

# Chief Executive Officer's Report

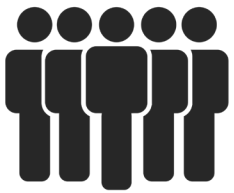
January 2020

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# OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2019

*at a glance*



**192,264**

TOTAL VISITS



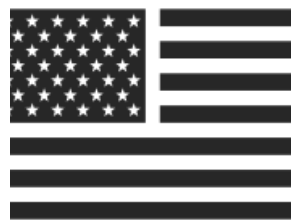
**563**

TEEN PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



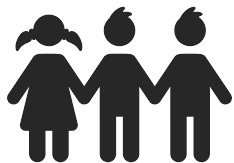
**67,364**

TOTAL CIRCULATION



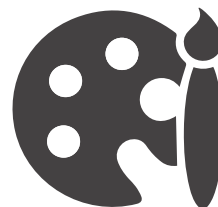
**2,927**

STUDENTS ATTENDED TAP CLASSES



**9,985**

YOUTH PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



**700+**

ARTWALK VISITS



**120**

INDIVIDUALS ACHIEVED CITIZENSHIP



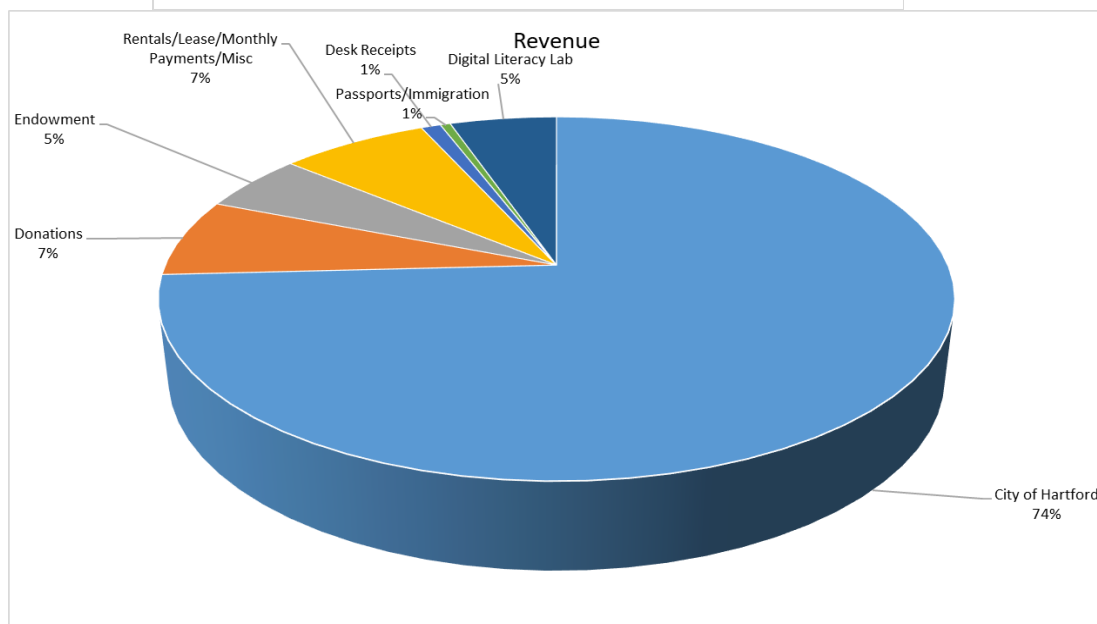
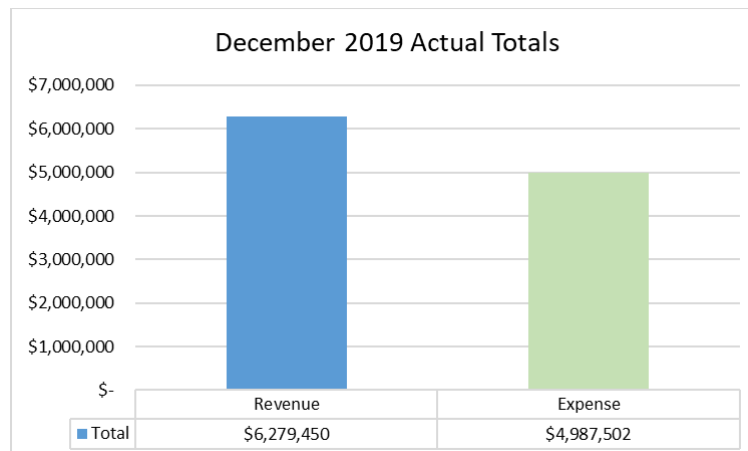
**19,111**

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

### Fiscal Year 2020–Operating Budget Summary As of December 31, 2019–50% through Fiscal Year

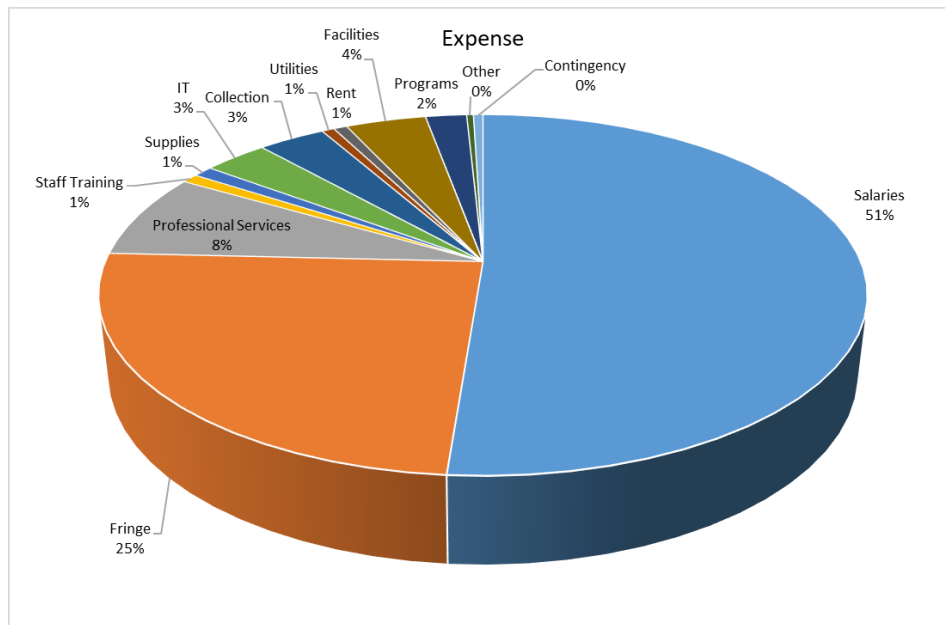
For the period ending 12/31/19, the Hartford Public Library has expended an estimated total of \$4,987,502 which represents 50.2% of the revised operating budget of \$9,928,406. The Library has also collected an estimated \$6,279,450 in operating funds, or 63.2% of the Fiscal Year 2020 budget.

	FY20 Budget	FY20 Actual	Variance	%
<b>Revenue</b>	\$ 9,928,406	\$ 6,279,450	\$ 3,648,956	63.2%
<b>Expense</b>	\$ 9,928,406	\$ 4,987,502	\$ 4,940,904	50.2%
<b>Variance</b>		\$ 1,291,947.28	\$ (1,291,947.28)	



# finance (continued)

Revenue	FY20 Budget	FY20 Actual	Variance	%
<b>City of Hartford</b>	\$8,201,317	\$4,656,214	\$3,545,103	56.8%
<b>Donations</b>	\$515,000	\$434,579	\$80,421	84.4%
<b>Endowment</b>	\$706,843	\$322,367	\$384,476	45.6%
<b>Rentals/Lease/Monthly Payments/Misc</b>	\$352,246	\$450,720	-\$98,474	128.0%
<b>Desk Receipts</b>	\$78,000	\$59,859	\$18,141	76.7%
<b>Passports/Immigration</b>	\$75,000	\$30,637	\$44,363	40.8%
<b>Digital Literacy Lab</b>	\$0	\$325,075	-\$325,075	100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,928,406</b>	<b>\$6,279,450</b>	<b>\$3,648,956</b>	<b>63.2%</b>



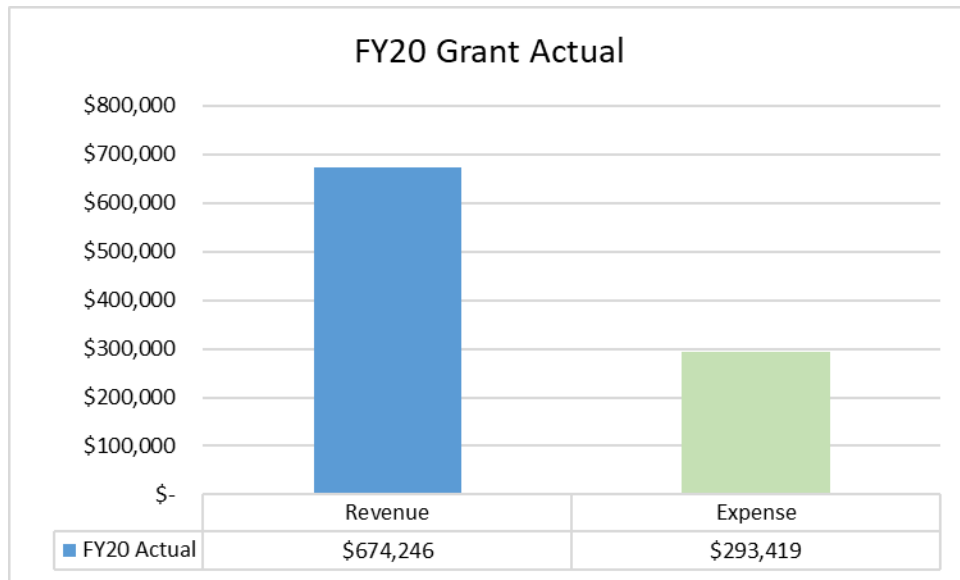
Expense	Budget	Actual	Variance	%
<b>Salaries</b>	\$5,621,236	\$2,442,518	\$3,178,718	43.5%
<b>Fringe</b>	\$2,163,362	\$1,168,216	\$995,146	54.0%
<b>Professional Services</b>	\$645,772	\$362,281	\$283,491	56.1%
<b>Staff Training</b>	\$68,775	\$39,025	\$29,750	56.7%
<b>Supplies</b>	\$73,600	\$46,529	\$27,071	63.2%
<b>IT</b>	\$155,979	\$154,260	\$1,719	98.9%
<b>Collection</b>	\$531,825	\$160,903	\$370,922	30.3%
<b>Utilities</b>	\$67,150	\$29,797	\$37,353	44.4%
<b>Rent</b>	\$66,174	\$32,097	\$34,077	48.5%
<b>Facilities</b>	\$320,016	\$192,838	\$127,178	60.3%
<b>Programs</b>	\$131,200	\$98,372	\$32,828	75.0%
<b>Other</b>	\$27,317	\$16,175	\$11,142	59.2%
<b>Contingency</b>	\$56,000	\$22,896	\$33,104	40.9%
<b>Digital Literacy Lab</b>	\$0	\$221,597	-\$221,597	100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,928,406</b>	<b>\$4,987,502</b>	<b>\$4,940,904</b>	<b>50.2%</b>

