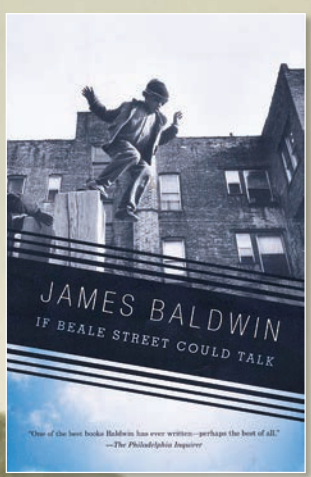
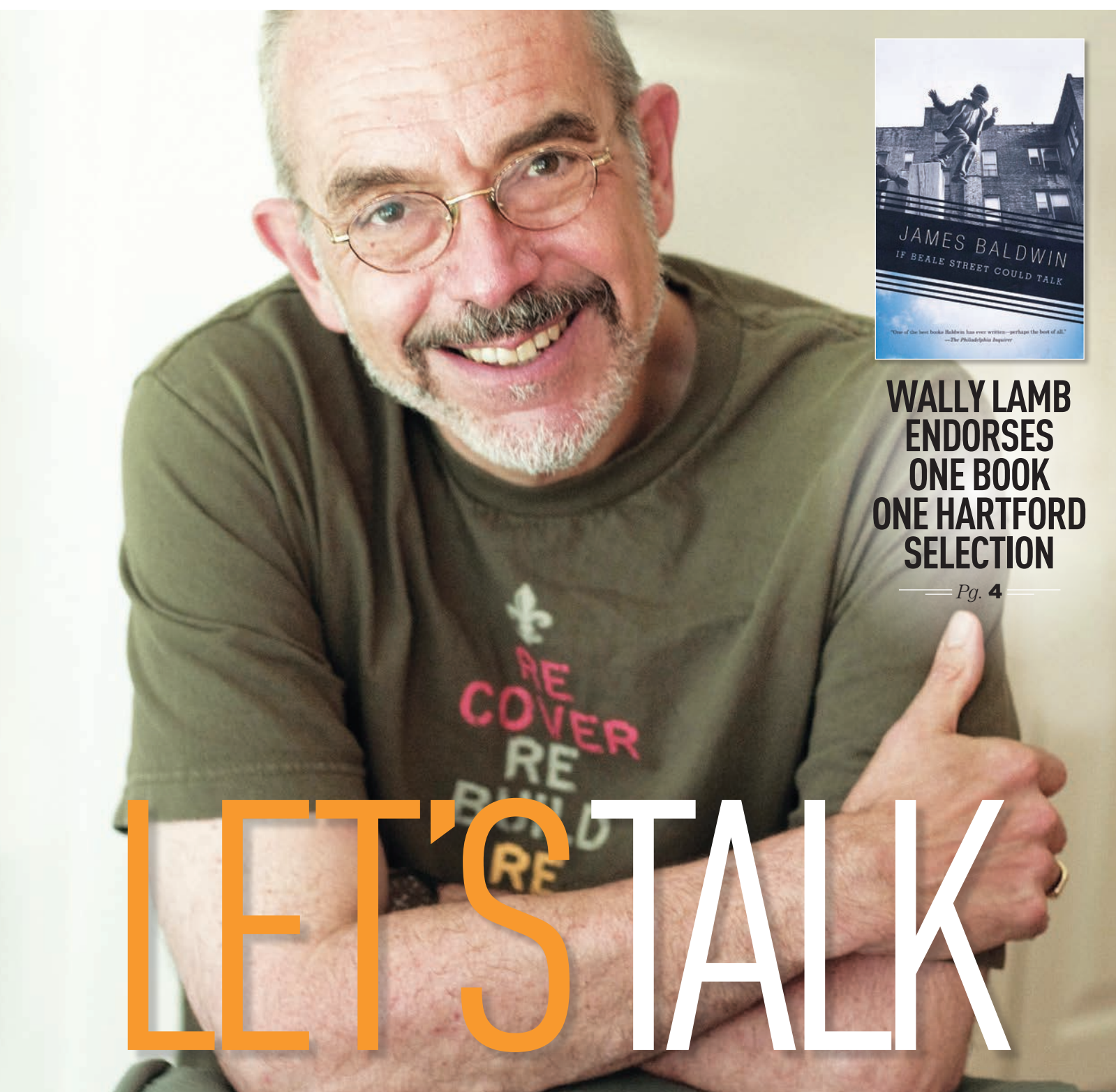


A GUIDE TO HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY'S EVENTS AND SERVICES



**WALLY LAMB  
ENDORSES  
ONE BOOK  
ONE HARTFORD  
SELECTION**

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# LET'S TALK

**OWL ENRICHMENT  
CENTER**

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**CAREER ONLINE  
HIGH SCHOOL**

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**ELBERT WEINBERG  
COLLECTION**

Pg. 20



# The community is our only no-risk investment.

As proud members of the Hartford community, we're committed to making our region a better place to live and work.



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Dear Friends:

Welcome to the Library.



Hartford Public Library represents the best in our civic life. Through public and private support, the Library creates physical spaces where books, magazines, newspapers, and other materials are available.

We also create virtual spaces where amazing online resources are a keystroke away wherever you are, and at anytime. In the Library, our citizens learn, grow, share,

discuss, imagine, and have an extraordinary opportunity to create stronger, more vibrant neighborhoods.

And, of course, it is a place for more practical, immediate considerations – a place where you can learn to fix your car, get a cookbook, get the latest romance novel, apply for a job online, or have public access to a computer.

