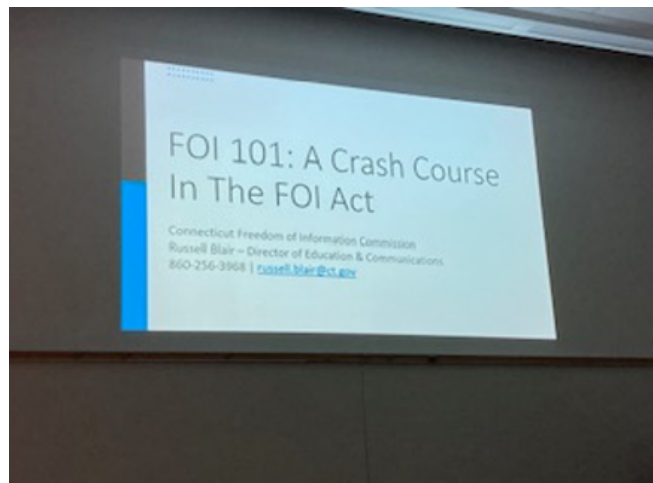
**Author Talk with Local Author
Petulia Blake**
My Happy Escape: Adventures of a Global Sojourner
Saturday July 13 11am-1pm
 Petulia Blake, the visionary behind www.myhappyescape.com, is a multifaceted professional with roles as a business professor, life coach, author, and artist. Join us for an inspirational discussion on letting go of your fears and traveling solo.

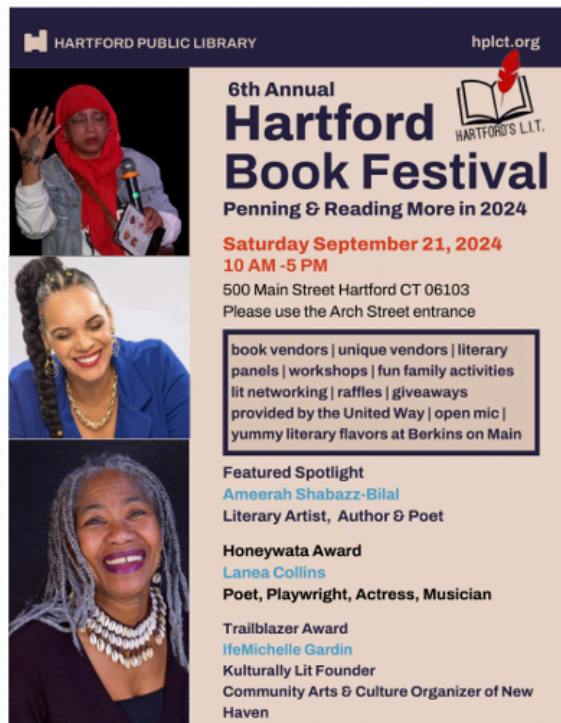
If you require special accommodations to take part in this program, please call (860)695-6320 at least two weeks in advance.

Know Your Rights: FOIA

In this informative session, Russell Blair, Director of Education and Communications at the State Freedom of Information Commission, provided a clear and practical overview of Connecticut's Freedom of Information (FOI) law. Designed to empower residents with knowledge of their rights to access government records, this program explained the key provisions of the FOI law and offered insights into how the law upholds transparency and accountability within government operations.

Russell also highlighted the Commission's role as a resource for citizens facing challenges in obtaining information. Through real-world examples and step-by-step guidance, attendees learned how to navigate the FOI process, submit effective information requests, and understand their legal rights when encountering obstacles. The program concluded with a Q&A, allowing participants to ask questions and gain clarity on specific situations.

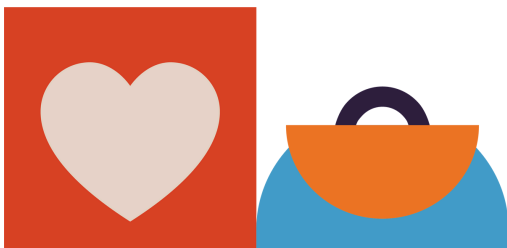




6th Annual Hartford's L.I.T. Book Festival

The 6th Annual Hartford's L.I.T. Book Festival celebrated the power of storytelling, diversity in literature, and the joy of reading. This year's festival gathered authors, poets, and readers from across the region, offering a full day of engaging activities including author talks, panel discussions, book signings, and interactive workshops.

With a lineup of emerging and established voices, the festival highlighted a wide array of genres, from fiction and memoirs to children's literature and poetry, providing something for readers of all ages. Attendees had the opportunity to meet authors, discover new books, and participate in conversations that explored the themes and inspirations behind various works. Community members, families, and book enthusiasts enjoyed a vibrant atmosphere, connecting through a shared love of literature. The festival successfully fostered literary appreciation and community spirit, reinforcing Hartford's reputation as a hub for creativity and cultural exchange.



TECHNICAL SERVICES

Top Databases Used FY25 Q1

- This quarter added two new grant-related databases from Candid: Foundation Directory and GuideStar
- Added 2,586 new titles to our collection this quarter in the form of 3,581 new items. This is a 27% increase over FY24 Q1 (2,812). 44 new items were added to the Library of Things collection. Added 241 items in foreign languages including Chinese, Portuguese, and Spanish.
- The Story Stash pickup locker has seen a 51% increase in usage from the same quarter last year:
- Overall e-Resource usage up 29% over same period last year
 - FY24 Q1: 24,129
 - FY25 Q1: 31,220
- Brainfuse, the popular tutoring and homework help site, usage is up 305%
 - FY24 Q1: 315
 - FY25 Q1: 1,276
- Culturegrams, which features information on countries of the world and all fifty states, usage is up 478%
 - FY24 Q1: 18
 - FY25 Q1: 104
- Ancestry Library usage is up 173%
 - FY24 Q1: 313
 - FY25 Q1: 853
- Biblioboard, which allows authors to self-publish books and read other e-books, usage is up 222%
 - FY24 Q1: 27
 - FY25 Q1: 87



Top 20 Circulating Books/Magazine FY25 Q1

Title	Author	Audience	Item Type	Number of Checkouts
Dog Man	Pilkey, Dav,	YOUTH	Graphic Novels	96
Phoebe and Her Unicorn Series	Simpson, Dana,	YOUTH	Graphic Novels	66
Naruto	Kishimoto, Masashi,	TEEN	Manga	46
The Bad Guys	Blabey, Aaron,	YOUTH	Graphic Novels	46
My Hero Academia	Horikoshi, Kōhei,	TEEN	Manga	45
The Baby-Sitters Club	Nopra, Arley.	YOUTH	Graphic Novels	42
People Weekly		ADULT	Magazine	41
Big Nate	Peirce, Lincoln,	YOUTH	Graphic Novels	40
Chainsaw Man	Fujimoto, Tatsuki	TEEN	Manga	33
Us Weekly		ADULT	Magazine	28
Solo Leveling	Dubu,	TEEN	Graphic Novels	26
Amulet	Kibuishi, Kazu,	YOUTH	Graphic Novels	23
Diary of a Wimpy Kid	Kinney, Jeff.	YOUTH	Book	21
Attack on Titan	Isayama, Hajime,	TEEN	Manga	18
Boruto : Naruto Next Generations	Kodachi, Ukyo,	TEEN	Manga	18
Blue Lock	Kaneshiro, Muneyuki,	TEEN	Manga	16
One Piece	Oda, Eiichirō,	TEEN	Manga	16
An Elephant & Piggie Biggie!	Willems, Mo,	YOUTH	Beginning Reader	15
Bleach	Kubo, Tite.	TEEN	Manga	15
Jujutsu Kaisen	Akutami, Gege,	TEEN	Manga	15

