





Cheers to 250 years!

Hartford Public Library (HPL) has been serving Hartford as the go-to center for education, literacy, culture, technology and civic engagement for two and a half centuries. Not many institutions in our country can make a claim that they are older than the United States, but Hartford Public Library proudly holds that honor. We look forward to the next 250 years.

Each year, we look back at HPL's services, programs and connections and feel a deep sense of gratitude for the thousands of people who make this happen—our staff, board, ambassadors, volunteers, partners, donors, elected officials and community members who show their support in so many ways. HPL is here to serve you—our incredible community, and we're proud to showcase some of this work in our 2024 Annual Report.

While we continue to repair, renovate, and reimagine the Downtown Library in response to the catastrophic flood of December 2022, we have worked hard to bring back access along the way: on the patio, in the Center for Contemporary Culture, in our classrooms, through the Downtown Library's new StoryStash and in reopening the Cafe. A shout out to all the branch and Boundless Library locations, community partners and to our outreach teams for shouldering the increases in visits and services while the Downtown Library is closed.

As we wrap up our 250th year, we take this moment to recognize our Library staff for their steadfast commitment to the HPL mission, and our community for your continued support. We look forward to welcoming you back through our Main Street doors this fall.

*Bridget E. Quinn* *David S. Barrett*



Bridget E. Quinn



David S. Barrett



**“For 250 years, the Hartford Public Library has been a pillar of our community, meeting the changing needs of our City. Today, it stands as a vital center for learning, innovation, and community services for residents in every corner of Hartford. As we celebrate this milestone, we look forward to the library’s continued role in shaping the future of our City, always changing, always evolving, and always striving to better serve the residents of Hartford.”**

**Hon. Arunan D. Arulampalam,  
Mayor**





2023–24 AT A GLANCE

TOTAL CIRCULATION

118,079

TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS

303,349

TOTAL PROGRAMS (LIVE & VIRTUAL)

4,369

REFERENCE QUESTIONS ANSWERED

35,733

TOTAL PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

70,088

TOP: A customer browses during the Downtown Library Patio Service. BOTTOM: Young explorers from Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Hartford's Summer Survivor youth program delved into Hartford's rich history with interactive puzzles, engaging books, a lively game of I-Spy, and historical photos.

LEADERSHIP

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# workforce

The **collaboration** between Capital Workforce Partners (CWP), CT State Department of Adult Education, and Hartford Public Library (HPL) has facilitated employment access to hundreds of unemployed and underemployed youth and adults

The American Place (TAP) integrates **career readiness** into all of its adult education classes, and has introduced several certificate training programs in high-demand industries including, IT, Food & Hospitality, Security, and Health. In response to state and national home-care workforce shortages and aging immigrant population, TAP offered a Personal Care Aide and CPR certificate training to students enrolled in HPL's ESL Program, leveraging students' cultural and language assets.

Disconnected youth are a high priority for HPL's workforce development programs. Supported in part by Capital Workforce Partners, TAP enrolled twenty youth, between the ages of 18–24, in its Saturday

Academy IT Certificate Training held at the Boundless Library @ West Middle. Participants receive intensive **IT training, job shadowing, and internships** in preparation for passing the industry-recognized CompTIA A+ certificate. A key aspect of this program is the individualized mentorship, attention, and care provided by Library staff.

HPL's personalized approach to youth continued this spring and throughout the summer. The Library partnered with CWP's Summer Youth Employment Learning Program to offer 15 youth 2-weeks of **professional development** activities and 6-weeks of **direct work experience**. Participants were placed at the various branches where they served as Digital Navigators, Citizenship Ambassadors, Summer Learning Program Assistants and YOUMedia mentors. Overseen by the Library's Human Resources, the interns gained invaluable workforce experience in a safe, inclusive, and productive way and received a subsidized wage.

TOP: Zachary Peters, IT Support Associate (left), works with Arman Shabestari, a student from TAP's CompTia A+ IT training program (right). BOTTOM: Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program.





# health & wellness

This past September, HPL was awarded \$30,000 from the Network of the National Library of Medicine (NNLM) to work with partner Community Health Center Inc., for **health related programming** to create awareness around the National Institutes of Health initiative, “All of Us”. A wide range of programs was provided throughout the Library system. Albany Library hosted aroma therapy, sleep harmony and weight management workshops. Barbour Library held weekly **science-based practices** paired with creative activities designed to rewire the brain. Camp Field Library hosted author Djuly Fleurant for an enriching dialogue to bring awareness to **generational trauma** and how our past experiences have impacted us. At Dwight Library there were six monthly **healthy cooking** demonstrations by Lindsey Kent, a registered dietitian. Seven Zumba **fitness classes** took place at the Park Street Library @ the Lyric over a 2-month period. While at Ropkins Library, participants learned about the pickling process with a connection to **gut health**.

A bilingual HPL Health and Wellness Libguide, viewed over 1,300 times, was created to connect people to health resources and materials in HPL’s collection. The Library on Wheels distributed 400 **health kits** containing stress balls, pedometers, exercise bands, mandala coloring kits, lotions, and more.