Within our libraries, we are committed to expanding opportunities for our customers. We are improving and augmenting our services and spaces. For students, we're increasing access to after-school support (especially in the highly successful YOUmedia Hartford), and for adults, we're expanding our ESOL, GED, high school diploma and computer classes, and access to contemporary technology. And through our growing public programs and exhibitions, we have become an essential cultural center, free to all.

We are also planning new library spaces for the future, a new role for the Downtown Library with the University of Connecticut, and strengthening our partnership with Hartford Public Schools. Together, these projects will transform lives and expand opportunities for our citizens, but so much more needs to be done. As a recent report by the Center for an Urban Future notes, a city's network of libraries is a powerful engine of individual and community empowerment.

All of you have helped us create a model for 21st century library service, one of the most respected in the nation. We have accomplished much together. We are proud to be **a place like no other**. The Library's many achievements and successes would be unthinkable without your support. Thank you so much.

Matthew K. Poland  
Chief Executive Officer

COVER PHOTO



Wally Lamb is the editor of the nonfiction anthologies *Couldn't Keep It to Myself: Testimonies from Our Imprisoned Sisters* and *I'll Fly Away*, collections of autobiographical essays which evolved from a writing workshop Lamb facilitates at Connecticut's York Correctional Institute, a maximum-security prison for women. He has served as a Connecticut Department of Corrections volunteer at York from 1999 to the present, and his work there was the focus of a 2004 segment on CBS-TV's *Sixty Minutes*.

STATS

722,047  
ANNUAL VISITS

544,124  
ANNUAL CIRCULATION

300+  
COMPUTERS IN ALL LOCATIONS

181,025  
COMPUTERS SESSIONS

18,337  
RECEIVED EARLY CHILDHOOD LITERACY PROGRAMMING

27,792  
AFTER SCHOOL SESSIONS

1,939  
CITIZENSHIP AND ESOL ATTENDANCE

2,530  
RECEIVED JOB AND CAREER GUIDANCE

53,293  
ARTS AND CULTURAL PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

\$883,687  
GRANT SUPPORT

\$397,200  
FUNDRAISING AND DESK RECEIPTS

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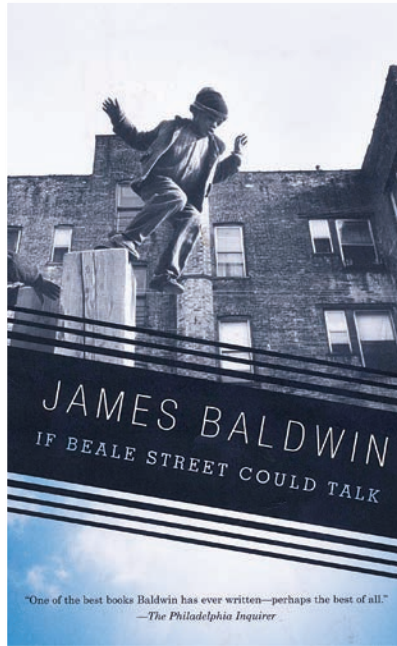
# 2015 ONE BOOK ONE HARTFORD SELECTION

## “IF BEALE STREET COULD TALK”

ONE BOOK ONE HARTFORD BRINGS OUR richly diverse city together around a good book. “If Beale Street Could Talk”, literary giant James Baldwin presents a moving story of love in the face of injustice. Told through the eyes of Tish, a nineteen-year-old girl, in love with Fonny, a young sculptor who is the father of her child, Baldwin’s story mixes the sublime and the tragic. Tish and Fonny have pledged to get married, but Fonny is falsely accused of a terrible crime and imprisoned.

In a love story that evokes the blues, where passion and sadness are inevitably intertwined, Baldwin has created two characters so alive and so profoundly realized that, as Joyce Carol Oates wrote in 1974 in *The New York Times*, Tish and Fonny become “timeless.”

Widely considered a classic and taught at universities throughout the country, Beale Street is a frank exploration



of racial hatred, family struggles and sexual love. It is a short book – less than 200 pages – but moves forward on the powerful undertow of suffering and disenfranchisement many African Americans still face.

The Library will offer a variety of public programming targeted to adult audiences throughout the fall. These will connect the community to this story, which is not only enduring but holds great resonance for Hartford, where Governor Dannel P. Malloy this year saw his “Second Chance Society” – with its mandate to reintegrate nonviolent offenders into society – become law.

Among related programming going on this year in relation to Baldwin’s work are public forums, film screenings, art

exhibitions and other events throughout Connecticut and in a variety of locations, including schools, churches and libraries.

“We believe in the relevance and life-enhancing nature of Beale Street,” said Matthew K. Poland, the Library’s Chief Executive Officer, “and we are going to do everything we can to share this book in a thoughtful way.” He added that renowned novelist Wally Lamb and Jacqueline Goldsby, Chair of the African American Studies Dept. at Yale University, are working to develop questions to help readers understand the book more deeply.

Born in Harlem, New York City, in 1924, James Arthur Baldwin became a distinctive and vital literary voice during the era of Civil Rights activism in the 1950s and ‘60s. He died on Nov. 30, 1987.

### “EACH OF US IS MORE THAN THE WORST THING WE’VE EVER DONE”



THE ROAD NOT TAKEN, a photo essay of incarcerated men from the Cheshire Correctional Institution, will be on display at Hartford Public Library from October 12 - November 30 as a part of One Book One Hartford programming. The exhibition allows those incarcerated to share their stories with others outside prison walls. Thank you to Thea Montañez for making this exhibit possible.