POPULAR GENRES

2,786

picture books

2,022

teen reads

1,941

health & prosperity

1,775

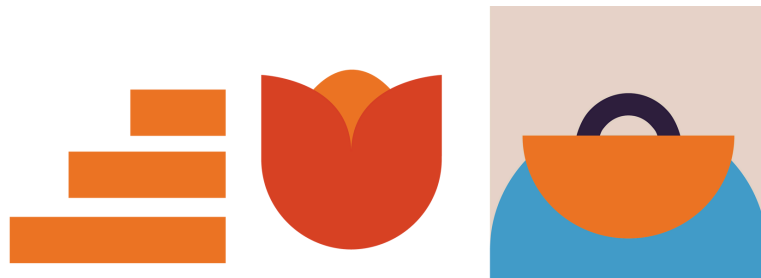
kid reads

1,745

fantasy & scifi

Number of Items Added in FY25 Q1

Item Library Desc	New Items
Albany Library	383
Barbour Library	298
Camp Field Library	621
Downtown Library	588
Dwight Library	324
Library on Wheels	54
Park Library	333
Rawson School	214
Ropkins Library	377
West Middle Elementary School	389
Total	3,581

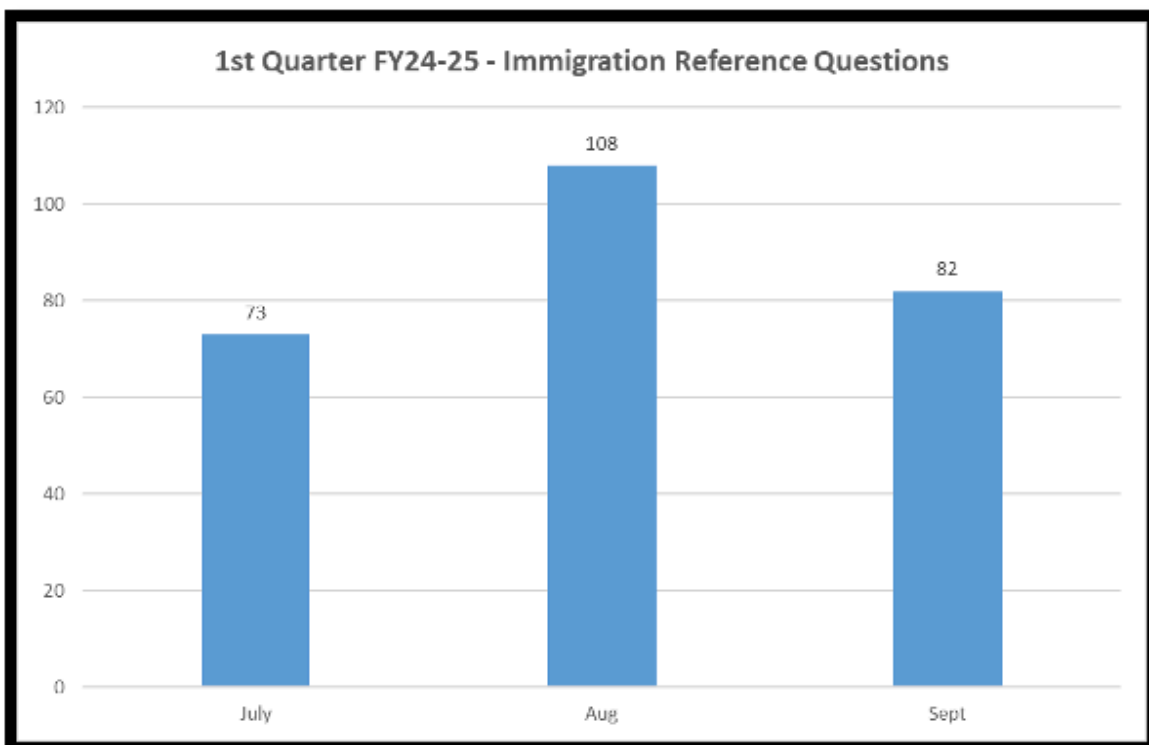
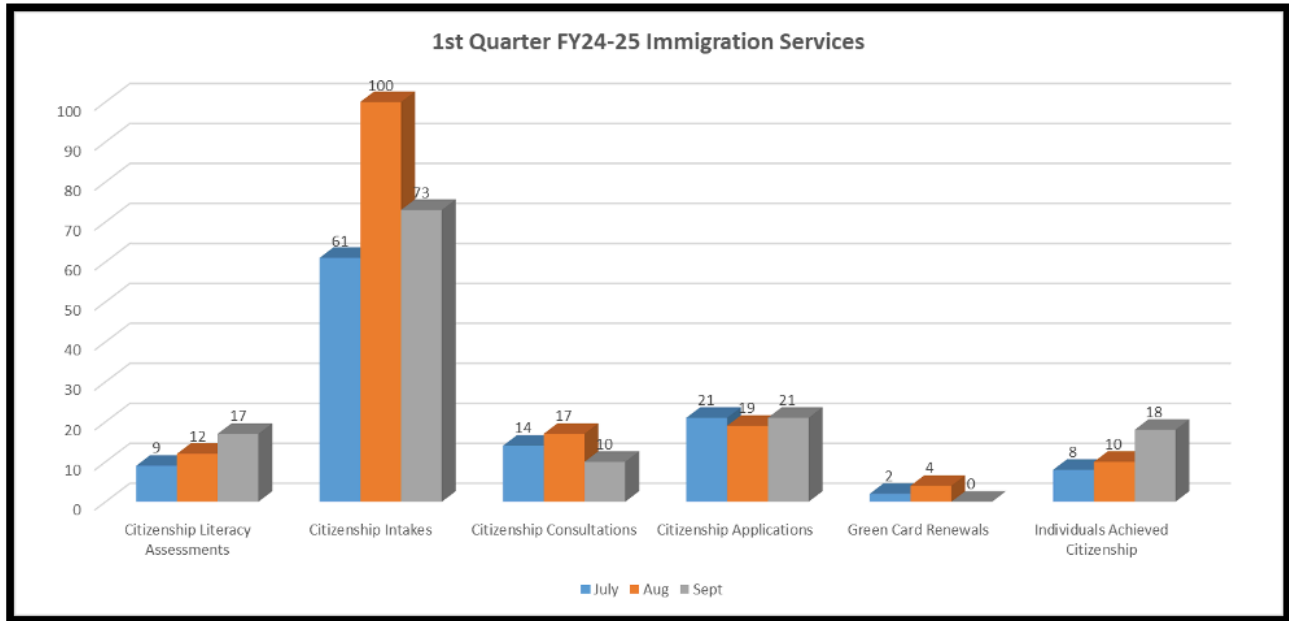


