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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Hartford Public Library Celebrates Grand Reopening of the Downtown Library** *Fully Restored. Fully Reimagined. Fully Yours.*

(Hartford, CT) — Today, Hartford Public Library (HPL) President and CEO Bridget E. Quinn was joined by U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal, U.S. Congressman John Larson, CT Speaker of the House Matt Ritter, Mayor Arunan Arulampalam, and Hartford City Councilperson Marilyn Rossetti for a ribbon-cutting celebration marking the official full reopening of the Downtown Library at 500 Main Street.

The renovation goes far beyond bricks and mortar. The redesigned Downtown Library reimagines what a 21st-century public library can be: a living hub for innovation, creativity, and opportunity, built to reflect Hartford's resilience and ambitions. The spaces have been thoughtfully created to ensure that all residents and visitors can come to learn, create, and connect.

The reopening launches a [full week of community programming](#) under the banner *Fully Restored, Fully Reimagined. Fully Yours.* — a theme that captures both the scope of the transformation and the spirit behind it.

"We can't wait to see you at the fully reopened Downtown Library. We have reimagined Library spaces to serve the community and as an investment in the future of Hartford," said **Bridget E. Quinn, HPL President and CEO.** "By transforming the Library into a premier anchor, we are supporting local economic development and contributing to the vibrancy of downtown. The renovated Library will serve as a dynamic engine for community prosperity, job creation, and collaborative growth for generations to come."



"By committing millions in state funding to the Hartford Public Library, Connecticut is investing directly in the city's future," said **Governor Ned Lamont**. "A best-in-class downtown library is a powerful anchor and community education center and economic accelerator. State support ensures that our capital city remains a vibrant, welcoming space that drives prosperity for all members of our community."

"This historic transformation is cause for celebration," said **U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal**. "The Hartford Public Library has for decades been the heart of civic engagement and learning in the city, and its revitalization will expand access to critical resources for the many communities it serves. I am proud to have helped secure the federal support necessary to redevelop the library into a space that reflects the resilience and diversity of Hartford, strengthening the city for generations to come."

"Libraries are vital to the health and well-being of every community. Investing in them strengthens our neighborhoods and local economies," said **U.S. Congressman John Larson**. "The federal dollars I worked to secure in Congress for Hartford Public Library will help ensure a successful reopening of the Downtown Library—with expanded access to homelessness assistance, workforce development and adult education services, and summer meals for children. I am incredibly proud of the ongoing partnership with the City of Hartford to support this renovation, and will continue to work with federal, state, and local leaders so that the library is accessible for generations to come."

"Hartford Public Library is a hub for downtown and for the entire city," said **CT Speaker of the House Matt Ritter**. "By securing state funding for this project, we are providing our city center with world-class educational and community resources. The full reopening of the downtown library is a testament to what we can accomplish when the state, city, and federal partners work together to rebuild critical community resources."

"The Hartford Public Library is not just a building; it is our city's living room," said **Hartford Mayor Arunan Arulampalam**. "The transformed Downtown Library means restoring a sanctuary where our kids can expand their imaginations, where newcomers are welcomed, and where every resident is empowered with the tools to learn, work, and succeed."

"The reopening of our downtown Hartford Public Library is the culmination of a community-driven vision, backed by the City Council's unwavering commitment to invest in our library system year after year," said **Hartford City Council President T.J. Clarke**. "We don't just fund these buildings; we invest annually in the people, neighborhoods, and future of Hartford."

The reimagined Downtown Library introduces a bold collection of new and transformed spaces to serve Hartford's residents, including:

**Greater Hartford Gives Foundation The American Place & Social Innovation Center** provides adult education classrooms, immigration and citizenship services, and social services to improve community health and economic outcomes, continuing HPL's long commitment to serving Hartford's diverse population.



**The Hartford Business Resource Center** supports local entrepreneurs, small businesses, and workforce readiness programs by providing residents with the tools and connections needed to thrive.

**The Reimagined Hartford History Center** prioritizes public access and interactive learning experiences, inviting residents and visitors to engage with Hartford's rich and complex history in new ways.

**Sweetland Patricelli Family HPL Studios** is a new media production space offering state-of-the-art facilities and equipment for audio and video content creation and educational programming, and a broadcasting partnership with Hartford Public Access Television (HPATV).

**The Richard P. Garmany Fund HPL Hall** is a new community venue for events, discussions, and collaborations — including a partnership with UConn's CoLab, an interdisciplinary space for research and innovation that brings university resources directly into the heart of Hartford.

This is more than a building. It's an investment in Hartford's future — and it belongs to everyone.

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

Founded as the Library Company in 1774, and over its 250 years, Hartford Public Library (HPL) has remained at the forefront of redefining the urban library experience in the 21st century. The Library has seven full-service locations, two Boundless Library locations, and multiple outreach services, including the Library on Wheels and Story Stash, a 24-7 pickup locker. HPL provides education, intellectual enrichment, and cultural development for thousands of children, youth, and adults. HPL has 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. For more information, visit [hplct.org](http://hplct.org), and follow us on social media ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), [Bluesky](#)).

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