ONE  
BOOK  
ONE  
HARTFORD

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO:

[onebook.hplct.org](http://onebook.hplct.org)

# LEAP INTO LEARNING

## Building a Learning and Teaching Community



IN HARTFORD, TWO OUT OF EVERY THREE CHILDREN ENTER kindergarten with one or more early developmental deficits - in the areas of cognition, social and emotional maturity, physical development and health, and language and literacy. Risk factors such as living in poverty combined with low parent education levels markedly increase young children's chances of adverse outcomes.

In its role as the community's primary center for free informal education for people of all ages, Hartford Public Library is in the process of developing a robust early learning and literacy network for Hartford's youngest residents through a three-

year initiative known as Leap into Learning (LiL). "Leap into Learning is building a collaborative learning and teaching community comprised of early childhood caregivers, programs, and organizations that will work together so that, ultimately, all Hartford children enter kindergarten ready to learn," says Early Literacy Librarian Rajranie Busgith, who serves as director of the LiL program. "It will enhance our current early literacy efforts within the Library, as well as out in the community, thereby helping better address the needs of the city's multicultural and multilingual residents."

According to Busgith, LiL's target audiences include children ages birth to five; parents and caregivers; childcare providers in homes, schools and centers; and community groups and organizations that serve young children and their caregivers. By working with a network of community partners, children and their caregivers will have access to early childhood information, programs, workshops, learning materials and resources designed to meet the specific learning needs of infants, toddlers and pre-kindergartners. Community partners include the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, City of Hartford, Hartford Public Schools, Hartford Childcare Collaborative, Hartford Foundation's Brighter Futures Initiative, and Eastern Connecticut State University's Center for Early Childhood Education. "Our partners represent a range of trusted community professionals who will share Leap into Learning materials and resources to help reduce the number of children who are not ready to learn when they enter kindergarten from 67 percent to - or even below - the national average of 44 percent."



FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO:

[hplct.org/leap](http://hplct.org/leap)

ITALLHAPPENS@HPL

[www.hplct.org](http://www.hplct.org)

# WORDPLAY STORYTIMES

## Having Fun Learning English

THE HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY RECENTLY KICKED OFF A new, fun-filled early literacy and language program – *WordPlay Storytimes* – that is serving English language learners (ELL) ages 2-5, as well as their parents, caregivers and teachers. The program serves approximately 1,800 children at the HPL’s ten branches – children whose primary languages are Burmese, Nepalese, Hindu, Urdu, Vietnamese, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic and Albanian. “With 48 percent of Hartford families speaking a language other than English at home, the city’s youngest English language learners are receiving additional support to become school ready,” explains Early Literacy Librarian Rajranie Busgith. “While the Library’s nationally recognized American Place serves adult English language learners and homework clubs

*Youth librarians will review vocabulary in nine languages using music, dance and word play to build comfort with language use,”*

LITERACY LIBRARIAN RAJRANIE  
BUSGITH

assist school-age ELLs, there is a need for a program dedicated to preschool English language learners. That’s what *WordPlay Storytimes* is all about.”

Specifically, *WordPlay Storytimes* will focus on letters, numbers, colors, shapes and feelings. Classic children’s storybooks and popular folktales – such as *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*; *Brown Bear, Brown Bear*; *Old MacDonald Had a Farm*; *The Wheels on the Bus*; *Farmer Duck*; and *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* – will build cultural literacy as they reinforce common themes, making immigrant and refugee children more comfortable among children for whom these stories are so familiar. “Youth librarians will review vocabulary in nine languages using music, dance and word play to build comfort with language use,” says Busgith. “The children also will participate in painting, sculpting, drama and craft-making activities to improve vocabulary retention and build cognitive skills in new, fun ways.”

Busgith emphasizes that families will receive related take-home activities to enhance skills, as well as be able to check out dual-language materials to help the learning process

continue at home. “As parents and caregivers become more comfortable with common stories and vocabulary, the children will increase their literacy skills and be more likely to make a successful transition into kindergarten.”

*WordPlay Storytimes* is being offered in collaboration with Hartford preschools with high ELL populations and HPL’s American Place.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL:

HPL’s Children’s Department at 860.695.6330



“Brown Bear, Brown Bear, what do you see?” a book about colors and animals



Puppet fun learning letter sounds

# MAKING SUMMER LEARNING REWARDING – AND FUN

Once you have the right tools you can build anything

HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY'S SUMMER LITERACY SUPPORT Program (SLSP) wrapped up its 2015 activities in late August after providing a wide range of programs and services to nearly 2,000 young people served by 57 agencies in the Greater Hartford area. "The goals of the SLSP are to encourage reading, improve grade-level reading proficiency, encourage the use of literacy enrichment offerings at the Library, and help make summer learning both a rewarding and fun experience," says Yuly Susaya, who has served as the SLSP coordinator for the last three summers. "By offering a variety of services, we are able to support the participating groups in ways that best fit their individual learning needs."

According to Susaya, services provided this summer included a weekly summer reading program for campers from several of the participating agencies; library tours and scavenger hunts; the provision of book lists for summer themes and projects; storytimes; one-on-one and group training; the provision of "treasure chests" to incentivize campers to read throughout the summer; and a number of special events. "In July, we celebrated the hard work families do to address their literacy needs at two Family Literacy Movie Gatherings, at which food,

crafts and books were made available," she explains. "The gatherings also included slumber party-style movie events. It was wonderful to see the adults and children interact, laugh and really enjoy each other's company." Susaya is also excited that, for the first time, campers involved in the SLSP had access to YOUmedia, HPL's digital and maker space for teens, where they learned about computer programming.

