

Next Gen @ SWIFT

Located in a former gold leaf factory in the heart of the North Hartford Promise Zone, Net Gen @ Swift is a next generation public Library and Learning Center in a historically underserved neighborhood. The unique collaboration between Community Solutions (CS) and Hartford Public Library (HPL) creates new pathways to generational wealth and economic empowerment for residents and serves as a national model for closing the opportunity gap and interrupting cycles of poverty in American Cities.



WHY HARTFORD?

UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP

The only one of its kind in the state, and likely the nation, this collaboration will tap into the potential of North Hartford by bringing two award-winning, innovative entities together to provide adult education, real jobs skills training, job placement, and social services together in a resource rich campus in the heart of the neighborhood.

IN-DEMAND JOB SKILLS TRAINING

Next Gen @ Swift responds to an urgent priority of local residents: addressing an unemployment rate that far outpaces the nation's. The average family income in the North Hartford Promise Zone is \$12,099. Nex Gen @ Swift, along with its co-located partners, will provide support job skills training in high-demand sectors including food service, light manufacturing, and home health care.

ADULT LEARNING

A longtime leader in the field of adult education and service to new immigrants, HPL will provide foundational courses including computer skills training, GED and pre GED and ESOL. HPL's The American Place will provide citizenship courses (68% of Hartford residents are foreign born) and fellow tenant Chase Bank will provide financial literacy classes; all critical to a successful entrance into the 21st-century workforce.

WORKFORCE & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

Completing the pipeline to economic empowerment is the unique co-location of these library-led services within the 80,000-square-foot Swift Factory Campus, which provides direct access to resources including a Community Business Center, a Business and Food Business Incubator, on-site financial lenders, an internship program and more.

ACCOLADES

Both HPL and CS are highly regarded in their fields. HPL has received numerous awards including: the Empowering Communities Award from the Connecticut Fair Housing Center; the Bank of America's highly competitive Neighborhood Builders Award and the Library of Congress Literacy Award. In 2021, HPL's The American Place received a \$250,000 grant from USCIS to continue its work helping immigrants and refugees on their path to citizenship; HPL was the only library in the country to receive this award. In 2021, Community Solutions was awarded the MacArthur Foundation's 100 and Change grant to accelerate an end to homelessness in the U.S. In 2015, the organization was a second-place winner in the U.S. Economic Development Administration's Strong Cities, Strong Communities Economic Planning Challenge.

"Public Libraries have long led the way providing free, community based learning, and opportunities for teens, adults, immigrants, seniors, young entrepreneurs and more. Next Gen @ Swift is a natural evolution of that. This is the Next Generation of the American public library - right here in North Hartford."

Bridget E. Quinn,
HPL President & CEO

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