## Fiscal Year 2020–Grant Budget Summary As of December 21, 2019 - 50% through Fiscal Year

	FY20 Budget	FY20 Actual	Variance	%
<b>Revenue</b>	\$ 1,932,732	\$ 674,246	\$ 1,258,486	34.9%
<b>Expense</b>	\$ 1,932,732	\$ 293,419	\$ 1,639,313	15.2%
<b>Variance</b>		\$ 380,827.00	\$ (380,827.00)	

## Grant Activity for 2nd QT (October–December 2019)

	AWARDED		PENDING		DECLINED	
	NUMBER	AMOUNT	NUMBER	AMOUNT	NUMBER	AMOUNT
Government	1	\$30,000				
Foundations	7	\$198,098	2	\$206,421		
Corporation	3	\$141,000	1	\$10,000		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>\$369,098</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>\$216,421</b>		



*Access to Information and Services that Contribute to Well-Being*

- » Census 2020—HPL received a Project Census Countdown grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving to help inform all Hartford residents about the importance of being counted. Public Service managers were trained by Catherine Marx, our Census Partnership Specialist on the ins and outs of the census. Branches hosted job fairs to recruit Census staff and presented Census information at various programs throughout the fall. Census recruiters have helped five people to apply for jobs with the Census at Dwight and 15 at Barbour.
- » Women’s Empowerment Event--The 2nd annual Women’s Empowerment Event organized by Park Branch manager Graciela Rivera, in partnership with the Hispanic Health Council took place on October 30th at the Downtown Library. 95 adults and 33 children attended. Special guest author of the book “Playing Dead” Monique Faison Ross, gave a riveting testimony on her personal experience with domestic violence. The event also included raffles, a dinner, and a short introductory Zumba class. It was presented in English/Spanish to accommodate everyone present.
- » Krissy Anderson, Community Nutrition Educator from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), University of Connecticut taught a four-class series in October at the Barbour Branch for 38 participants. A couple of participants were taking what they learned in class and adding ingredients to recipes at home to make them healthier, like pumpkin puree, flax seeds, and nuts. One person started reading labels and making better choices at the grocery store. One participant now monitors the amount of sugar she is consuming. It made an impression on several of the customers that other countries do not allow the food additives that the United States allows.



## Increase Engagement with the Arts and Access to Exposure

- » Our 2nd full season of providing tickets to Hartford Stage shows kicked off in September with the play Quixote Nuevo. 165 passes were checked out by HPL card holders equaling 330 tickets. 128 passes (256 tickets) were checked out for Cry It Out and 190 passes (380 tickets) for A Christmas Carol.
- » Dwight Library now hosts a weekly knitting group with 8-10 dedicated participants. Park Library continues to host their weekly crochet and knitting program. The parents of children who frequent the Downtown Children's Dept. asked for their own crochet and knitting club. The Hooks and Needles group has grown to about a dozen women who come on Thursday afternoons to learn these great lifelong skills. We are able to provide a space for their little ones to play and interact while they are working on their projects. Now that they are becoming more proficient, we have been bringing up needlework books from our collection downstairs for them to check out for further skill development and patterns.
- » Camp Field Library presented a sew your own spiced hot pad program. Participants in our crafting and arts programs always comment on the fact that not only do they enjoy learning a new skill and creating something, the socialization opportunities these programs provide are invaluable.



## Supportive Community for Youth and Adult Learning

- » In November and December, public service managers from across the system and a number of other public service staff participated in a four-part training "Skills for Community Centered Libraries." Developed by the Free Library of Philadelphia and facilitated by Public Services Director Marie Jarry, over the course of twelve hours participants learned about building connections with each other and the community, effective communication, community engagement, and program development. Staff are eager to apply their learning to building new relationships within Hartford and creating programming driven by community voices.
- » On October 17th, the Camp Field Library celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with Hartford's Hispanic Community All-Stars event to recognize the service and contributions of Hispanic Americans in our community. In attendance were Letty Cotto, Alba



# public services (continued)

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Perez, Chaplin, Jairo Lemos, Financial Advisor, Joseph Jimenez, Hartford Youth Advisory Board member, Leonardo Santos, Owner/Manager, Bravo Supermarkets and Community Supporter, Janette Hernandez, Family Peer Support Specialist, FAVOR, and Mario Oquendo, Captain, Hartford Fire Dept., Special Services Unit. Each honored guest spoke about their lives and their career journeys. All of the speakers emphasized the importance of connecting with community members and organizations (including the Library) to support their interests and goals. Food provided by El Mercado Market was enjoyed by everyone.

- » Our large community of families from India worked with Downtown Children's Department staff to prepare and carry out celebrations for Diwali the Festival

of Lights on Saturday, November 16th. 250 families attended the celebration which included dance performances, music, a family fashion show, Sarada Nori and Company, and Indian food from Spice Venue.

- » HPL's 11th annual Kwanzaa Festival took place on Saturday, December 28th. The ceremony was hosted by Sankofa Cultural Arts. 250 attendees enjoyed the Sky-Walkers stilt walkers, creating a family scrapbook, face painting, jewelry making, drumming, and more.

## *Digital Literacy*

- » The Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT) attended an event at the Park Street library to promote careers in manufacturing for young adults age 18-29.
- » November saw the start of Technology Tuesdays at Dwight, which consist of one-on-one support given drop-in style to anyone who can use it. The branch manager has supported 15 people so far with this program, teaching them how to secure an email address, how to use their cell phones, and how to apply for jobs online. This program will continue through February.

## *Youth and Family Services: Boundless*

- » On December 4th, youth service librarian teams presented library information sessions for Hartford Public Schools teachers in grades 3-5 during their professional development afternoon. It focused on the Boundless partnership and also highlighted our STEM Lab on the Go programs. One librarian received 10 requests for STEM program outreach right after she presented.
- » In October, Hartford Public Library was awarded a \$40,000 grant in book credits from First Book as part of its OMG Books Awards: Offering More Great Books to Spark Innovation. This generous award enables us, in partnership with Hartford Public Schools, to distribute more than 12,000 books to 4,000 Hartford school children through our Boundless @ Home Project. Kick-off parties were held in December at all branch locations with over 1,000 books being given away. Ninety percent of the grant is being distributed through classroom teachers from eight of the city's Title I Boundless partner schools. They are receiving \$10 per student to select and distribute books for children to add to their home libraries. It is our goal to help ensure children are reading on grade level by third grade by increasing access to books and promoting a life-long love of reading.

## *Youth and Family Services: Readiness for School Success and Literacy*

- » In conjunction with the Science Center, Barbour, Camp Field, and the Boundless Library @ Rawson are each fielding a team of girls ages 6-10 to compete in the Lego League Jr. Challenge. They will meet throughout the winter and attend the final Expo at the Science Center in March.
- » Young customers have been very excited about a new addition to our circulating collection. In early December, eleven doll kits were made available for check out and have been constantly circulating thereafter. This new ven-



ture was introduced to customers at our Doll Day & Tea Party hosted by the Hartford History Center. Five of the kits have dolls from the diverse Wellie Wishers collection by American Girl. There are also six super hero kits, two each of Superman, Spiderman and Wonder Woman. Each kit comes in a backpack with two books, an easy reader and an early chapter book, and can be checked out on an adult card for two weeks. Customers at branch locations may access a doll kit by placing a hold, however, our goal is to eventually have these made available at every branch. They have been very well received and present a unique opportunity to provide our young customers with a combination of literacy and play.

## Teen Services

- » Katherine Trouern-Trend, youth services librarian at the Camp Field Library, continues to be a leader on the Teen Media News Literacy project. Along with YOUmedia Coordinator Nygel White, she trained a new group of YOUmedia interns to lead peer media making and learning opportunities based on the Learn 2 Discern curriculum. She was also invited to present at the Media and News Literacy Fair in October hosted by the Connecticut State Library about the work HPL is doing with teens around media literacy.
- » Dwight youth librarian trainee Rubina Hamid partnered with Real Art Ways to do a series of teen poetry workshops beginning in December.



## Adult Programming Highlights

2,228 customers attended programs  
71 intergenerational programs were held  
Hosted 6 voter registration tables.

### Civic Engagement

- » Candidate forums for Hartford mayor and for Hartford city council were widely attended and provided a valuable space for Hartford residents to get to know candidates and their policies.
- » Partnerships with several Obama Foundation Community Leadership youth groups led to hosting events aimed at distributing coats and winter wear, backpacks, food, and offering free haircuts for housing insecure individuals.
- » “CT Civic Ambassadors Summit” with Everyday Democracy and the UConn Humanities Institute brought together over 70 civic leaders to discuss issues facing CT and to share best practices.

### Exhibits

- » HPL @ Hartford First Night 2019 on December 31st: Exhibit opening of “Hartford Courant, Stories that Shape the Decade” a visual overview of the most noteworthy news stories of the decade.

### Art Programs

- » HPL’s “Indigenous Peoples’ Celebration,” a celebration of indigenous community in Connecticut and the North East started with a screening of the CT-made documentary, “As we tell our Stories,” with a post-film discussion featuring individuals who were interviewed in the film, indigenous leaders Ed Sanabria and Erin Lamb Richmond. The event also featured book talks with local indigenous authors Mixashawn Rozie and Ron Welburn, panel discussions about “Being Native in Hartford” and “Indigenous Histories,” and indigenous vendors from across CT. The day ended with celebration drumming and music from the group Youngblood, food from Indigenous caterer Sly Fox Den Catering, and Youngblood dancers leading event guests in community dancing.