"I believe that this year's SLSP program was incredibly successful in encouraging literacy, as well as decreasing learning loss in our children over the summer," concludes Susaya. "These positive outcomes can only lead to greater success with regard to what our young people will eventually accomplish in the broader community...And to top it off, 560 of the program's participants opened a library card for the first time – setting the stage for them to become lifelong library users."

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO:

[summer.hplct.org](http://summer.hplct.org)

*to find out more about the Summer programs*



Summer @HPL Kickoff Party on Saturday, June 6, 2015



# CHECK IT! OUT

## Intergenerational and Youth Enrichment through Kingian Nonviolence and the Arts

ADDRESSING THE HIGH RATES OF VIOLENCE IN HARTFORD'S most vulnerable communities is the focus of a partnership between Hartford Public Library (HPL) and the CT Center for Nonviolence (CTCN). The partnership began early in 2015 with a program through which 20 adult residents of the city participated in an 80-hour certification course on key elements of the Kingian Nonviolence curriculum co-developed by an aide to Dr. Martin Luther King. Funding for the training, which was held at HPL, was provided through a City of Hartford "Challenging Hartford to Engage Critically and Keep Improving Together" – CHECK IT! – grant.

"The principal goal of this and all our training projects is to teach ways to respond to conflict so that it doesn't escalate into overt crisis," says Victoria Christgau, executive director of CTCN.

Thanks to another CHECK IT! grant, HPL and CTCN will build on the adult training program during the 2015-16 school year by assigning trainees to teach Kingian Nonviolence to approximately 40 high school students involved in the Library's Owl Enrichment Center, an innovative after-school program held at Hartford Public High School. Consistent with CTCN's art-infused approach to teaching, participating students also will examine HPL's collection of Romare Bearden's art and how its powerful visual influences help inform their understanding of the American civil rights movement, nonviolence, and current issues of social unrest, such as incidents of police brutality and the inordinate



Teens and Romare Bearden's Art

number of incarcerated people of color. "The students, in turn, will invite their families to four intergenerational Family Nights, at which they will 'teach back' by demonstrating what they have learned about using the arts to promote nonviolence," adds Christgau.

"We are excited once again to partner with CTCN.," says Library CEO Matthew K. Poland. "Using our stunning collection of the work of Romare Bearden to promote the relationship between the arts and nonviolence will add rich diversity to this awesome project."

The Owl Enrichment Center project is scheduled to culminate in May 2016 with a community-wide celebration featuring individual student work, as well as a collaborative collage inspired by the "social commentary" of Romare Bearden's art.



# OWL ENRICHMENT CENTER KICKS OFF THIRD YEAR

## Afterschool Program for Teens Focuses on Academic Support and Enrichment

IN 2013, HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY (HPL) RECEIVED A 21ST Century Community Learning grant from the State of Connecticut to establish an afterschool program for teenagers at Hartford Public High School (HPHS), the current site of HPL's Mark Twain Branch. The program – known as the

*“Outside experts and specialists come in and work with the kids on activities ranging from art and athletics to yoga and photography.”*

**PROGRAM MANAGER MICHELLE MCFARLAND**

Owl Enrichment Center to celebrate HPHS's mascot – brings together HPL professionals and HPHS educators to provide students with academic support, as well as enrichment activities. The Center also runs a teen summer program and an evening program for adults with a focus on teaching English and citizenship preparation to members of the community's significant immigrant population.

The OEC serves 80 students from Hartford High's three academies.

Center activities include an academic component where students do homework, study and benefit from tutoring provided by two certified teachers, a lead tutor and three peer tutors.



OEC students End of the Year Ron-A- Roll Skating Trip

Project-based learning activities also are available, including workshops on college/career planning, SAT preparation, creative writing and financial literacy.

The OEC also serves as a discovery center. “Outside experts and specialists come in and work with the kids on activities ranging from art and athletics to yoga and photography,” says Program Manager Michelle McFarland, who administers the OEC with the assistance of Program Coordinator Tricia Barrett. “We also go on field trips to help students discover some of the exciting things going on in their own backyards. For example, on a Friday night last May the Wadsworth Atheneum opened its doors to our students to allow them to tour galleries, create tarot cards, participate in a gallery game structured like a treasure hunt, and sign up for an open mic activity. Essentially, the OEC kids took ownership of the museum.”

Since its first day, the OEC – the largest afterschool program for teenagers in Connecticut – has been highly popular. “I never would have imagined the level of engagement with older kids,” says McFarland, “and we don't have many behavioral problems because the kids treat each other with respect. It all boils down to the fact that we are here to support one another – and that's a beautiful thing.”



OEC students academically engaged with a student from UCONN



**AFTER SCHOOL**  
Owl Enrichment Center  
@ Hartford Public High School

# GETTING HIP TO PRODUCING MUSIC

## YOUmedia Best of Hartford Hip Hop Album Involves Teens in Exciting New Technology Initiative

SINCE MARCH, YOUMEDIA, THE HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY'S digital learning and maker space for teens, has been home to an exciting new music production program aimed at building 21st century digital fluency through mentoring and technical training. The program – YOUmedia Best of Hartford Hip Hop Album (BOHHHA) – involved teens from throughout the city in a highly ambitious mission that culminated in September with the final production and release of a fifteen track hip-hop album featuring BOHHHA's 20-plus participants. "BOHHHA was entirely a youth-led initiative," says YOUmedia Manager Tricia George, whose work at the Library focuses on increasing access to technology and providing educational opportunities to teens.. "Eli Williams, an 18-year-old graduate of Hartford's Journalism and Media Academy who works here part-time, did a wonderful job heading up the program." George also expressed appreciation to the Library's partners: the Hartford Public Schools, which helped recruit students for BOHHHA, and the University of Hartford, which provided a student tour of production facilities at the Hartt School of Music and a question and answer session with an admissions officer.