THE AMERICAN PLACE

THE AMERICAN PLACE

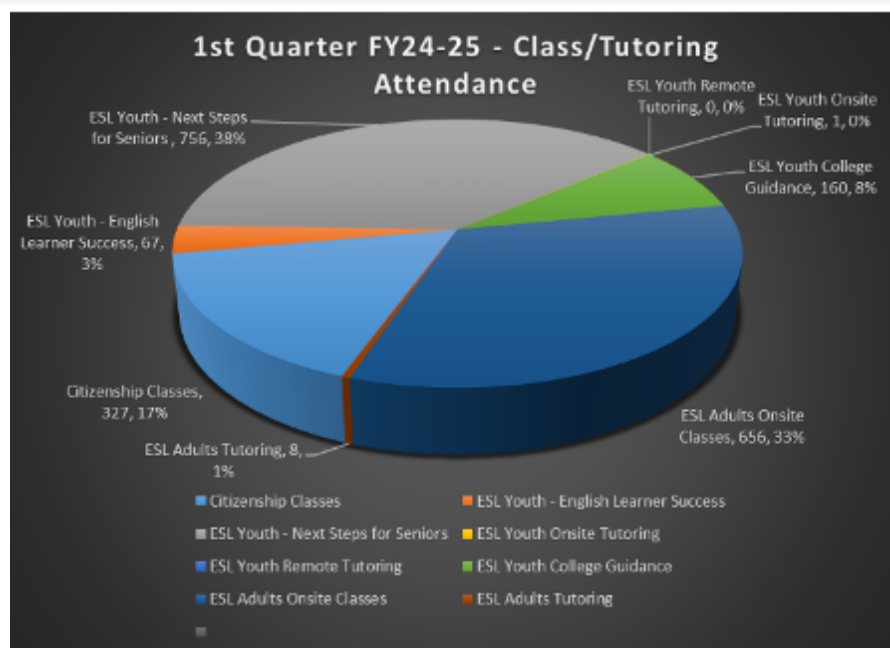
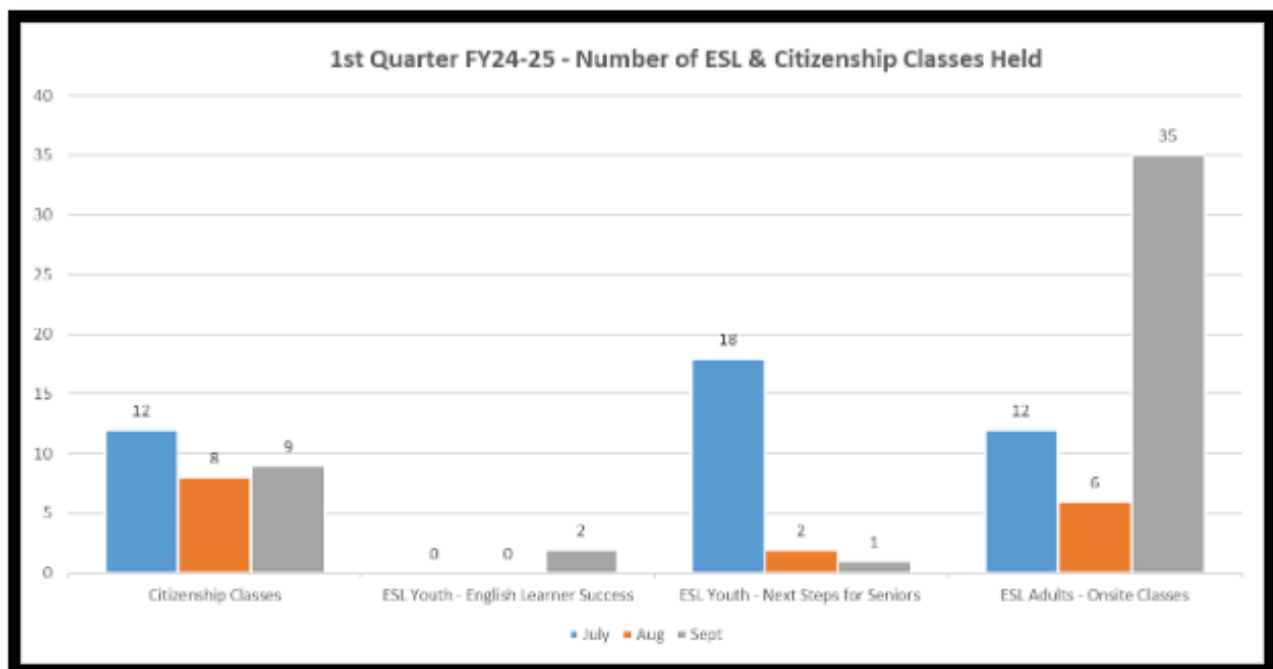
Citizenship & Immigration Services

The American Place staff responded to 263 immigration reference questions during this quarter. Two-hundred and thirty-four (234) immigrants were screened for Citizenship eligibility. Immigration counselors conducted 41 legal consultations and prepared and submitted 61 citizenship applications. Adult education staff, volunteers, and pro bono attorneys conducted 18 citizenship mock naturalization interviews. Thirty-six (36) clients achieved U.S. Citizenship.



ESL & Citizenship Education

TAP offered 3 summer ESL classes, weekdays and Saturday mornings, with a special focus on learning English while also learning about finances, savings, and credit building in the U.S. Students also practiced reading and discussion through Book Club hour. The Fall session of ESL classes began with two weeks of student registration and testing sessions. Nearly 300 individuals were registered and tested for placement in ESL Classes. Due to the overwhelming response, additional classes were opened, totaling 10 classes, which take place weekday mornings, weekday evenings, and Saturday mornings; three of these classes are offered in partnership with Hartford Adult Education. Classes are held at the Downtown Library and West Middle School and include levels Intro, Level 1, and Level 2. One of the classes is focused on learning English while preparing to become certified ServSafe Food Handlers and Food Managers. Prospective students who were interested but unable to attend a registration session are being offered a blended learning course on Wednesday mornings using English Discoveries.

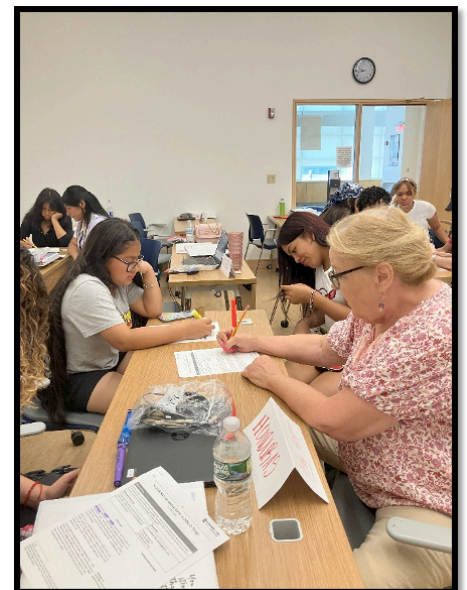


THE AMERICAN PLACE continued



A total of 29 citizenship classes were held with a cumulative attendance of 327 students. Classes were held at the Downtown Library, Old State House, West Middle School, and UConn. TAP offered its first “ESL Bridge to College” course this summer, thanks to the U.S. Dept. of Education: Congressionally Funded Project. We served approximately 40 students from 18 different countries of origin. Instruction focused on academic English and college readiness skills. Additional activities included:

- 3 sessions of financial literacy
- stress management in college
- time management and priority-setting
- resume-writing
- career exploration
- consulting with past program participants who are currently in college
- individualized meetings to complete college and financial aid applications
- 3 field trips focused on
 - exposure to higher education (touring Capital Community College),
 - cultural exposure (the Wadsworth and HPL's History Scavenger Hunt), and
 - community-building and bonding (bowling).