### Performing Arts

- » Partnerships with UConn Hartford, UConn School of Social Work, UConn Human Rights Institute and University of St. Joseph resulted in a presentation of “Pang!,” three original theater pieces about real families facing challenges of contemporary working class life in America — from hunger and gun violence to foreclosure and anti-immigration bias — staged as a live radio show or podcast.

- » As a part of their “Musical Dialogues” performance series, HPL hosted family friendly, holiday jazz musical performances, with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra Jazz Quartet.

### Film Screenings

- » Partnerships with the San Juan Center and UConn’s School of Social Work resulted in working with Pedro Angel Rivera Muñoz, Director of Desalambrando, a documentary that examines the history of Puerto Rico’s social struggle for housing and land. Pedro joined us and was present to lead a Q&A after the film screening.
- » Partnerships with the Graustein Memorial Fund resulted in screening “And Then They Came For Us,” a documentary about the history of the forced incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II. Post-film community talk-back featured representatives from Hartford Deportation Defense, CT Students for a Dream, and the Council on American-Islamic Relations. Panelists drew connections between the discrimination against Japanese Americans documented in the film and the current attacks against Latinx and undocumented communities in Hartford and beyond.

### Literary Programs

- » Connecticut Center of the Book’s, Connecticut Book Awards ceremony recognized and honored authors and illustrators who have created the best books in or about our state. Author Philip Caputo was the keynote speaker to a packed room.
- » The annual Wallace Stevens Birthday Bash saw a new record number of attendees celebrating Hartford’s own poet Wallace Stevens.
- » Author’s Table programs were hosted with local authors Michael Manson and Rell Erwin.

### Big Read

- » National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) “Big Read”. HPL featured the book *Advice from the Lights* by Stephanie Burt, a collection of poetry about gender identity and self-discovery.
- » Programming revolved around LGBTQ art and literature, culminating with an Author Talk with Stephanie Burt and a YOUmedia Gender Fluid Fashion Show.
- » YOUmedia hosted their second fashion show, featuring looks inspired by black queer icons and gender fluid fashion.
- » The Big Read was a success in part because of the partnerships that HPL built with community organiza-

# adult programming (continued)

tions: Hartford Capital City Pride, Connecticut Latinas/ os Achieving Rights and Opportunities (CLARO), True Colors, UConn Hartford, UConn Hartford Gender and Sexuality Alliance, Connecticut Historical Society, Connecticut Central State University LGBT Center, and the Hartford Poet Laureate.

## Technical Services Highlights

5592 items added to collection  
 1637 new users/customers registered  
 1126 library cards were renewed

### App Use

- » 252 users log in to the HPL App 1041 times equating to about 5 times a quarter. HPL App was used 1076 times to view e-book titles checked out and download e-books and e-audiobooks.
- » The majority of users use the app to look up titles, gather information about their account, and place holds on both physical and digital materials. Other main uses include viewing our museum passes, reviewing information about our pop-up libraries, and locating nearest branches.

Auto Source Database added to improve access to automobile repair manuals.

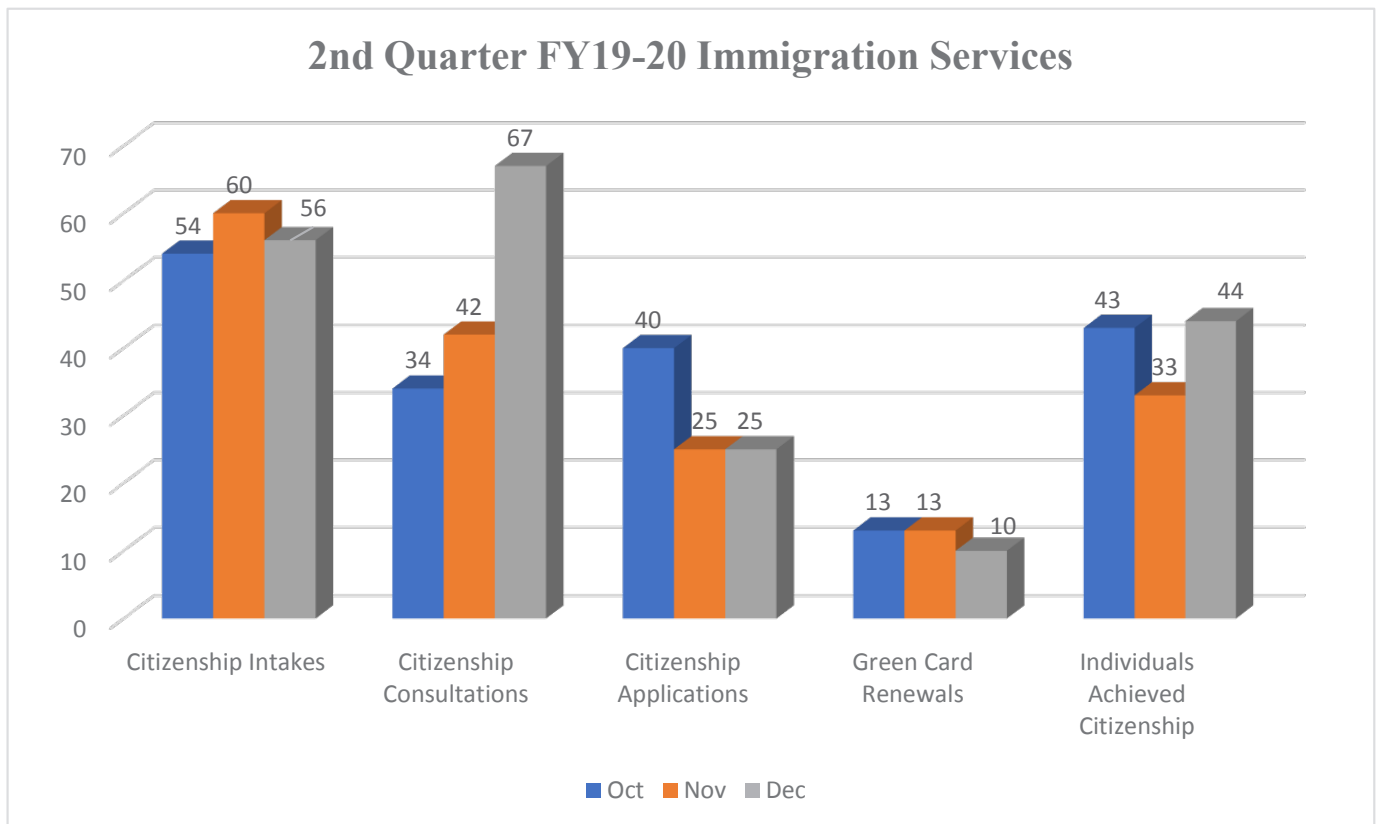
Usage By Platform		
Platform Type	Devices	Launches
amazon-fireos	1	2
Android	89	334
iPad	20	37
iPhone	142	668
<b>Total</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>1041</b>

Usage By Month			
	Devices	Launches	New Devices
19-Oct	106	332	32
19-Nov	121	309	48
19-Dec	134	400	59
<b>Total</b>	<b>252 *</b>	<b>1041</b>	<b>139</b>

# The American Place

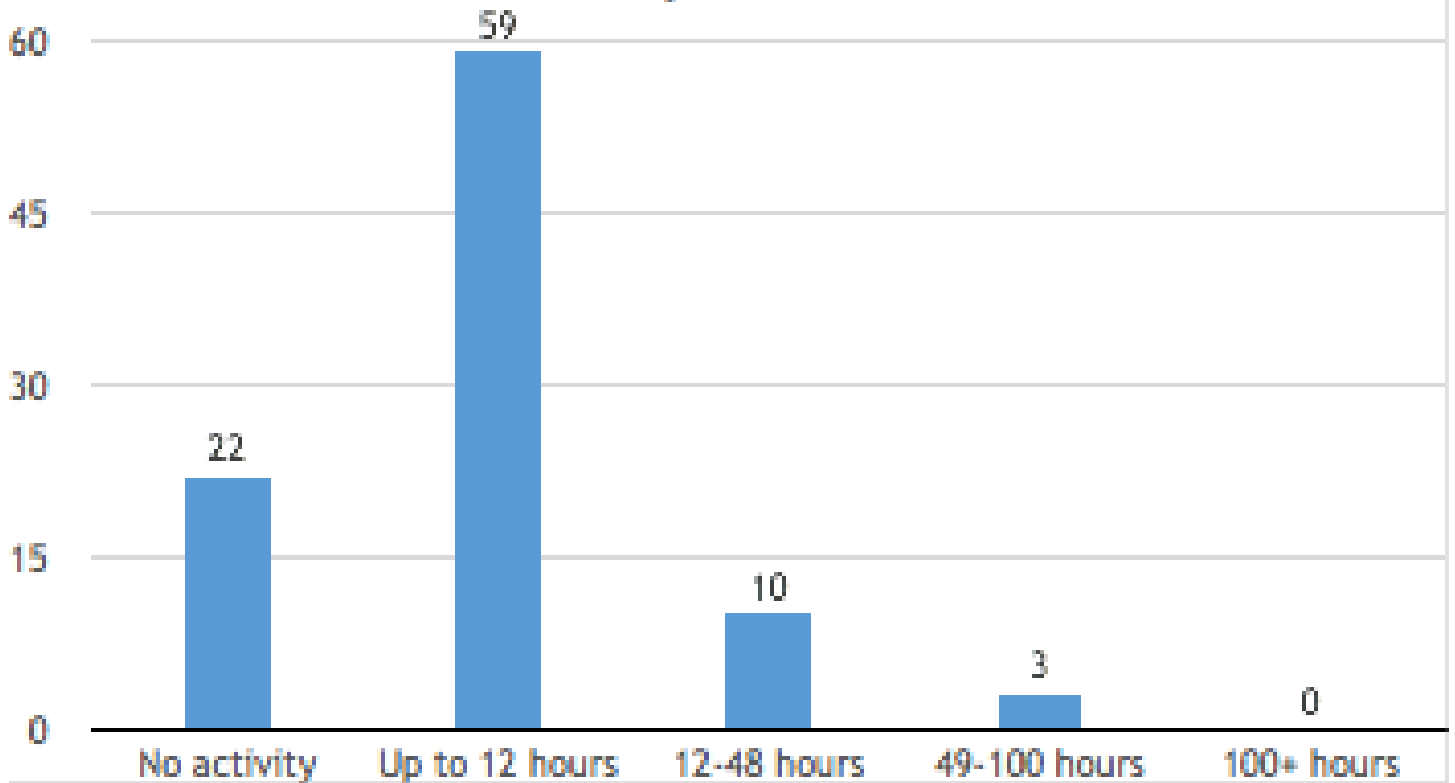
## Highlights:

- » 2,927 students attended TAP classes
- » 245 classes held
- » 74 volunteers worked 362.5 hours
- » 22 proctored GED tests administered
- » 170 citizenship intakes completed
- » 143 citizenship consultations conducted
- » 90 citizenship applications prepared and submitted
- » 36 green card renewal prepared and submitted
- » 120 individuals assisted by TAP achieved U.S. Citizenship
- » 390 American Job Center customers served with 950 services
- » 67 youth participated in ESL programs for immigrant youth, representing 22 different countries and Puerto Rico
- » 103 proctored digital literacy assessments administered, with 59% demonstrating gains in digital literacy
- » 94 individuals registered for GED preparation; 76.6% using programs and logging in almost 527 hours of study across 3 different online learning programs and tutoring.