BOHHHA activities undertaken during the six-month-long initiative included: conceptualizing, writing, recording, editing and mixing the tracks. Additionally, album artwork was created in anticipation of marketing and selling the CD at a September release party and at other local venues. Teens completing the program gained a solid understanding of the entire music production process, as well as insight into potential pathways to a career in music and a variety of other related fields and occupations. "Youth who completed this highly challenging program recognize themselves as creative learners and originators," explains George. "That kind of self-recognition can change a person's approach to learning for the rest of her life."

In the coming weeks, BOHHHA teens will be performing selected tracks from their CD at a series of performances at area venues, including Real Art Ways, Hartford Performs, and Infinity Hall.



YOUmedians make music on industry standard equipment.

"Our hope is that sales of the CDs at these concerts, the Library store and other outlets will provide the basis for the program to be self-sustaining in years to come," says George. "Informal and after-school learning spaces, like YOUmedia, are uniquely positioned to recognize and spark the potential of young people."



# PREPARING FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

## HPL's Career Online High School Diploma Program

Looking to proactively address Hartford's high school dropout rate, Hartford Public Library recently launched a pilot program of Career Online High School Program (COHS). The program gives students the opportunity to earn an accredited high school diploma and a credentialed career certificate. Despite improving statistics over the past several years, Hartford's dropout rate remains higher than the national average. Chief Adult Learning Officer Homa Naficy serves as director of the program. "An estimated 32% of Hartford's overall population 25 and older lack a high school diploma," says Naficy. "Attaining a diploma is a critical link to local career training programs and colleges as well as a pathway out of poverty."

Initially, the program will offer scholarships to 25 students, each of whom must be 25 or older, funded in part by the Nutmeg Foundation and Bank of America. Capital Workforce Partners, which maintains two fulltime staff at HPL's CTWorks Satellite, will support student recruitment in addition to the efforts undertaken by the Library's nine neighborhood branches and The American Place. To qualify, applicants must pass an online self-assessment; interview with HPL's adult education specialist; complete a Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System test; and successfully complete an online prerequisite course. Students also benefit from access to an academic coach, a

certified instructor, and 24/7 technical support as well as the Library's existing volunteer tutor mentoring program.

COHS courses are available online 24 hours a day, seven days a week. As a result, those who like to work at their own

pace can schedule courses that fit within their other responsibilities – such as family and work. In addition, online independent learning is often more suitable to the adult learner who may feel less comfortable in a traditional classroom setting. Finally, the program's career certification offers students real-world knowledge and skills to enter the workforce prepared and confident.

"Hartford Public Library expects its online diploma program to reposition the library as an active provider of education

in an urban setting where there is an acute need for alternative educational resources," adds Library CEO Matthew K. Poland. "Ultimately, we hope diploma recipients will become loyal library customers and supporters, as well as life-long learners."



FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO:

[www.hplct.org/cohs](http://www.hplct.org/cohs)

*use the actual program url*



# A BIG THANK YOU!



## ONE BIG STARRY SUMMER NIGHT

Hartford Public Library would like to thank all of our corporate partners, vendors and donors who supported the 2015 One Big Starry Summer Night



Bear's Smokehouse Barbecue  
Billings Forge (The Kitchen @HPL)  
bin 228

David Alan Catering  
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Lincoln Culinary Institute  
Majorca

Omar Coffee Company  
Salute  
Tangiers International  
Tastease  
Ted's Montana Grill  
Vito's by the Park  
Zest 280

Beer provided by Hartford Distributors, Inc.  
Prosecco toast courtesy of Hartford Flavor Company  
Wine provided by donations to Hartford Public Library



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# FIND YOUR VOICE

## History and Civic Engagement

DURING THE PAST YEAR, THE HARTFORD HISTORY CENTER AT Hartford Public Library received prestigious national planning grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Institute for Museum and Library Services to develop “Find Your Voice” – a project that maps new civic engagement strategies from four distinguished History Center collections.

A collaboration between the Library and the University of Connecticut’s Digital Media Center, “Find Your Voice” will engage under-served populations (including first- and second-generation immigrants) in civic activities by connecting Hartford historical figures who were passionate about the issues of their day to the work of present-day community artists and activists. These giants in Hartford’s history – writer Noah Webster, actress Gwendolyn C. Reed, poet Lydia Sigourney and pioneering librarian Caroline Hewins – found that literacy, understanding shared history, and creative expression were fundamental to personal and community enrichment. “In truly unconventional ways, these Hartford voices found

individual paths to self-expression of the most enduring kind, and they shared what they learned with others,” says Brenda J. Miller, the Hartford Public Library’s chief cultural affairs and public programming officer and a “Find Your Voice” principal. “By using the latest interactive digital and social technologies, including a mobile-optimized website, we’re going to present their lives and collections in a way that informs a new generation of learners at our Library.” Looking ahead, Miller expects that “Find Your Voice” will be a national model to be shared with and reproduced by libraries across the country.

*The Hartford History Center* is located on the third floor of the Hartford Public Library on 500 Main Street.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO:

[hmc.hplct.org](http://hmc.hplct.org)

*to find out more about the Center and its programs*



Civic engagement discussion in the Hartford History Center

# LIBRARIES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY (HPL) IS ONE OF TEN PUBLIC libraries in America participating in an intensive 18-month training program to strengthen our engagement with the community on high-priority challenges. The Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC) initiative is a collaborative program of the American Library Association and the Harwood Institute for Public Innovation. Foundational concepts of the program include turning outward towards the community, developing an understanding of the community's aspirations, and working with community members to foster positive change.