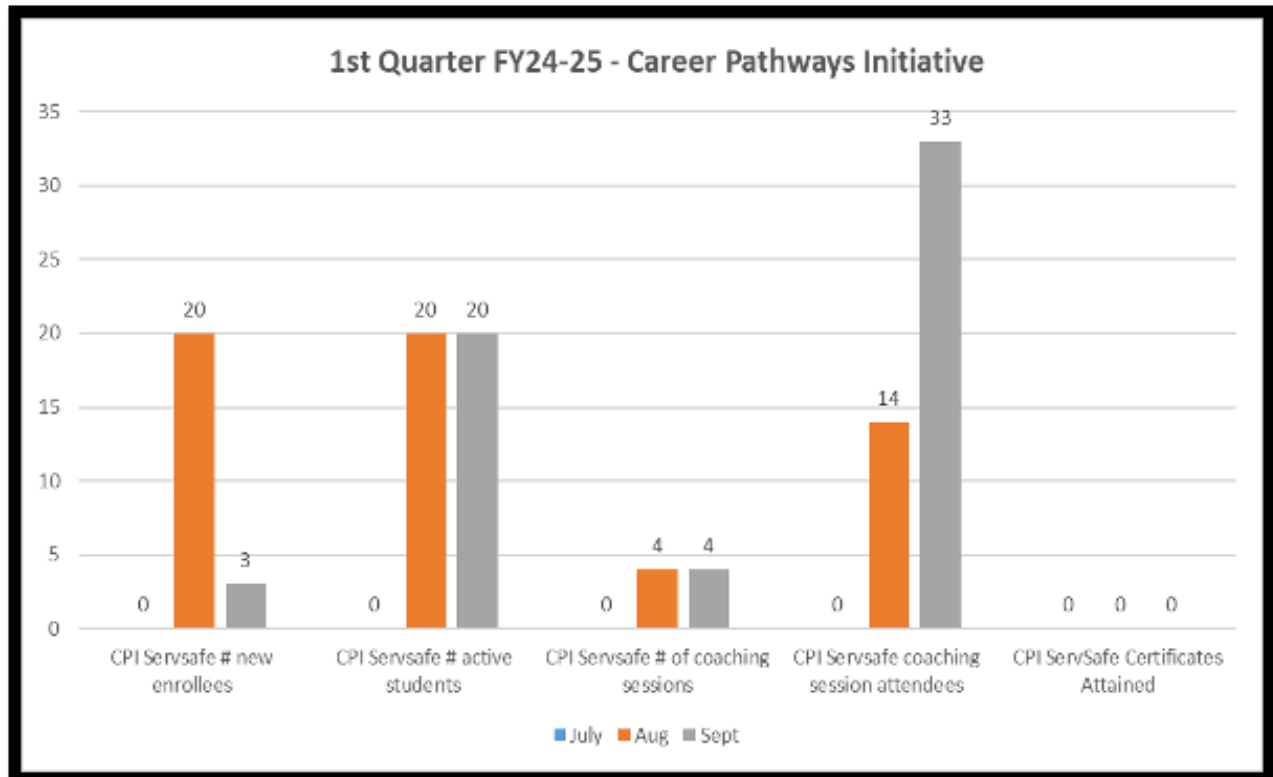


The Congressionally Funded Project also provided for the distribution of \$41,200 in college scholarships to nearly 40 students enrolled at Capital, Manchester, Central, U of Hartford, and St. Joseph's. Program staff continue to provide personalized college guidance for the students who began college this Fall and continue to support students who plan to attend college in Spring 2025. State education funds support TAP's after school English Learner Success program that kicked-off this October with over 40 students and Next Steps for Seniors kicked-off with 24 students.

Career Pathways Initiative:

Servsafe Courses

TAP is currently offering four strands of Servsafe courses, Food Handler, Food Manager, Alcohol Server, and Allergens. Classes are offered in-person and remotely through an online self-study course. Students receive referrals and wraparound services as needed. Earning Servsafe certificates allows students to retain employment, gain employment, and/or achieve upward mobility and growth in the food and hospitality industry. This quarter, a total of 23 students enrolled in Food Handler and Food Manager classes. A total of 8 classes were offered, with a cumulative attendance of 47 students.

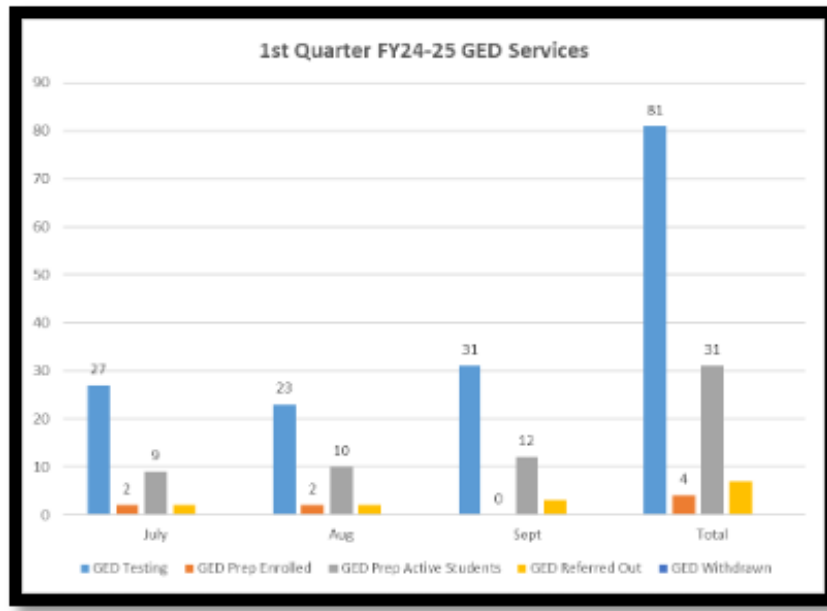


Financial Education

The Financial Education program is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and is offered in collaboration with Liberty Bank's IDA program. Participants learn about savings, budgeting, credit-building, and finances through a 6-week course and receive financial coaching at no cost. Program staff collaborated with the branches to schedule classes for their customers. During the summer, classes were also offered to ESL students, both adult and youth, as well as participants enrolled in the Workforce Board's Summer Youth Learning and Employment program.

Crossroads to Connectivity Program

The Crossroads to Connectivity program continues to assist adults in achieving their educational and training goals by providing digital devices to those who lack them. This quarter, 27 devices were loaned out.



GED Preparation Services

GED Preparation Services were offered onsite at the Downtown Library during the last quarter. Prospective students are oriented to the various routes to earning a high school credential and referred out if another program best suits their needs and experiences. This past quarter, two students passed GED subject tests.

Pearson Vue, GED, and Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems (CASAS) Testing

This quarter, a total of 81 GED Tests and 337 IT, Insurance, and other industry certification tests were administered through Pearson Vue, an international testing company. HPL currently has two Pearson Vue testing locations, one at West Middle School and one at the Downtown Library.

A total of 1,055 CASAS reading, listening, and math assessments were administered to students enrolled in TAP's programs.