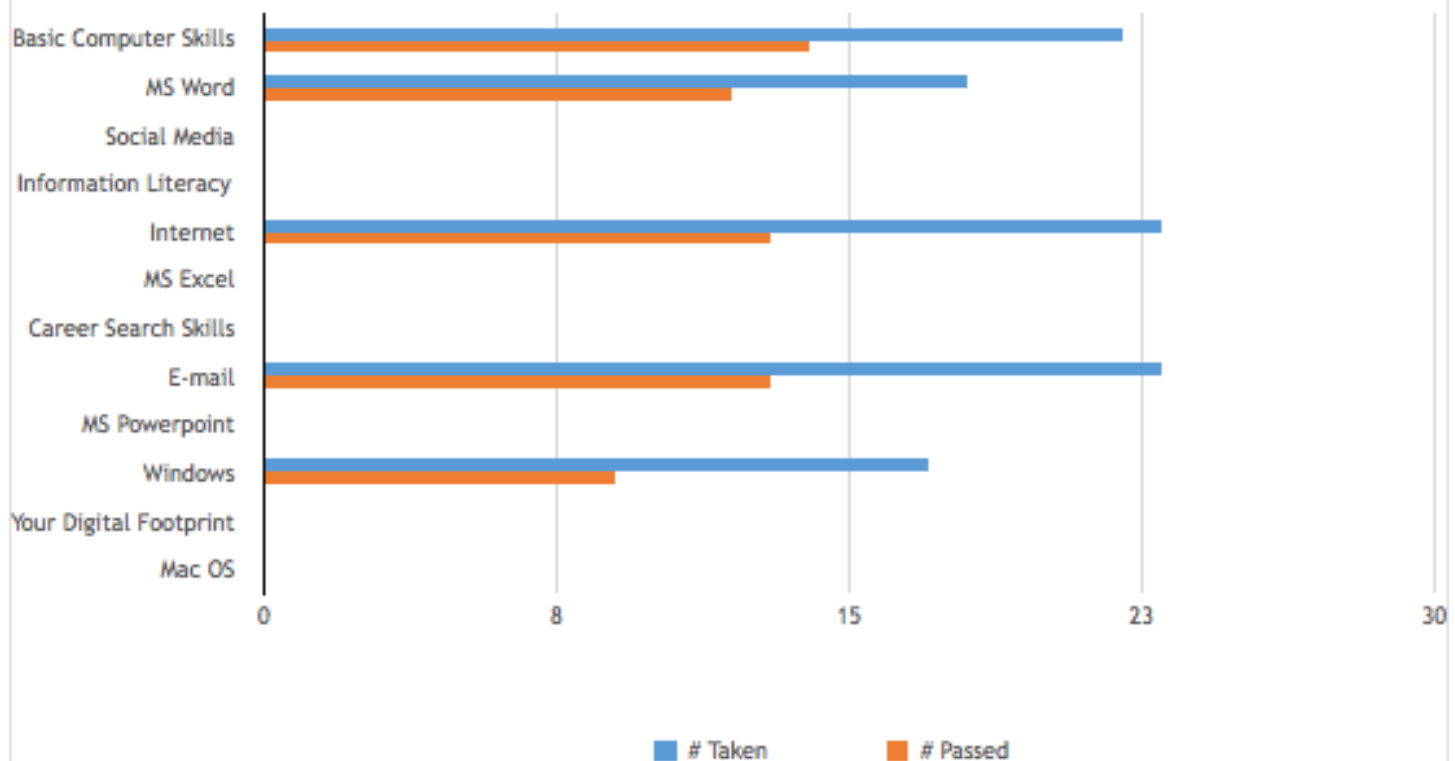


# The American Place (continued)

## 2nd Quarter FY19-20 - GED Preparation Hours by Student

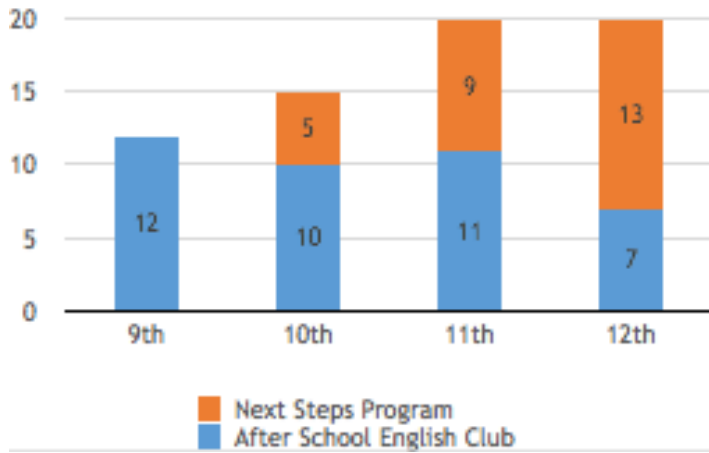


## 2nd Quarter FY19-20 - Proctored Digital Literacy Assessments # Taken vs. # Passed

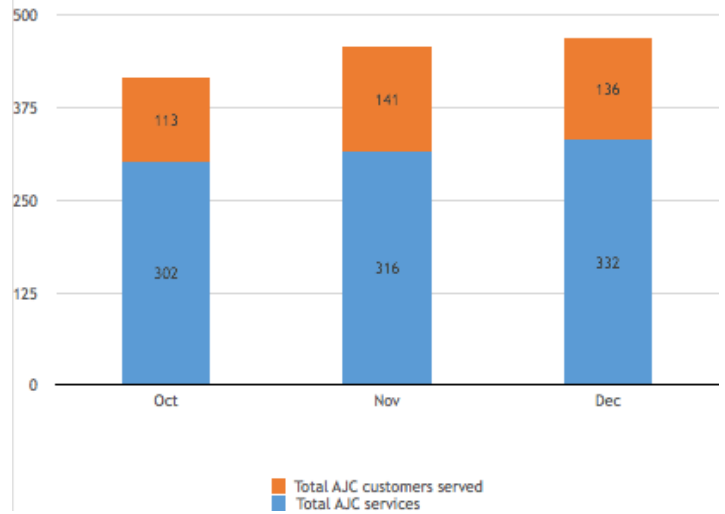


# The American Place (continued)

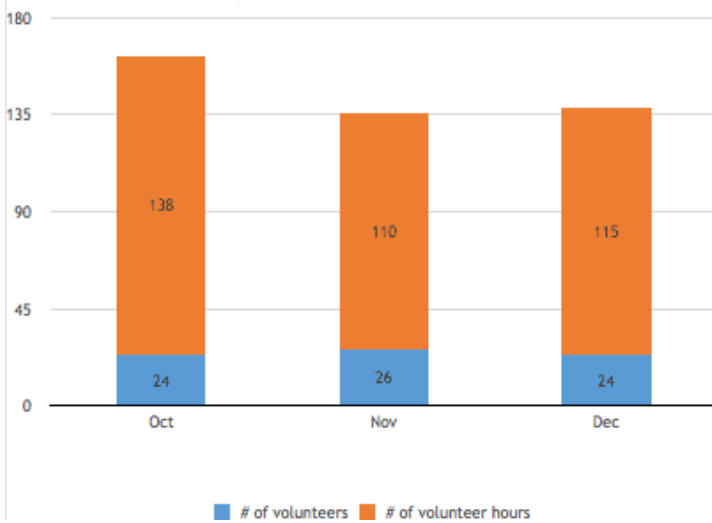
### ESL Programs for Immigrant Youth Grade Levels



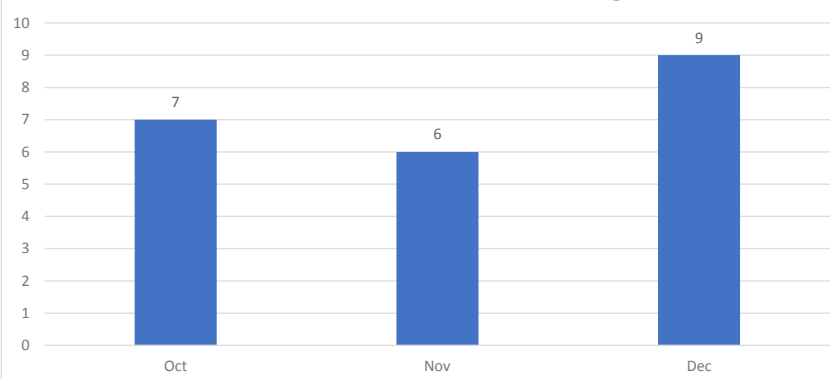
### 2nd Quarter FY19-20 - American Job Center Services



### 2nd Quarter FY19-20 - TAP Volunteers



### 2nd Quarter FY19-20 - GED Testing



## ***Stronger relationships among community organizations***

- » In the 2nd Q, the Executive Director, Culture and Communications, spoke at the “Celebrate History! Collections, Preservation, and Projects for the Future” held in Wadsworth Atheneum’s Avery Theatre. Hosted by the Auerbach Library, participating organizations included the Connecticut Historical Society, the Watkinson Library and Trinity College Archives, the University of Hartford Archives and Special Collections, the Amistad Center for Art and Culture, and the University of Connecticut Archives & Special Collections. It was not only an opportunity to share HHC collection highlights but to discuss the upcoming Digital Library Lab project which garnered great interest from the audience.
- » HHC partnerships with area colleges and universities continues to strengthen as staff have been invited to do offsite presentations at both UConn Storrs and Goodwin College. On October 14, the UConn class, called Collaborating with Cultural Organizations, was looking into HHC’s digital collections, with a specific focus on Keney Park materials. The class later requested digitized photographs for their film project in collaboration with Keney Park Sustainability. At Goodwin College, HHC staff partnered with Trinity College Prof. Seth Markle to do a presentation on the Hartford Hip Hop Digital Storytelling project for Goodwin’s National Day of Writing on October 17, which engaged about 60 students and faculty.