"The purpose of the LTC initiative is to become more deeply connected to the community and to encourage and support community-driven action," said Richard Frieder, HPL's community engagement director and project leader for the initiative. "We want to understand where residents want their community to go and help them get there."

As part of the LTC project, eight community conversations were held throughout the city's North End over the past several months to learn about community members' aspirations and challenges, and to generate ideas for action. As a result of the conversations, in June the HPL partnered with community members and the Hartford Police Department on a dialogue focusing on public safety, community violence, safe streets and building stronger relationships with the police. At the end of the dialogue, which focused on the Northeast neighborhood, participants identified action ideas, some of which are being implemented. Additional dialogues may be held in other neighborhoods.

HPL has an enormous asset, trust. And that means that people feel comfortable coming to the Library and sharing their ideas and concerns and working together with us to help solve problems.

*"Moving in a new direction with flashes of action often results in false hope," said Matthew K. Poland, the Library's chief executive officer. "Through the Library's consistent work in community engagement we are committed for the long run to ensure robust dialogue and community action in Hartford."*



Community dialogues among neighborhood residents and Hartford police officers on the topic of community violence and public safety

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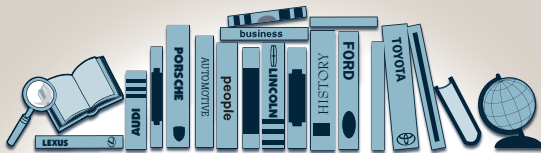
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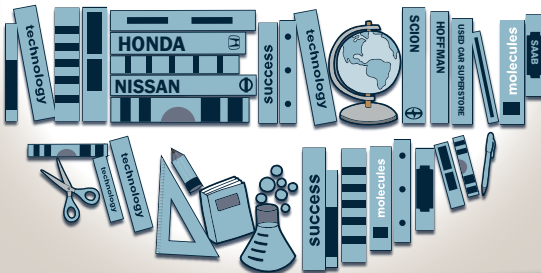
When you patronize The Kitchen Café at Billings Forge or at the Library, you are investing in our community. Our social enterprise businesses fund our many neighborhood services and outreach programs. This helps make Billings Forge Community Works a self-sustaining nonprofit.

# Hoffman

Driven by trust.™

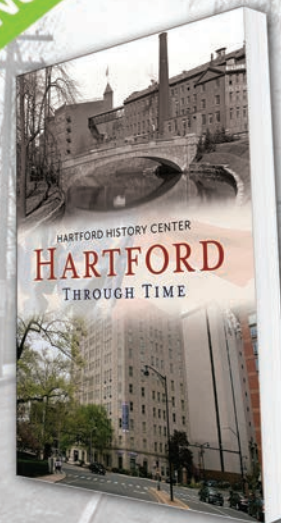


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# CREATIVE AGING IN AMERICA

## It's Happening at the Hartford History Center

HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY'S HARTFORD HISTORY CENTER is the perfect candidate to become involved with Lifetime Arts' Creative Aging in America's Libraries Project because the History Center has been working since 2008 to present collections-based instructional arts and humanities workshops for older adults.

Using the History Center's extraordinary collections of art, literature, photographs, letters, personal histories and other objects – covering a span of more than three centuries of this New England city's story – the Library and the History Center have worked together over the last eight years to present "Arts & Archives." In these art and heritage seminars participants create artworks and personal narratives that are both unique to the individual participants and to Hartford.

Part of every Arts & Archives series are hands-on workshops and field trips related to the core project of each series. These numerous programs, taught by master artists, writers, and teachers, have become extremely popular with Hartford area residents, are filled to capacity, and have been profiled as a national success story in scholar Diantha Dow Schull's recent book, *Archives Alive: Expanding Engagement with Public Library Archives and Special Collections* (American Library Association Editions, 2015).



A participant expresses her feelings about love and life on a collage she's creating

Arts and Archives provides a persuasive and replicable model demonstrating the ways a public library can use its historical collections as a source of lifelong learning and creativity for older adults and indeed, people of all ages.