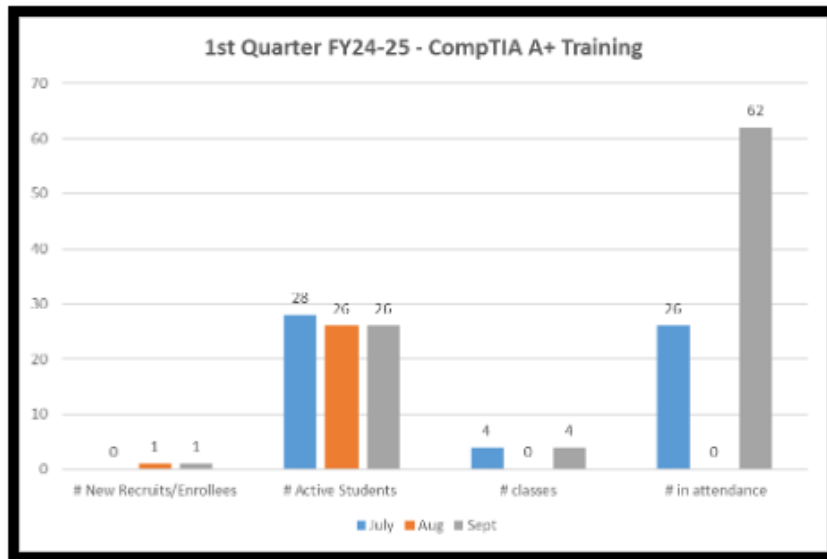
Math Tutoring

Math tutoring was offered in small groups to youth and adults, onsite and remotely. A total of 21 tutoring sessions were held.



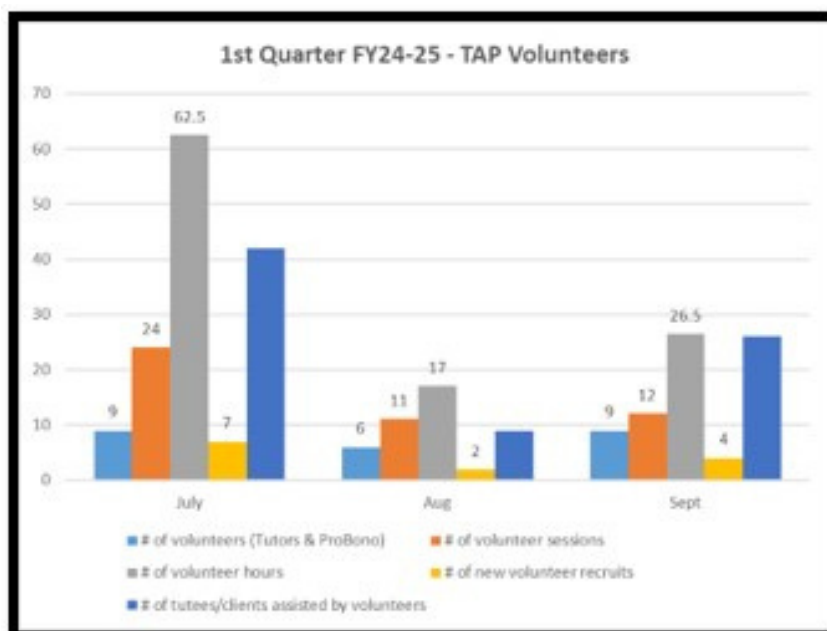
CompTIA A+ Networking Academy for Youth (18 to 24 years old)

The program offers computer networking certificate training, job-shadowing experience, and a paid internship opportunity. Currently, there are 26 active youth enrolled in the program. Eight classes were held in the first quarter with an average of 11 students in attendance per session. Additionally, 10 coaching sessions were offered supporting student learning. Students worked a total of 573 internship hours at library branches and Metro Hartford Innovation Services. Three students passed their certification exams and earned their CompTIA A+ Certification, 5 students entered employment, and 2 college applications were submitted.



Volunteer Support

TAP has received continuous support from volunteers. During this quarter, 24 volunteers contributed 106 hours of volunteer support, including pro-bono attorneys. Volunteer citizenship coaches provided 18.5 hours of small group/individual tutoring in 14 sessions supporting 8 students. The pro-bono attorneys provided 11.5 hours over 7 sessions supporting TAP clients with application preparation, mock interviews or application review. Volunteer tutors provided 69 hours of support to ESL Youth, onsite and remotely.



HPL STUDIOS

250 Stories Cookout and Film Shoot

To support the work of HPL Studios 250 stories and developing the content for the public, HPL studios hosted a film shoot at Keney Park Sustainability Project. The team collected footage for the podcast series being developed and introduction for the content created. It featured guests from the upcoming “250 Stories” podcast. Attendees also included notable library figures and board members.



The Beat Concert 2024

HPL Studios hosted a concert at The Bushnell that featured some of the 2023 submission round participants: XY Eli Band, Mobéy Lola Irizarry, and After School Special. In addition, 2024 Submissions round is underway as new submissions roll in! <https://thebeathartford.co/submit>



Fall 2024 Workshop Series

HPL Studios is midway through its Fall 2024 Digital Media Literacy Workshops Series funded by the PEGPETIA Grant Program. These workshops include:

Intro to Field Recording taught by Jason Mangini, a CT-based freelance Production Sound Recordist and Mixer. The course occurred October 7-9, 2024. Attendees received entry level instruction on the basic functions of recording and mixing equipment, sound set ups, and production field recording best practices and workflows.

Intro to Podcasting taught by DJ B. Davis, a Hartford-based DJ, entrepreneur, and Radio Host on 89.9 QTQFM. This course occurred October 28 – November 6, 2024.

Attendees received entry level instruction on the basic functions of recording a podcast. Participants received instruction on all the elements needed to produce and distribute a podcast online.

Up and Coming Workshops

Intro to Digital Filmmaking taught by Zo (November 12-20)

Intro to Audio Production taught by Zvlu (December 9-18)



250 Stories Podcast

HPL Studios continues to produce “250 Stories.” The podcast, enriched with candid, vivid, intimate details of the depth and scope of the impact that libraries have had on individuals lives and careers. With notable stories from Hollywood actors like Angela Lewis, known for *Snowfall* (2017), *Code Black* (2015) and *Top Five* (2014). And Juel Taylor, the writer and director known for *They Cloned Tyrone* (2023), *Creed II* (2018), and *Space Jam: A New Legacy* (2021). In addition, numerous stories were recorded from working writers, producers at CT Public (Television), educators from Trinity College, CCSU, and Hartford residents from every corner of the city, detailing their appreciation for the many ways the Hartford Public Library has impacted their community and lives.

Headshots were captured to complement each participant's story. These are the results of the stories recorded this quarter.



SOCIAL SERVICES

SOCIAL SERVICES

74

Total number of
patrons who received
direct service

11

Staff consultations

Services Coordinated for staff:
Mental Health First Aid Training (9/25 and 10/2)
Narcan Training (9/10)

HPL and the Dept of Social Services have continued their collaboration with DSS providing services at the Park Street Library @ the Lyric. The DSS case worker has seen 27 clients and assisted with client recertification, SNAP benefits and medical benefits. HPL received a Cigna Foundation grant in the amount of \$198,000 to establish a program to increase access to transportation for medical appointments and health related activities for Hartford residents.