## ***Increased engagement with the arts and humanities through access and exposure***

- » On October 3, the HHC kicked off 2nd quarter programming with a talk by author Paul Hensler on his latest book Bob Steele on the Radio, which was written from a more personal perspective on Steele and was drawn from the Bob Steele collection at the HHC.
- » The HHC kicked off the 2019-2020 ArtWalk season with Sarah Schneiderman’s exhibition, “You’re Fired! I QUIT!” on October 18. Schneiderman hosted a walk-in 3D collage workshop on the ArtWalk during Hartford Open Studio on Nov. 16 & 17 and attracted over 700 people to the ArtWalk during the run of her show.
- » HHC partnered with UConn Prof. Fiona Vernal to receive funding from CT Humanities to produce her exhibit, From Civil Rights to Human Rights: African American, West Indian, and Puerto Rican Housing Struggles, 1940-2019, which featured photographs and student research from our Hartford Times and Hartford Housing Authority collections. The exhibit also featured

scrapbooks and artifacts from longtime Hartford resident Willie Mann’s personal collection. The kickoff program, which featured contemporary Hartford tenant rights activists and public housing leaders, attracted over 125 attendees. In the last two months of the 2nd quarter, over 400 community members have engaged with the exhibit, whether passing through or with an organizational or school visit.

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

- » UConn Prof. Jason Chang did a deep dive into the HHC’s Hartford Times photographs on tobacco work and digitized 33 images for a book and exhibit project.
- » In the 2nd Q, HHC served 103 researchers, many of them UCONN students.
- » Dolls from HPL’s institutional archive, the Caroline M. Hewins Collection and children’s books from the Hewins Collection as well as Ann Smith’s Doll Collection were on display in the 2nd Q. The Library’s Level One ESL class (least proficient in English) enjoyed the dolls from the archive because many of them found dolls from their home countries including India, Algeria, China and Brazil.
- » 10 classes used resources within the HHC collections including 3 Library ESL classes, UCONN’s Urban Planning class, UCONN’s Local History

## ***Preserving history of Hartford for future generations***

- » The HHC continued to engage audiences through the Library’s social media channels. All items digitized for social media are also added to the Connecticut Digital Archive (CTDA), as well as material from other collections, including the recently processed Business and Professional Women’s Club records. Our first export/import from the CTDA to our online HPL catalog was completed, and images may now be found searching in either location. The HHC launched its first LibGuides, promoting HHC resources related to Hartford housing, Puerto Rican genealogy, and Indigenous Peoples. Similarly, we now include a list of all the topics that may be found in our manuscript stacks. We joined the ArchivesSpace community, and look forward to creating and publishing finding aids with this tool.

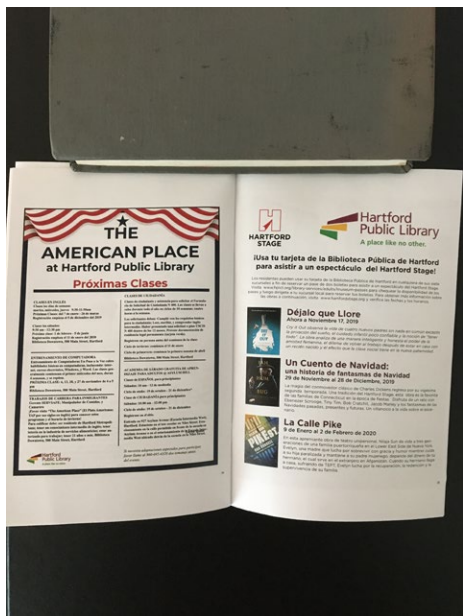
## 2nd Q Social Media Platforms:

Facebook: 7,797 following the HPL Facebook page with approximately 21K to 22K engagements in the 3-month period; Twitter: 4,934 followers; Instagram: 1,516 followers.

## Publications / Presentations

- » The 2018 – 2019 Annual Report was produced and published both online ([https://www.hplct.org/assets/uploads/files/HPL\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2019.pdf](https://www.hplct.org/assets/uploads/files/HPL_Annual_Report_2019.pdf)) and in print.
- » The Exec. Dir., Culture and Communications, spoke before the Connecticut Library Association's Customer Service Committee in October on "Talking Points: The Value of Being on the Same Page."
- » The Winter 2020 HPL Magazine was produced and published.

## Media Exposure





Por supuesto, es bueno recordar que la Semana de la Hispanidad empezó en EEUU bajo la presidencia de Lyndon Johnson en 1968, y que fue extendida a un Mes en 1988 por Ronald Reagan...

...Pongo mucho enfoque en la relación histórica entre EEUU y América Latina. Se debe aprender sobre el imperialismo americano y cómo impactó a la migración, como en Puerto Rico. Les enseñé sobre la experiencia de gente que vivía en lo que ahora es la parte suroeste de EEUU, cuando la frontera se movió encima de ellos en el Siglo 19. En ese entonces, muchos Latinos en EEUU nunca eran inmigrantes. Y Florida también fue colonia española. A pesar de que designó el Mes de la Hispanidad, el presidente Reagan creo una política desastrosa en América Central que terminó en varios de los problemas de migración y carteles que tenemos ahora. La ganga MS13, que Trump dice que fue creada en el extranjero, fue creada en Los Angeles. Muchos migrantes de El

esos países. **-Pasando a otro tema, en Brasil como en otros países latinos, se celebra el Día de la Raza en lugar del Día de Cristóbal Colón como se hace aquí.** La celebración del Día de Cristóbal Colón viene de la comunidad italiana. En países como EEUU y Argentina, con grandes cantidades de personas con raíces italianas el feriado es en honor a Colón, pero en países donde se han desarrollado movimientos indígenas, la celebración de esa fecha es complicada. Para México por ejemplo, la fecha más importante es en abril para reconocer la llegada de los españoles bajo Hernán Cortés, quien con varios aliados indígenas, conquistaron el imperio Azteca. En otros países también se celebra el Día del Indio, para reconocer la presencia de los indígenas y su importancia. **-La celebración de la llegada de Cristóbal Colón a América siempre ha causado controversia.** **-Muchos libros de EEUU comienzan**

## Inquiring News

Hartford • New Haven • Bridgeport • Waterbury • Springfield  
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Wednesday, December 11, 2019

### Trusted & Beloved!

### WFSB-TV ANCHOR DENISE D'ASCENZO HAS PASSED AWAY



Denise D'Ascenzo

Rocky Hill, CT - With great sadness, WFSB-TV announces the passing of Denise D'Ascenzo on Sunday, December 8, 2019. Denise died unexpectedly on Sunday, December 8, 2019. She was 58 years old. Denise was the main anchor on Channel 3's Eyewitness News and a dear member of our WFSB-TV family. It is with heavy hearts that we bring you this news.

Denise, an Emmy-award winning journalist, joined WFSB-TV in 1986, and through the years has been a steady and inspiring presence on the anchor desk and in our newsroom.

In 2015, Denise was elected to the Silver Circle, a prestigious honor bestowed by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for significant contributions in broadcasting. Two years later, she became the first woman to be inducted into the Connecticut Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame. Denise's work has also been honored with two prestigious Edward R. Murrow awards, seven Associated Press awards, and a national Gabriel Award. She has also been recognized for her work with several charities including the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Mary's Place and the Channel 3 Kids Camp.

Our hearts, thoughts, and prayers go out to her husband and daughter who were her whole life.

"WFSB-TV is like a family, and our family is grieving," said WFSB-TV Vice President General Manager Dana Neve. "Denise was like none other. She was a top-notch journalist and her long list of awards and accolades are proof of that. As a good journalist as she was, she was an even better human being. She was a great listener and a gentle soul. She was a champion for those whose voices couldn't be heard. She cared and she believed the stories she had a sense of kindness, grace and empathy that the world could certainly use more of."

### Cold Weather Brings Hot Jazz to Hartford Library

### 2020 Line-up for Baby Grand Jazz Series



HARTFORD - Hartford Public Library (HPL) will blow away the post-holiday blues as the highly-popular Baby Grand Jazz Series returns for its 17th season starting Sunday, January 5. Free Baby Grand Jazz performances will be held every Sunday through April 26 (except for Easter Sunday, April 19th), from 3 - 4 pm (doors open at 2 pm). The season will open January 5 with the Darrell Green Sextet and will be held in the atrium of the Downtown Library, 500 Main Street. All other shows will be held in the Downtown Library's Center for Contemporary Culture (Main Floor) with the exception of the final show, TAKEO, on April 26, which will close the series in the atrium. The Darrell Green Sextet performs original works influenced and inspired by the likes of jazz greats Sonny Rollins, Ornette Coleman, John Coltrane, Charles Mingus, Ari Blakay, Archie Shepp, Don Cherry and Elvin Jones. The band is a collaborative ensemble consisting of rising jazz talents exploring endless musical possibilities. Each member is a contributing composer and arranger.