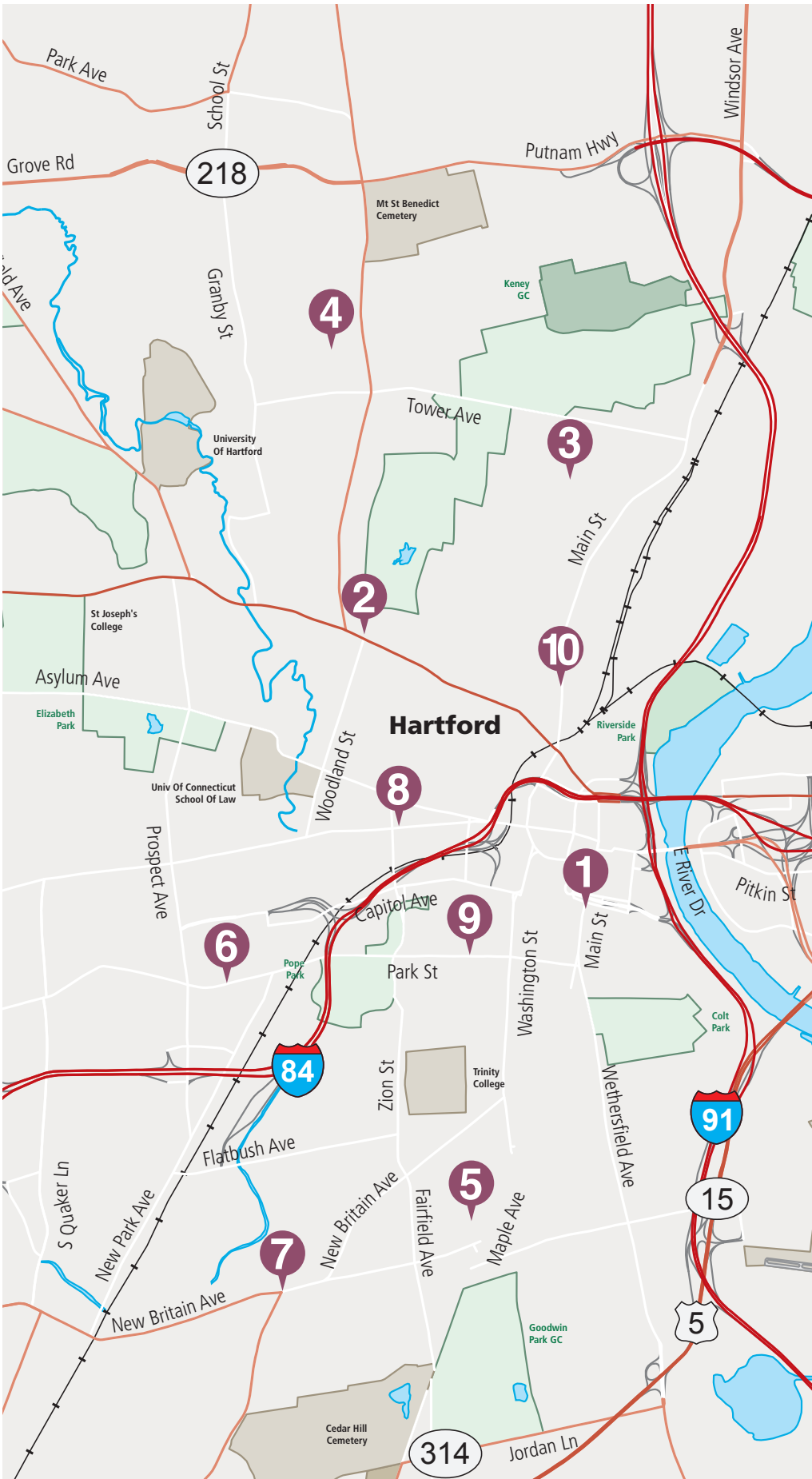
Lifetime Arts' efforts to expand its network of "creative aging libraries" would find a welcoming and knowledgeable environment at Hartford Public Library and its History Center, where the work outlined in its new initiative is already a vital part of the programmatic offerings.

"Programs like this help people discover collections and also help make them feel a part of the community," said Brenda Miller, executive director of the Hartford History Center and also the Library's Chief Cultural Affairs and Public Programming Officer. "Arts & Archives connects our collections to the hopes and creative energy of our participants, and that is an essential link for us to make."



Photography and meaning: Participants express what they see and feel

# LIBRARY LOCATIONS



- 1 Downtown Library**  
 500 Main Street  
 860.695.6300  
 M, T, W, Th 10-8 p.m.  
 F, Sa 10-5 p.m.  
 Su (Nov-April) 1-5 p.m.
- 2 Albany Branch**  
 1250 Albany Avenue  
 860.695.7380  
 M, T, W 12:30-5:30 p.m.  
 Th 12:30-7:30 p.m.  
 F, Sa 12:30-5 p.m.
- 3 Barbour Branch**  
 259 Barbour Street  
 860.695.7400  
 M, T, Th 12:30-5:30 p.m.  
 W 12:30-7:30 p.m.  
 F, Sa 12:30-5 p.m.
- 4 Blue Hills Branch**  
 649 Blue Hills Avenue  
 860.695.7420  
 M, W, Th 12:30-5:30 p.m.  
 T 12:30-7:30 p.m.  
 F 12:30-5 p.m.
- 5 Camp Field Branch**  
 30 Campfield Avenue  
 860.695.7440  
 M, T, W 12:30-5:30 p.m.  
 Th 12:30-7:30 p.m.  
 F, Sa 12:30-5 p.m.
- 6 Dwight Branch**  
 7 New Park Avenue  
 860.695.7460  
 M, T, Th 12:30-5:30 p.m.  
 W 12:30-7:30 p.m.  
 F, Sa 12:30-5 p.m.
- 7 Goodwin Branch**  
 460 New Britain Avenue  
 860.695.7480  
 M, W, Th 12:30-5:30 p.m.  
 T 12:30-7:30 p.m.  
 F, Sa 12:30-5 p.m.
- 8 Mark Twain Branch**  
 55 Forest Street  
 860.695.7540  
 M 12:30-7:30 p.m.  
 T, W, Th 12:30-5:30 p.m.  
 F 12:30-5 p.m.  
 Sa 9-1 p.m.
- 9 Park Branch**  
 744 Park Street  
 860.695.7500  
 M 12:30-7:30 p.m.  
 T, W, Th 12:30-5:30 p.m.  
 F 12:30-5 p.m.
- 10 SAND/Ropkins Branch**  
 1750 Main Street  
 860.695.7520  
 M, T, Th 12:30-5:30 p.m.  
 W 12:30-7:30 p.m.  
 F 12:30-5 p.m.