Type of Engagement	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
State of CT Entitlement Programs: explanation, education, referral	4	3	3
Referral to legal supports	0	0	2
Medical/Dental: education, referrals	2	0	0
Housing related: information provided re housing programs, eviction prevention, utility assistance etc	2	5	4
Shelter placement, resources	2	3	3
Biweekly Mental health services/support	1	0	1
Assistance with Substance Misuse: detox, support groups, resources	2	1	0
Family Support/Child Protection	0	1	0
Education resources	0	0	0
Referral to Library service / program	0	1	2
Assistance w/ Clothing & Furniture	0	0	0
Food Insecurity: SNAP, pantry info	4	3	6
Assist w/ Phone Usage			
Other assistance/community resources	3	2	3
Transportation	0	0	0
ID referral	0	0	0
Brief Counseling	3	3	2
Advocacy		2	1
Staff consult (no direct customer f/u by SW)	3	3	5
Total Encounters	23	24	27

CULTURE & COMMUNICATIONS

HARTFORD HISTORY CENTER

HIGHLIGHTS

The celebration of the Library's 250th anniversary continued well into the first quarter with Books and Brews on September 19. More than 80 people joined Library staff at Thomas Hooker Live. Thomas Hooker Brewery supplied the brew, renaming a local favorite the "Literacy Lager". After School Special, a Hartford band featured on HPL's The Beat, supplied the music.

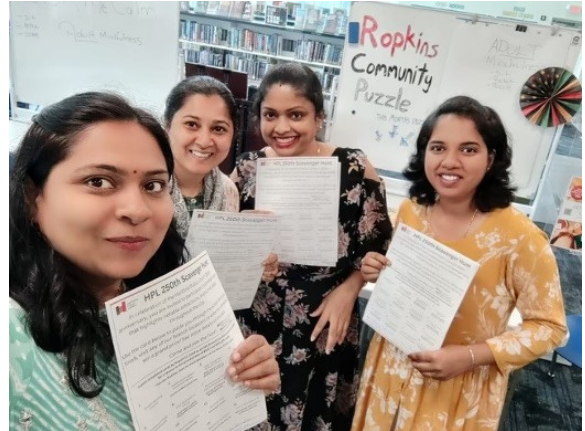


CULTURE & COMMUNICATIONS continued

Increased engagement with the arts and humanities through access and exposure

August 17th was the final day to submit completed HPL 250th Hartford History Scavenger Hunt Cards.

Everyone who completed a scavenger hunt card was given a sticker “I completed the Hunt!” and a HPL 250th commemorative coin. In addition, each completed entry was entered into a raffle for Visa gift cards. Everyone who participated in the hunt said they enjoyed learning more about Hartford history.



On July 9th, HHC traveled to The McAuley retirement community to give a presentation about the history of Hartford Public Library. The 43 people in attendance were very engaged and asked terrific questions.

On July 15th and August 6th, HHC hosted two pop up Ancestry.com tutorials. While only a few people attended, these were productive sessions and attendees left with the skills needed to dig further into their families' history.

July 17th was a fun day at HHC Annex at Ropkins. The HHC welcomed Greater Hartford Catholic Charities Summer program youth group. The group was comprised of 10 teenagers and their two counselors. The group was studying the history of Albany Avenue. Using the HHC's collections, the students were able to view photographs of Albany Avenue from the 1890's, 1913, 1922, 1944, and the 1960's, giving them a great visual understanding of the changes Albany Avenue experienced over time. They also used the newspaper and book collections to research the history of the avenue. The students were inquisitive and engaged throughout.

Deeper understanding of self and connection to community by learning Hartford history

September brought several researchers back to HPL Annex at Ropkins. On Monday September 30th, Debbie Misiag from Williamsburg, VA made her 3rd visit to HHC in the last several years. She credits the HHC with sparking her interest in her own ancestors. Since then, she has founded and organized the Williamsburg Genealogy Society, which now has 45 members. Additionally, she has made it her mission to get the DAR's “Patriot” designation for as many women patriots as she can. She now inspires us!



Preserving Hartford's history for future generations

HHC Collections in the Connecticut Digital Archive (CTDA)

- The HHC successfully uploaded 432 Hartford Times compound objects (1,296 metadata records + 966 relevant images) to the CTDA via spreadsheet ingest after troubleshooting issues and making adjustments to the process per CTDA discussions of evolving ingest procedures.

Other:

- In response to a request by Hartford Public High School Museum & Archive archivist R.J. Luke Williams, the HHC manually edited 234 Hartford Public High School Museum and Archive (HPHSMA) Loring Collection record titles to enable display of photographs in desired identifier number sequence.

COMMUNICATIONS

- In the first quarter, Communications held a press conference to celebrate Homa Naficy's selection as one of Carnegie Corporation's 2024 Great Immigrants, Great Americans. Hartford Mayor Arunan Arulampalam was in attendance, and it was a wonderful way to celebrate Homa and The American Place team. The story was picked up by NBC 30.
- Communications worked with the Vision to Learn team to release a joint press release announcing the third year of the partnership, which provides free eye exams and glasses to those who need them. Multiple news outlets highlighted the story.
- Communications coordinated a tour of the Downtown Library showcasing the construction progress and next steps for our board members.
- Communications worked closely with HPL's Programming department to create and implement a communication and marketing plan for the annual H.L.I.T. Book Festival. This included a press release, a social media campaign, and working with the H.L.I.T. team. Communications also photographed the event.
- Communications continued to work with HPL's Public Service department to carry out a communications and marketing plan for the Get Out the Vote voter registration campaign and also designed and printed new temporary hour signs for all the locations.
- The Communications and Development teams continue collaborating with monthly Philanthropy Spotlight, featured in our newsletter, on social media, and bi-weekly planning meetings.
- We continue to execute our social media strategy. This quarter, we created nine reels to share about our various programming and events. The most successful reel featured the Adult Summer Learning program; it had 2,330 views, 73 likes, 6 comments, 6 shares, and 2 saves.
- Communications worked closely with the Digital Library Lab and HPL Studios to launch their designated websites. Worked with each team to oversee each website, monitoring it for ADA compliance and training the teams when needed.

263

Instagram stories

77

Facebook posts

73

X/Twitter posts

72

Instagram posts

121

Facebook stories

- Communications and HPL Studios collaborated to create and implement a marketing strategy for The Beat concert at Bushnell. Met with HPL Studios and the Bushnell teams to create a social media and marketing strategy, including paid advertisements and additions to our enews and social media.
- Communications continued to be involved in HPL's 250 celebrations with planning and worked with the Books & Brews committee to help run the event. Also worked closely with the Thomas Hooker team to design the HPL Literacy Lager beer can.
- Communications helped The American Place by installing the Journey of Memories art exhibition in the X space of the Downtown Library. The exhibition was open for over a month; a marketing plan was applied, including a press release and shares on social media and news.
- Communications partnered with the Regional School Choice Office to collaborate monthly on social media.
- Communications created and implemented a marketing strategy for the Downtown Reopening on November 20. This included weekly construction update photos highlighting the progress being made Downtown.