### Drive Safe, Have Your Car Checked Out For Winter Weather.

## ¡Por favor acompañanos!

# 11.20

## beyond words

6:00 - 9:00 pm  
Hartford Marriott Downtown

**Patrocinador y Presentador: Familia Mandell-Braunstein**  
Copresidentes Honorarios: Joyce and Andy Mandell

Obtenga más información en [hplbeyondwords.com](http://hplbeyondwords.com)

Para obtener información sobre boletines o patrocinio, favor de ponernos en contacto con Gilda Florsam al 860-695-6296 o [gflorsam@hplct.org](mailto:gflorsam@hplct.org)

**Oradora Destacada**  
Reyna Grande  
Autora de *A Dream Called Home*

**Medallista de Caroline Hewins**  
Tai Soo Kim  
Shudo TSKP

## Automotive & Young Adults

# THE AMERICAN PLACE at Hartford Public Library

### UPCOMING CLASSES

**ENGLISH CLASSES**  
Weekly Classes: Tues, Wed, Thurs 7:00-9:30pm  
New Class: January 7 - March 20  
Registration begins December 9, 2019

**COMPUTER TRAINING**  
Computer Training 1 Top 4 A Time covers basic computer skills including: Windows, Email, Word and Web. Classes generally begin the 1st Wednesday of the month. For a weekly schedule, visit: [www.hpl.org](http://www.hpl.org)

**IMMIGRANT CAREER PATHWAYS**  
SERVANTS Manager, Food Handler, and Bartender. Please visit the American Place (AP) to learn about new programs and when to schedule.

**CITIZENSHIP CLASSES**  
Citizenship classes and assistance with filing the N-400 Citizenship Application Form. Classes are held every second in 4 week cycle, four hours a week.

**FREE SATURDAY ADULT LEARNING ACADEMY @ ANGLE HILL**  
Beginner SPANISH Classes  
Numbers: 10am - 12 noon  
Fall Cycle: October 30 - December 21  
Spring Cycle: January 11 - February 28

**Beginner CITIZENSHIP Class**  
Numbers: 10am - 12:30pm  
Fall Cycle: October 30 - December 21  
Spring Cycle: January 11 - February 28

## Editorial

BY REBECCA T. MILLER

### Boundless Potential

In Hartford, CT, avid collaboration boosts access to learning

Partnership is a crucial tool for achieving all kinds of goals, but it can be hard to do well on your own. Look no further than the burgeoning collaborative model now in Hartford, CT, where the school district and the public library are joining their assets in their work together to serve the people of the city.

"Boundless" is a multi-faceted educational approach to mutual goals. It was among the main partnerships discussed at last month's Achieving Together event, hosted by Library Journal and School Library Journal and held at the historic Public Library. Underpinning the collaboration was the concept of partnership as a combination of public applications, ranging from:

- **Boundless Literacy:** A partnership between the Hartford Public Library and the Hartford Public Schools to provide literacy services to students in need.
- **Boundless Learning:** A partnership between the Hartford Public Library and the Hartford Public Schools to provide learning services to students in need.
- **Boundless Community:** A partnership between the Hartford Public Library and the Hartford Public Schools to provide community services to students in need.

With a full evaluation under way, initial outcomes are looking good, said Quinn-Cary, pointing to strong student test improvement for various literacy goals since the launch in 2018. "Over all, the Boundless initiative has had a positive impact on students and supported the school goal."

The successful partnership, according to her, has many moving parts, and numerous individuals make it work. But at its heart lies one key element: collaboration in achieving goals beyond a mutual vision, aligning with focused intent to be successful and sustainable. That's a crucial message.

Rebecca T. Miller  
rebecca@hpl.org

## The American Place at Hartford Public Library Awarded \$225,000 Grant by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

The American Place at Hartford Public Library (HPL) received a two-year, \$225,000 grant by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). HPL is the only library and the only Connecticut recipient of a USCIS grant in 2019. Only 41 USCIS grants were awarded nationwide.

The grants, which are allocated through the USCIS Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program, are designed to assist organizations that provide education and assistance to lawful permanent residents (LPRs) seeking to obtain U.S. citizenship. Since 2009, the USCIS program has assisted an estimated 245,000 legal permanent residents prepare for citizenship.

"We are very proud that the USCIS will once again provide substantial financial assistance to the citizenship preparation program at The American Place," said HPL CEO Bridget Quinn-Cary. "The application process for these grants is quite rigorous, placing high emphasis on past performance. The American Place at HPL has been serving the region's immigrant and refugee community for nearly two decades, and is a proven leader in this important work."

The American Place at Hartford Public Library was formed in 2000 as a program dedicated to welcoming and assisting a large influx of refugees into the Greater Hartford area. Due to its success, it was made a permanent division of the library in 2005. Since then, The American Place has been recognized locally and nationally for its efforts and achievements.

According to a recent U.S. Census Survey, Connecticut has the 12th highest percentage of foreign born residents in the nation, with the highest concentration in the Greater Hartford area. The American Place's citizenship preparation program is constantly evolving to better meet the needs of those it serves. Weekend and evening classes are extremely beneficial to those who work during the week. The program's multi-tiered system. The American Place's efforts also extend beyond the classroom. On-staff attorneys are available to provide free legal advice and counsel. Clients are connected to job training and employment opportunities, cultural and charitable resources, government services and other resources.

**ABOUT HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
Now celebrating its 120th year, Hartford Public Library remains at the forefront of redefining the urban library experience in the 21st Century. With open 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 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. Please visit [www.hpl.org](http://www.hpl.org).

**SNAP ASSISTANCE**  
Anantuck Community College Offering Scholarships for SNAP Recipients  
If you are a Connecticut resident and presently receive SNAP assistance, you may be eligible to enroll in one of Anantuck Community College's healthcare career certificate programs for FREE!

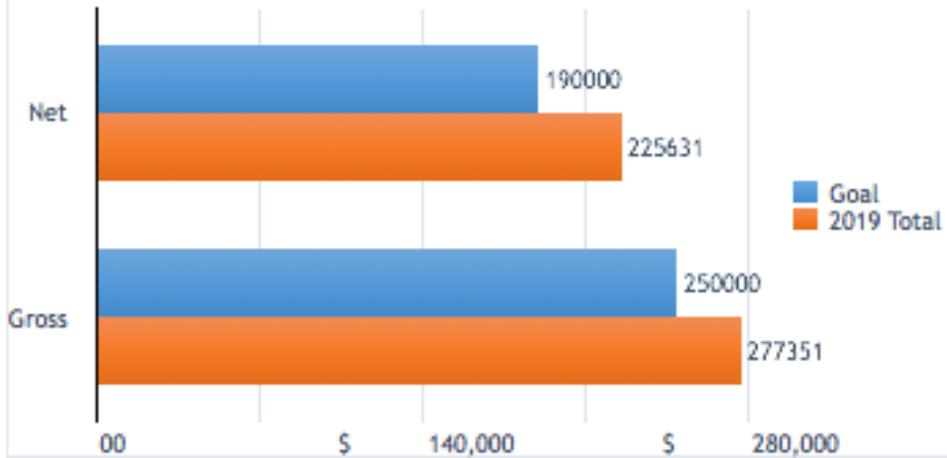
**What is SNAP Employment and Training (E&T)?**  
SNAP E&T is a work program designed to help SNAP recipients gain skills that will help increase self-sufficiency through fully funded scholarships administered through the Connecticut Department of Social Services.

**Who is eligible for the scholarship?**  
You are eligible to participate in the program if you meet all of the following criteria:

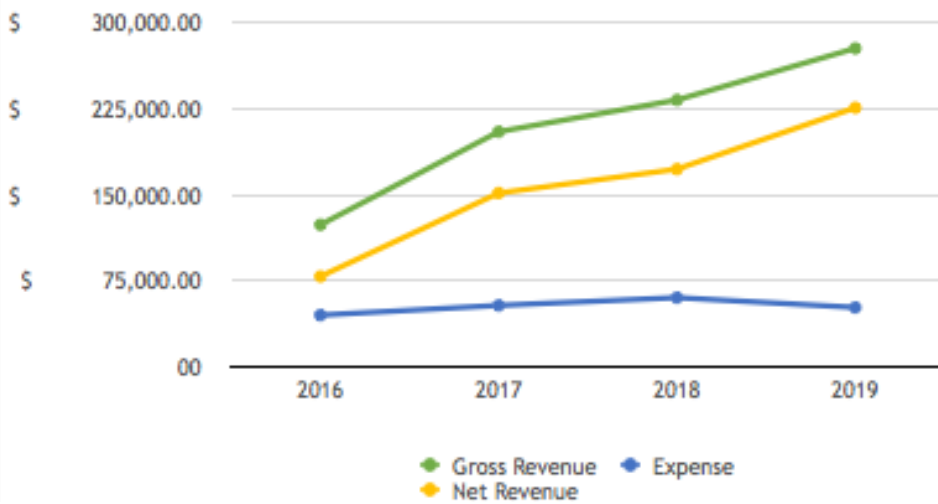
- Do not receive monthly cash benefits from the Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) program
- Have not been enrolled in a SNAP E&T program elsewhere
- Able and motivated to obtain employment upon successful completion of the program
- Have a high school diploma or GED
- Pass a reading and/or math assessment

**How do you get started?**  
To get the process well started:

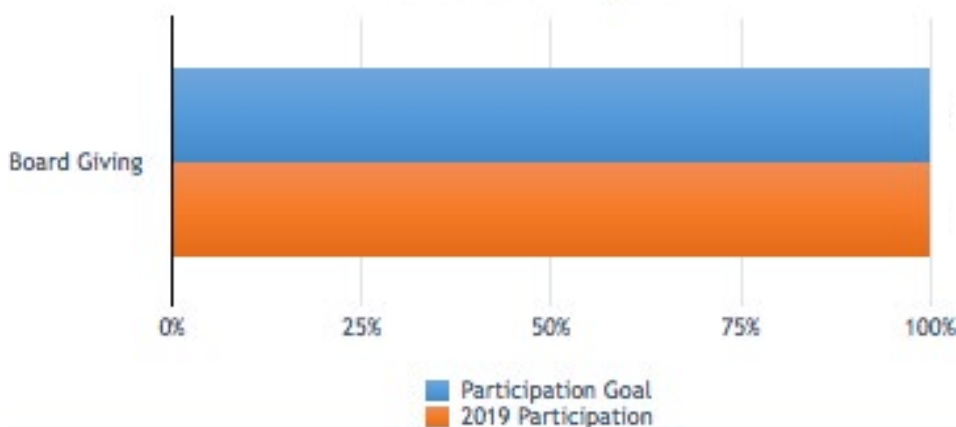
## Beyond Words 2019 Totals



## Beyond Words 2016-2019



## Board Giving 2019



Corporator of Distinction 2019  
Charles A. Teale



Top: HPL Board Chair Greg Davis and HPL President & CEO Bridget Quinn-Carey presenting the 2019 Caroline M. Hewins Medal to Tai Soo Kim at Beyond Words on November 20, 2019.