# VOODOO AT THE LIBRARY

## Pierre Sylvain Exhibits at the ARTWALK



VOODOO MARASA (“ROOTS AND SPIRITS”) by Haitian artist Pierre Sylvain introduces viewers to the joy of voodoo, including Creole words, color combinations and international symbols infused throughout most major world religions. In this series, each painting depicts a different “Loa”, or “Little God” of the Haitian people and their voodoo culture. Each Loa is omnipotent and functions differently to support its believers.

As an artist, Pierre Sylvain feels compelled to enlighten others about voodoo culture beyond the general association to dolls and zombies. Due in part to popular portrayal by Hollywood, the practice is among the world’s most misunderstood religions. Voodoo is often misconstrued as a dark, mysterious religion that sacrifices animals, casts harmful spells, and uses dolls to inflict pain. However, the religion also involves creating community; unity; healing; finding peace and belonging; and actually shares strong parallels with Christian traditions, beliefs, and figures. In fact, many of the central figures in the religion have Christian counterparts. For example, “Aida Wedo” is similar to the Virgin Mary; while “Legba”, the guardian gatekeeper, is a mirror image of St. Peter. Practitioners of the religion have deeply committed beliefs that higher powers enhance their lives, offer protection, show love to the earth and enrich the history of the Haitian people.

Pierre Sylvain is a self-taught artist and has exhibited throughout New England and the United States. His works are in private and public collections throughout North America, Europe, and the Caribbean. Sylvain is the founder and curator of Art for Haiti, an annual collective show of community artists partnering with Connecticut and Haitian nonprofits. In addition to showing his work, Sylvain enjoys teaching art to individuals and in the community. The pieces to be exhibited in Voodoo Marasa (“Roots and Spirits”) will include different textures, found objects, and mixed media combinations. Please join us on Friday,



October 30 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. for the opening reception to celebrate this new exhibition in the ARTWALK at Hartford Public Library, located at 500 Main Street in Downtown Hartford.

*Voodoo Marasa* (“Roots and Spirits”) will be on display from October 30 through December 18, 2015.

ARTWALK  
at Hartford Public Library

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO:  
[artwalk.hplct.org](http://artwalk.hplct.org)

### Other upcoming ARTWALK exhibits:

Maurice Robertson:	January 22 – March 4, 2016
Sarah Paolucci:	April 1 – May 13, 2016



Metal Bride



Demeter



Dancing Bride



The Warrior

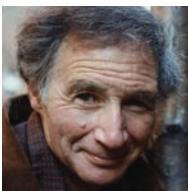


Julia

# ELBERT WEINBERG COLLECTION



Ivan



INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED SCULPTOR Elbert Weinberg (1928-1991) was a Hartford native and now a major collection of his sketchbooks, photographs, personal correspondence, exhibition guides, address books – filled

with the names of art-world luminaries and East Coast foundries – and even six sculptures have been given to the Hartford History Center. This extraordinary gift from the Elbert Weinberg Trust offers a window into the working life of a successful artist. Elbert Weinberg, a graduate of Weaver High School, had a studio in the Colt Building for many years, and explored many subjects in his sculptures, including the suffering of the Holocaust, politics, mythology, and the joy in human nature. He worked in

many mediums, including marble, bronze, and other metals. Twice awarded the prestigious Prix de Rome, Weinberg created sculptures that grace museums – including the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art – public installations, and private collections throughout the United States and Europe. The gift from the Trust to the Hartford History Center fills many boxes and is undergoing cataloging and archival preservation. The six sculptures are all located in the Downtown Library.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO:  
[bit.ly/1Q3IqDo](https://bit.ly/1Q3IqDo)

# IT'S A PLACE LIKE NO OTHER... THANKS TO SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU!



left to right:  
Robyne Watkin-Anson,  
Sandy Bender Fromson,  
Marge Morrissey



## THANK YOU!

For making us a place like no other  
Please contact Gilda Roncari at 860.695.6296  
groncari@hplct.org

[www.hplct.org/support](http://www.hplct.org/support)

# WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER



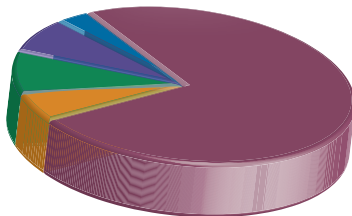
Hartford Public Library is an award-winning public education institution that serves the City of Hartford through ten locations throughout the City's neighborhoods, a Library-on-Wheels, and virtually. In one of the nation's poorest cities with an achievement gap that begins in the first years of life through adulthood, the Library provides free access to resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage self-exploration. No other organization provides the wide array of resources and services that are found here – and makes them available free of charge to everyone who needs them, our families, children, adults and teens.

*“Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation.”*

WALTER CRONKITE

## 2014-2015 FINANCIALS

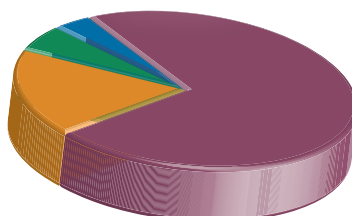
### REVENUES



City Contribution	\$8,215,000
Endowment Income	\$616,511
Fees Income	\$97,800
Grants	\$883,687
Gifts	\$397,200

**TOTAL REVENUE** **\$10,210,198**

### EXPENSES



Personnel Costs	\$7,354,270
Other Operating Expenditures	\$1,831,818
Library Materials	\$604,724
Plant Operations & Maintenance	\$419,386

**TOTAL EXPENSES** **\$10,210,198**



## **BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER**

At The Hartford, we're proud to partner with the Hartford Public Library and our neighbors to build stronger communities together.

**THEHARTFORD.COM**



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