HARTFORD

Hartford woman wins national award for her work connecting immigrants to resources through the library

Homa Naficy is one of just 24 naturalized citizens to be given the "Great Immigrants, Great Americans" award from Carnegie Corporations this year

By Jane Caffrey • Published July 24, 2024 • Updated on July 25, 2024 at 7:59 am



CULTURE & COMMUNICATIONS continued

Highlighted across HPL's communication channels in the 1st quarter (in addition to miscellaneous smaller programs - arts, crafts, etc):

- A night with Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf
- College Readiness for English Learners
- HPL acting as cooling centers
- Books through Time: Summer Reading Challenge
- Capital Workforce Partners, summer interns
- HPL Tote bags
- Evelyn Preston concerts
- Partnerships with Art Connection and the 224 Ecospace
- Vision To Learn
- Hartford History Center student visitors
- Patio Service
- 2024 Great Immigrants, Great Americans Award winner Homa Naficy
- Free summer lunches
- HHC 250th Scavenger Hunt
- Food Share at Barbour
- HPL night at Connecticut Museum of Culture & History
- Downtown construction updates
- Sundays at the Stadium
- Philanthropy Spotlights
- Voter registration campaign
- Books & Brews
- Beyond Words
- Jazz Programming
- H.L.I.T. Book Festival
- *Journey of Memories* exhibit



Kids can get free eye exams at the Hartford Public Library



Hartford Public Library will once again offer free eye exams for children

7/3/2024 8:23 PM	NECN
Reading Time:	News: 28%
54 sec. here	Publisher: 71%
3 min. at publisher	
Quality Score:	

Hartford News



HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

LITERACY LAGER

Celebrating 250 years as the **HEART** of the Hartford Community

250 YEARS

BOOKS & BREWS 2024

Scan the QR code for more 250th events!

Thomas HOOKER BREWERY

250 YRS HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

In the 1st quarter, The Communications Team photographed 18 events throughout the system.

JULY

- MPACT event
- Barbour's Voter Registration & FoodShare
- Summer Youth Employment
- Downtown Construction Photos Updates
- Downtown Construction Tour
- Summer Lunch at Dwight
- Empowerment Photo for Art Exhibit
- HHC Summer Survivor Youth at Ropkins
- Summer Learn Lunch with Bridgett Quinn

AUGUST

- HPL Studios Cookout
- Albany Claypen Program
- HPL Night at the CT Museum of Culture and History
- Summer Youth Employment Headshots

SEPTEMBER

- Circuit Workshop at Albany
- Albany Exterior Photos
- Vision to Learn at Park Street Library @ the Lyric
- Hartford L.I.T Festival
- Books and Brews



YOUR VOTE MATTERS

SU VOTO ES IMPORTANTE

Are you...

- **18 years old** or at least 17 and turning 18 on or before Election Day?
- A United States **citizen** living in CT?*
- Have you completed confinement if you have been convicted of a felony?

¿Tiene usted...

- **18 años** o al menos 17 y cumple 18 el día de las elecciones o antes?
- ¿Es usted un(a) **ciudadano(a)** Estadounidense que vive en CT?*
- ¿Ha completado la reclusión si ha sido condenado por un delito grave?



Scan the QR code to learn more!
/Escanee el código QR para obtener más información!


Don't miss your chance to vote — register to vote in your Library today!
¡No pierda la oportunidad de votar — inscribese hoy mismo en su biblioteca para votar!

Hartford Public Library (HPL) makes it easy to register to vote or change your voter address. Use one of our public computers to register online. Need assistance? See a staff member!

La Biblioteca Pública de Hartford (HPL, por sus siglas en inglés) facilita la inscripción para votar o el cambio de su dirección como votante. Use una de nuestras computadoras públicas para inscribirse en línea. ¿Necesita ayuda? ¡Busque a un miembro del personal!


*For information on HPL citizenship services
*Para obtener información sobre los servicios de ciudadanía de HPL:
tap.hplct.org
860-695-6337

Hartford Public Library Presents




Join us for a **FREE** concert featuring local Hartford talent from The Beat, a collection of Hartford-based music curated by Hartford Public Library and a group of Hartford community curators.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 | 6:30 - 9:30 P.M.
The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts
The Autronio Great Hall, 166 Capitol Avenue, Hartford



Submissions for The Beat are now open. Learn more here!



The concert is sponsored by Suzanne Hopgood in memory of Frank Lord.

HEALTH

Hartford Public Library partners with Vision To Learn to offer free eye exams for children

Children and teens ages five to 18 can receive free eye exams this summer on select days at different Hartford library locations.



CULTURE & COMMUNICATIONS continued

DIGITAL LIBRARY LAB

Client/Contact	Project Description	Start Date	Completion Date	Invoice Date	Paid	Project Amount	Amount Paid	Note
Hartford History Center	Digitize the Hartford Times Photo Collection	7/1/2022	Ongoing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No Times photos were done this quarter.
Hartford History Center	Digitize the Hartford Times Clippings Collection	2/6/2024	Ongoing	N/A	N/A	\$38,000.00	Previous Quarters: \$38,000.00	Revisions were made to complete boxes 3 and 6. Boxes 10 and 11 were completed. All work was aided by HPL summer intern, Melina Liz.
DLL Job	Mermin Decagon	4/12/2024	6/26/2024	6/26/2024	Y	\$5,200.00	Previous Quarters \$691.28	Digitization of the family archives entitled the "Mermin Decagon" for the Mermin family of New Haven is expected to recommence next quarter when archive minute books will be delivered to the DLL (10/17/2024). We expect to receive 7 additional notebooks after January 1, 2025.

DLL Job Quote	Knights of Columbus Supreme Council Archives	12/20/2023	Ongoing			Est: \$5060.00		Funding / decision has been made to go forward with Knights of Columbus' Vivian Lea Solek will provide logistic and next-steps information in October 2024.
DLL Job Quote	Coast Guard Academy Yearbooks	2/7/2024	Ongoing	N/A		Est: \$7425.00		I provided an updated (date) estimate for our services and received a reply from Elisa Graydon that the project did not get funded for the current fiscal year. Elisa said she will file the estimate and try again next year.
DLL Job Quote	Document Scanning for the City of Hartford's Development Services Dept	3/5/2024	Ongoing	N/A	N/A	Est: \$102,513		Delayed: City staff visited the DLL on July 12, 2024. DSS requested a formal quote which was provided to them on September 30. DLL received confirmation that the official quote was received by DSS. Work is expected to begin next quarter. On July 12, new DSS Director Jeff Auker toured the DLL.

CULTURE & COMMUNICATIONS continued

DLL Job Quote	Mark Twain House and Museum	6/20/2024	Ongoing	N/A	N/A	Est: \$38,612		DLL is serving as grant digitization partner with MTH. Waiting for NEH grant funding decision in spring of 2025.
DLL Job Quote	Harriet Beecher Stowe Center	6/6/2024	Ongoing	N/A	N/A	Est: \$166,508		DLL is serving as grant digitization partner with HBSC. Waiting for NEH grant funding decision in spring of 2025.
DLL Job – Video and Historical Document	Fiona Vernal, UCONN History Department	7/16/2024	Complete	8/2/2024	N/A	\$771.80		Digitized 24 mini DVDs and VHS Puerto Rican Culture tapes; and the historic Charter of the African Communities League Charters of 1920 and 1930. Payment expected in early October.
DLL Job – Document Scanning	Philip Trager	7/18/2024	Complete	9/30/2024	Y 9/20/2024	\$3190.50	\$3190.50	Digitized Mr. Trager's photography career related documents, magazine articles and review.
DLL Job – Historical Scrapbook Digitization	Germaine Valentine – Rock Group "The Animals"	7/26/2024	Complete	7/30/2024	Y 7/30/2024	\$361.59	\$361.59	Digitized 2 large scrapbooks from the 1960s made by Hilton Valentine, the original lead guitarist for the rock group "The Animals."