Bottom: HPL Board Members enjoying Beyond Words 2019. 1st Row: Phyllis Shikora, Geraldine Sullivan, Melvyn Colón; 2nd Row: Dan O'Shea, Antonio J. Matta, Floyd W. Green III; 3rd Row: Rick Costello, Gregory C. Davis, Mark Overmyer-Velázquez, Arunan Arulampalam, David Barrett; Not pictured: Ana Alfaro, Andréa Comer, Andrew Diaz-Matos, Steven M. Harris, Edward C. Keith III, Karen Taylor.

The Human Resources Department had 6 new hires in the second quarter, 2 internal promotions, and 9 separations:

## **New Hires**

*October*

Eric Ong, *Librarian Trainee*

*November*

Krista Chandler, *Substitute Library Assistant*

Kwency Crittenden, *Security Guard*

Katryna Pierce, *Youth Librarian Trainee*

Chalynne Reed, *Library Assistant, LOW*

David Zabala, *Security Guard*

## **Internal Promotions**

Michael Elder, *Teen Services Manager*

Julie Redding, *Career Development Specialist*

## **Separations**

Daniel Gracia, *Camp Field Library*

Andrew Hart, *Communications*

DaShaun Hightower, *YOUmedia*

Edward McCoy, *Park Library*

Taja Shelton, *Albany Library*

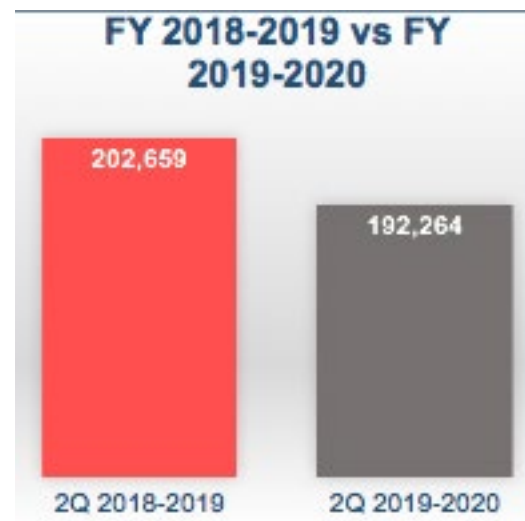
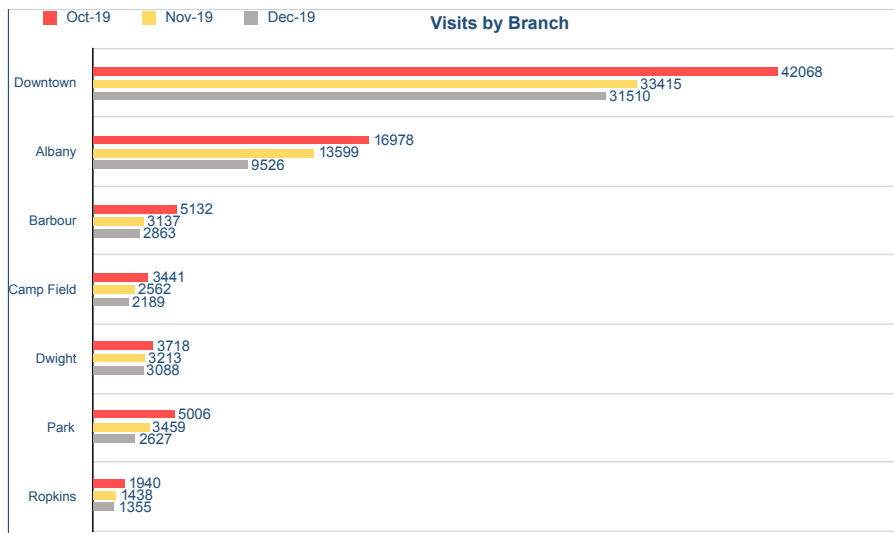
Jenna Sheridan, *Substitute Library Assistant*

Antonio Villarini, *Security, Downtown*

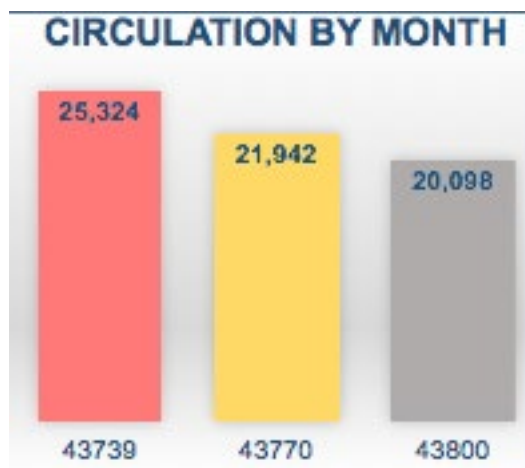
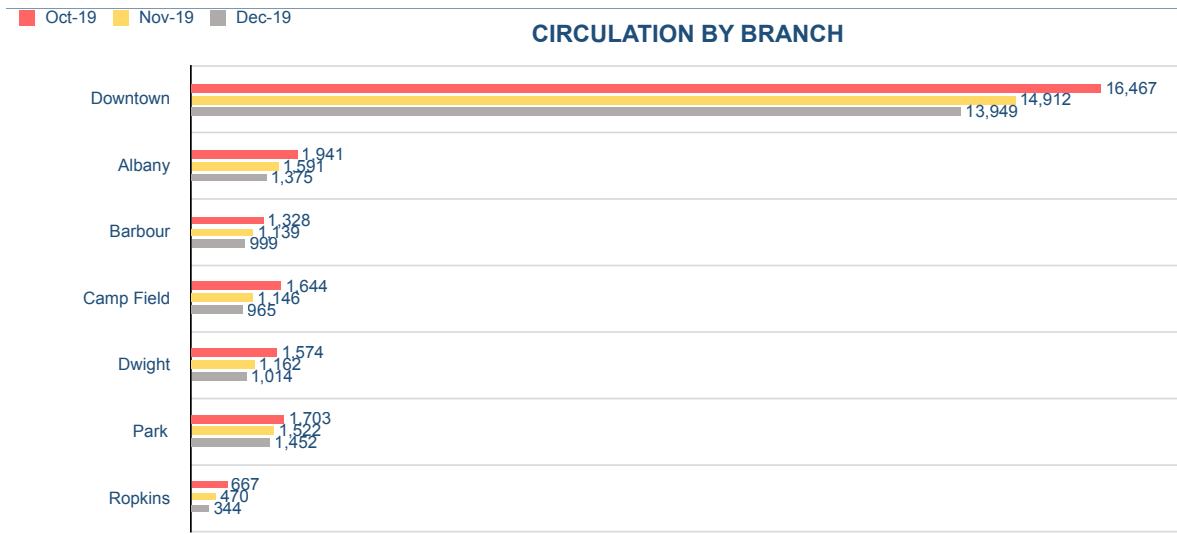
Ayanna Wright, *Albany Library*

David Zabala, *Security, Downtown*

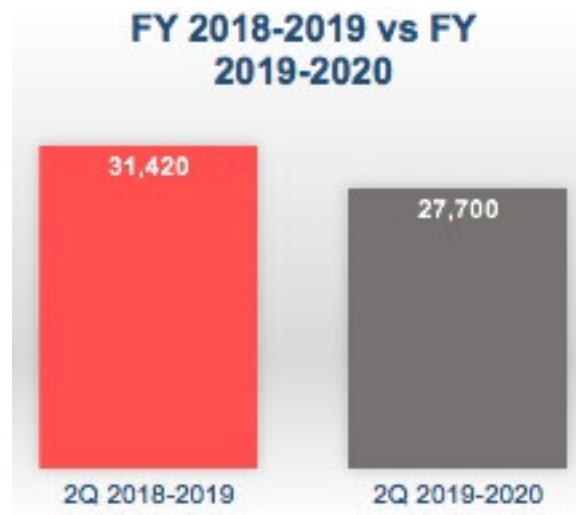
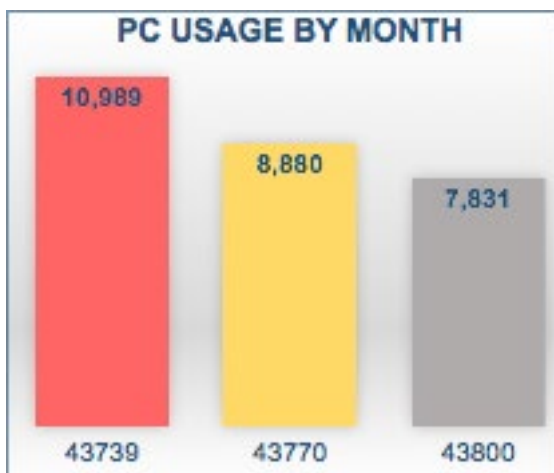
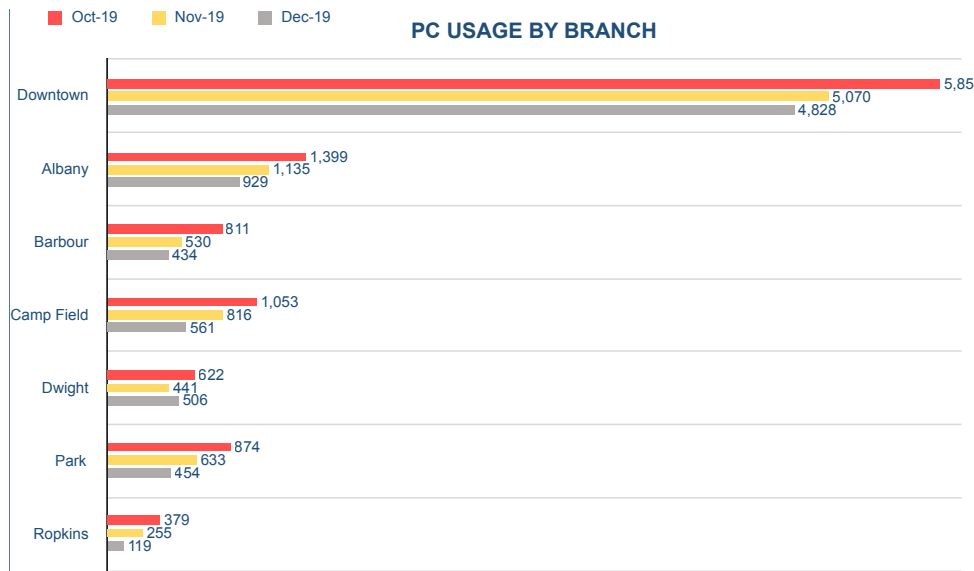
VISITS							
2nd QUARTER							
FY 2019-2020							
Branch	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	2Q 2019-20 Totals	2Q 2018-19 Totals	Difference	%
Downtown	42,068	33,415	31,510	106,993	106,243	750	1%
Albany	16,978	13,599	9,526	40,103	45,982	-5,879	-13%
Barbour	5,132	3,137	2,863	11,132	11,024	108	1%
Camp Field	3,441	2,562	2,189	8,192	8,937	(745)	-8%
Dwight	3,718	3,213	3,088	10,019	10,104	(85)	-1%
Park	5,006	3,459	2,627	11,092	12,658	(1,566)	-12%
Ropkins	1,940	1,438	1,355	4,733	7,711	-2,978	-39%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>78,283</b>	<b>60,823</b>	<b>53,158</b>	<b>192,264</b>	<b>202,659</b>	<b>-10,395</b>	<b>-5%</b>



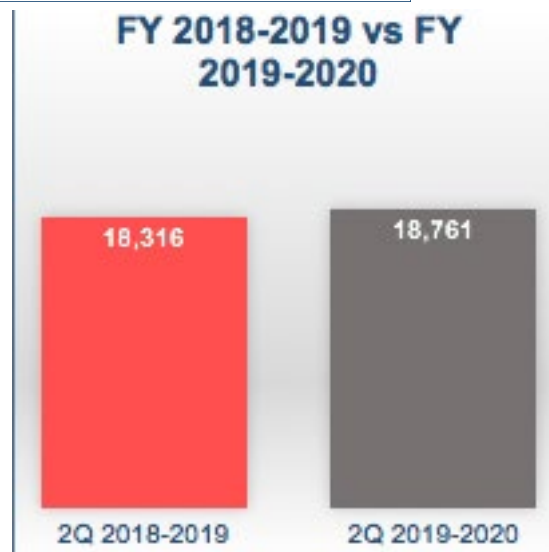
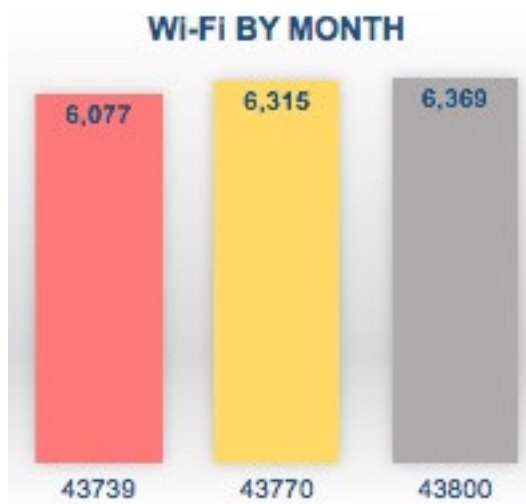
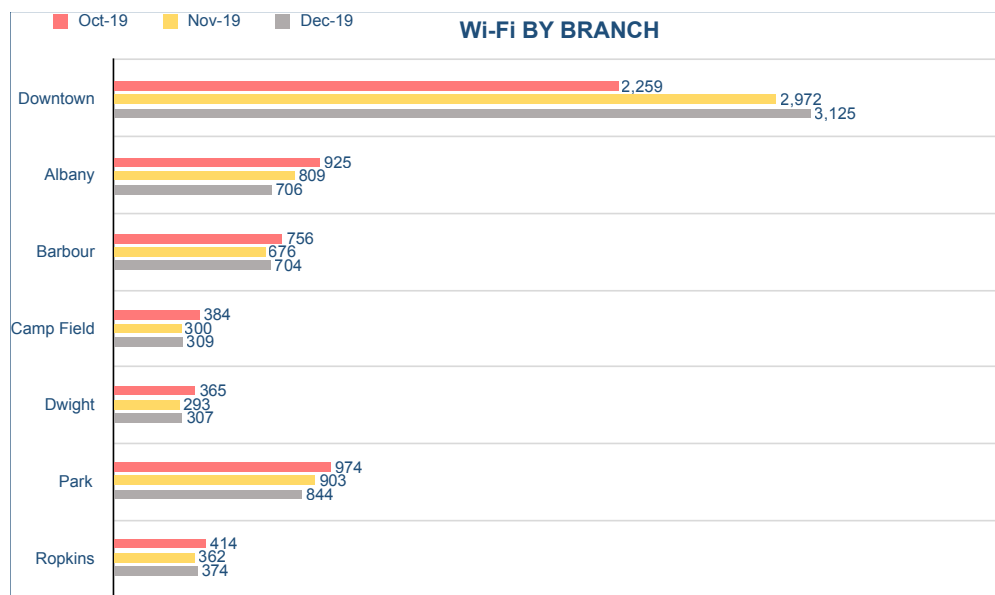
CIRCULATION							
2nd QUARTER							
FY 2019-2020							
Branch	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	2Q 2019-20 Totals	2Q 2018-19 Totals	Difference	%
Downtown	16,467	14,912	13,949	45,328	45,634	(306)	-1%
Albany	1,941	1,591	1,375	4,907	5,349	(442)	-8%
Barbour	1,328	1,139	999	3,466	4,345	(879)	-20.2%
Camp Field	1,644	1,146	965	3,755	4,596	(841)	-18%
Dwight	1,574	1,162	1,014	3,750	4,531	(781)	-17%
Park	1,703	1,522	1,452	4,677	4,880	(203)	-4%
Ropkins	667	470	344	1,481	2,677	(1,196)	-45%
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,324</b>	<b>21,942</b>	<b>20,098</b>	<b>67,364</b>	<b>72,012</b>	<b>-4,648</b>	<b>-6.5%</b>



PC USAGE							
2nd QUARTER							
FY 2019-2020							
Branch	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	2Q 2019-20 Totals	2Q 2018-19 Totals	Difference	%
Downtown	5,851	5,070	4,828	15,749	17,186	(1,437)	-8%
Albany	1,399	1,135	929	3,463	4,083	(620)	-15%
Barbour	811	530	434	1,775	2,118	(343)	-16%
Camp Field	1,053	816	561	2,430	2,620	(190)	-7%
Dwight	622	441	506	1,569	1,825	(256)	-14%
Park	874	633	454	1,961	2,371	(410)	-17%
Ropkins	379	255	119	753	1,217	(464)	-38%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,989</b>	<b>8,880</b>	<b>7,831</b>	<b>27,700</b>	<b>31,420</b>	<b>-3,720</b>	<b>-12%</b>



Wi-Fi USAGE							
2nd QUARTER							
FY 2019-2020							
Branch	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	2Q 2019-20 Totals	2Q 2018-19 Totals	Difference	%
Downtown	2,259	2,972	3,125	8,356	8,130	226	3%
Albany	925	809	706	2,440	2,246	194	9%
Barbour	756	676	704	2,136	1,938	198	10%
Camp Field	384	300	309	993	970	23	2%
Dwight	365	293	307	965	1,055	(90)	-9%
Park	974	903	844	2,721	2,790	(69)	-2%
Ropkins	414	362	374	1,150	1,187	(37)	-3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,077</b>	<b>6,315</b>	<b>6,369</b>	<b>18,761</b>	<b>18,316</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>2%</b>



FY 2018-2019		
Downtown	Programs	Attendance
American Place	316	3,102
Hartford History Center	17	670
Programming	77	3,027
YOUmedia	104	563
Youth Department	83	2,494
<b>Totals</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>9,856</b>

FY 2019-2020		
Downtown	Programs	Attendance
American Place	257	3,055
Hartford History Center	30	632
Programming	71	2,228
YOUmedia	100	719
Youth Department	117	2,869
<b>Totals</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>9,503</b>

Branches	Programs	Attendance
Albany Adult	17	158
Albany Youth	119	2,190
Barbour Adult	20	186
Barbour Youth	85	778
Camp Field Adult	7	14
Camp Field Youth	93	1,564
Dwight Adult	30	180
Dwight Youth	113	1,145
Park Adult	8	54
Park Youth	100	1,174
Ropkins Adult	0	0
Ropkins Youth	115	2,221
Library on Wheels	33	599
<b>Totals</b>	<b>740</b>	<b>10,263</b>

Branches	Programs	Attendance
Albany Adult	11	128
Albany Youth	70	1,289
Barbour Adult	10	148
Barbour Youth	73	804
Camp Field Adult	4	60
Camp Field Youth	75	1,394
Dwight Adult	21	134
Dwight Youth	60	588
Park Adult	16	346
Park Youth	60	1,218
Ropkins Adult	0	0
Ropkins Youth	77	1,550
Library on Wheels	72	1,367
<b>Totals</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>9,026</b>

Pilot & Other Programs	Programs	Attendance
Rawson	13	489
OWL-HPHS	18	93

**HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY  
2nd Quarter Programming Totals**

FY 2018-2019	
Programs	1,337
Attendance	20,119

FY 2019-2020	
Programs	1,155
Attendance	19,111



# security incident reporting

Hartford Public Library Incident Summary					
Level 1 Severe Violations	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD Total
Weapons	1	0	0	0	1
Violence	0	0	0	0	0
Harassment or Discrimination	0	0	0	0	0
Distribution of Controlled Substance	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual Misconduct	0	0	0	0	0
Bomb Threat	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Level 2 Moderate Violations	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD Total
Drug Use	1	2	0	0	3
Alcohol Use	1	4	0	0	5
Theft, Vandalism, Damage	4	9	0	0	13
<b>Disruptive Behavior</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>50</b>