DLL Job – Historical Documents	Harriet Beecher Stowe Center	Complete	8/12/2024	8/13/2024	Y 8/14/2024	\$120.00	\$120.00	Digitized two historic documents for the HBSC, one 19 th century Hartford black census and a 17 th century land sale document between Mohegan Sachem Owaneco and Major Fitch.
DLL Job – 35mm Slides	David Burns	Ongoing	9/12/2014	N/A	N/A	\$850.80		Job to be completed and invoiced during the first week of October.
Administration	DLL website	7/1/2024	9/30/2024	N/A	N/A	N/A		The DLL website is now be administered by DLL staff. Some improvements have been made as of this writing: https://dll.hplct.org/
Administrative	Conference	4/28/2024	4/29/2024	N/A	N/A	N/A		Brad Overturf attended the Social Enterprise Accelerator All-Cohort Collaboration & Learning Session on Tuesday, September 17 from at Chrysalis Center Training & Conference Center, Hartford.
Administration	Trinity College Student Internships(s)	9/30/2024	12/20/2024	N/A	N/A	N/A		DLL's Trinity College Kelter Scholar Program student intern Brayden Massaro commenced his Spring semester, 60-hour internship on September 30, 2024.

CULTURE & COMMUNICATIONS continued

The DLL's Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program Intern Melina Liz spent a productive 2024 summer digitizing Hartford Times, assisting with various other photography projects, and performed much of the work for a high-speed scanning project. Melina lives and attends high school in Hartford. She has also attended school and spent time at her family's home in the Dominican Republic.

The DLL@HPL's Fall Semester Trinity College Kelter Scholar Brayden Massaro started in September and will work through December on a variety of projects including Hartford Times clippings and photos and 3D photography and rendering. Brayden is a sophomore Mechanical Engineering Major at Trinity.



Next Quarter's Anticipated Work:

- Digitize ad hoc for HPL/HHC, including the Hartford Times photos.
- Continue work on the Hartford Times Clippings project. HPL's Trinity Kelter Intern will work through the middle of December.
- Logistics preparation will continue in anticipation of beginning work on the Department of Development Services project with short notice.
- Continue conversations with the Mashantucket Pequot Museum's staff, including Executive Director Joshua Carter to discuss potential collections digitization.
- Brad Overturf will attend the CT Municipalities Conference in Uncasville on December 2 and 3, 2024.
- Review opportunities for training and attendance at other job-related conferences.
- Maintain communication with existing and potential clients who received quotes or have ongoing work this quarter: Development Services, Knights of Columbus, and the Mermin Family for remaining notebooks.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

DOWNTOWN LIBRARY

The Library announced the reopening for November 20, 2024. Customers will have access to a large section of the first floor, including some collections, computers, and limited TAP services. The classrooms and CCC have been in use since 2023 and will continue to be accessible. In December and January, it is anticipated that YOUmedia, the Technology Training Lab, and the Youth and Family Services space on the 3rd floor will be able to reopen.

A significant amount of work has started and will be completed this quarter including new elevator installation and inspection, new front door entrance installation. Electrical panel work is in process, sprinkler head work completed, ceiling, and wiring for data and floor prep and installation is underway. Work is also underway in the Youth and Family Services space for the installation of additional storage space, the build out of a lactation space, and ceiling replacement.



ALBANY LIBRARY

Geotechnical engineering work was conducted to review existing site conditions at the Albany location, and SHPO application is in the process of being prepared for submission. The City is continuing its work of reviewing remediation and stabilization work which will be needed for the North West School.

BARBOUR LIBRARY

The Library's permit for Civic and Institution use for the Barbour Library site was submitted to the Planning and Zoning Board for their review and approval, and approval was granted for the change in land use. Design documents and interior design are under way. In addition, cost estimates were reviewed and updated for the project.

HUMAN RESOURCES

RECRUITMENT AND STAFFING

In the 1st quarter, 5 vacancies were filled for the following service area/business units:

Public Services	The American Place	Customer Experience	IT, Facilities & Finance	Develop	Culture & Communications	Administration
Adult Services Manager Library Assistant Boundless @ Rawson		Security Guard Security Guard	Technology Support Associate			

For the same period in FY24, 1st quarter, 16 vacancies were filled.

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT:

The 1st quarter was the first full quarter of service provided by the Library's new Employee Engagement Manager. The Human Resources team made the decision to increase levels of investment in staff connection. This was accomplished by establishing a regular, weekly schedule and Saturday visits to all Library locations to introduce our Engagement Manager and to begin the practice of encouraging meaningful conversations. Meaningful conversation to us meant, connection on any level important to the individual employee. Excluding interns, the Library had approximately 142 employees during 1st quarter. 122 employees were reached at least once during the quarter. On a weekly basis we have reached 60-82 employees regularly.

TRAINING AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

HPL welcomed 15 students to library branch locations as part of a partnership with Capital Workforce Partners. Hartford area students (ages 16-19) participated in a valuable workforce development experience including two weeks of professional development and 6-weeks of work experience. Student training included a comprehensive overview of HPL and library systems, the life-cycle of books and materials, and HPL's key service/program areas. Training continued on the topics of, General Professionalism, Employment Management (Job Seeking Strategies), Customer Service-Trauma Informed Practice, Financial Literacy, Digital Literacy, Time/Self-Management, Communication, and Wellness. Students were placed in Public Services, the Digital Library Lab, YouMedia Teen Services, and The American Place.

HPL is honored to have had the opportunity to support students in the beginning stages of their career development. Our goal of connecting students to library resources and to future work opportunities serves many critical development needs. 80% of the students served are high school students entering their junior or senior years. HPL hopes to have students return for future work experiences with the Library.

STATISTICS

PROGRAMS 1st QUARTER July - September 2024

	FY 2023-2024		FY 2024-2025	
Downtown	Programs	Attendance	Programs	Attendance
American Place	147	1,459	121	1,938
Hartford History Center	0	0	4	59
Programming	17	1,124	18	577
Youth Department	78	1,615	94	2,771
Totals	242	4,198	237	5,345

Branches	Programs	Attendance	Programs	Attendance
Albany Adult	24	383	19	266
Albany Youth/Teens	152	1,162	202	1,040
Barbour Adult	5	88	11	81
Barbour Youth	37	670	43	647
Camp Field Adult	5	52	6	61
Camp Field Youth	25	417	27	316
Dwight Adult	31	333	11	99
Dwight Youth	25	260	42	788
Park Adult	13	822	3	52
Park Youth	43	1,829	35	580
Ropkins Adult	10	107	12	175
Ropkins Youth	37	708	48	732
Totals	407	6,831	459	4,837

Boundless Pilot & Other Programs	Programs	Attendance	Programs	Attendance
Rawson - Pilot Program	20	251	42	657
Boundless Enrichment @ HPHS*	9	93	13	35
Totals	29	344	55	692

HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY 1st Quarter Programming Totals

	FY 2023-2024	FY 2024-2025
Total Programs	678	751
Total Attendance	11,373	10,874

*Hartford Public High School