*Last summer and again this year, Vision to Learn visited Hartford Public Library to provide no-cost eye exams and glasses to children.*



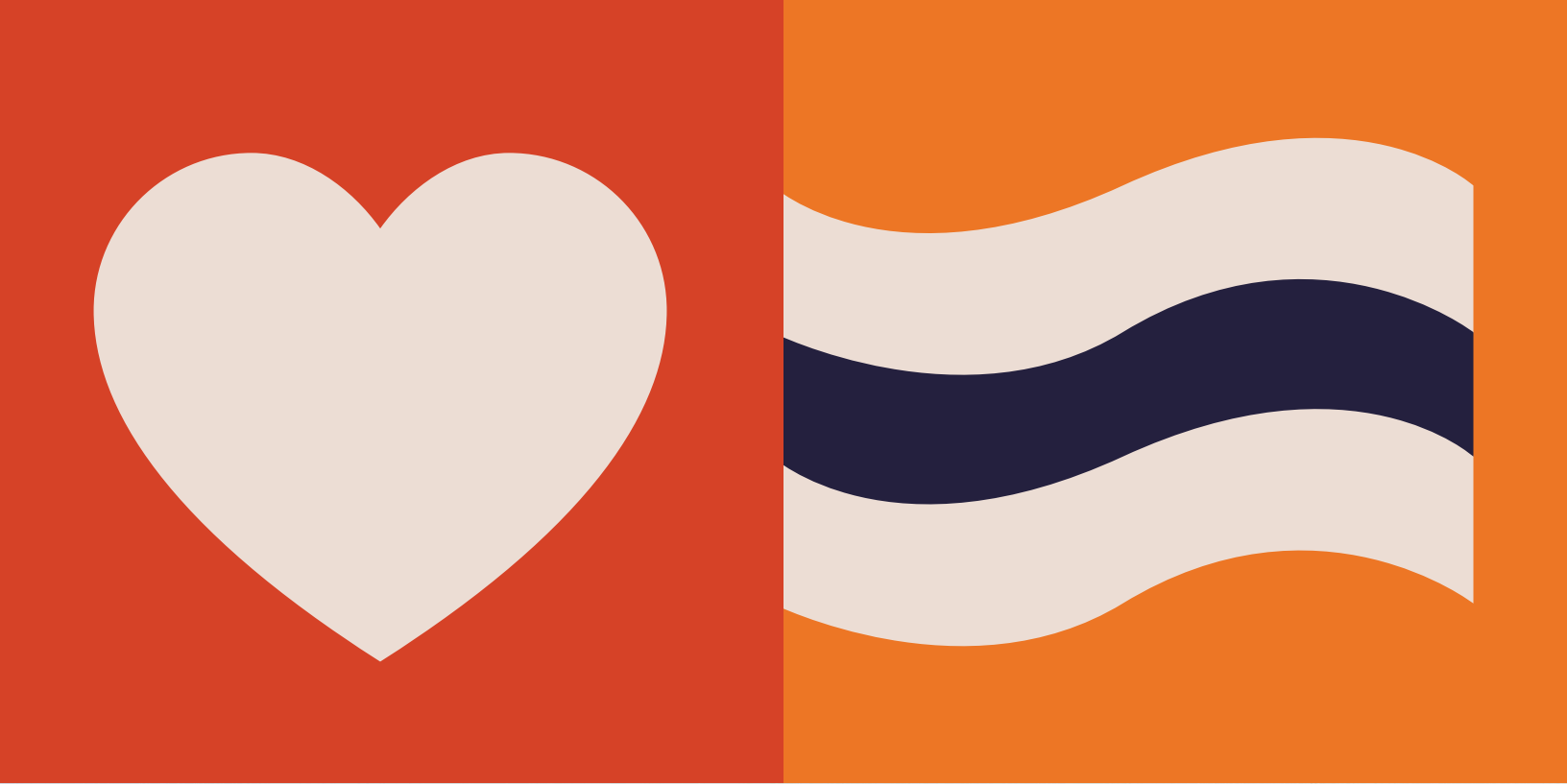
# community care

Providing for the community in creative ways is a hallmark of our neighborhood libraries and we continue to find new ways to **introduce resources**. The Barbour Library continued its partnership with Foodshare, with funding from Peoples Bank, adding The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), Midwest Food Bank, and oral hygiene kits from Sun Life Financial/DentaQuest. The Albany Library distributed food weekly on Wednesdays from Food Rescue.

The Camp Field Library set up a Hat & Mitten Tree for all ages in the entrance of the library resulting in fifteen items being donated and distributed. In January, Dwight had its 3rd annual Winter Warm Hands event collaborating with Button Up Connecticut, who donated over 100 coats of all sizes for children and adults. The event was well attended, and customers enjoyed refreshments and left excited with their choice of coats. The Albany Library, partnering with community stakeholder Violette Haldane with Advocacy to Legacy, Inc., organized a **holiday party** for over 65 children spreading festive cheer. The Park Library @ the Lyric implemented their Youth Service Prevention Grant by providing weekly **Family Game Nights** January through April including both dinner and activities, tabling by community partners and presentations related to resources.

*Food distribution at Barbour Library.*





# volunteers

It's no cliché to say that The American Place (TAP) volunteers make a difference at Hartford Public Library. Year-round, these individuals dedicate up to 2 hours per week supporting and prepping our citizenship applicants to get ready for their naturalization tests and interviews. Non-native English-speaking applicants face the additional linguistic challenge of sitting for an in-depth exam requiring them to communicate and comprehend in a language not their own.

Our Citizenship Coach volunteers participate in **training sessions** that offer a range of tutoring strategies and techniques to address these applicants' dual need of mastering test content and acquiring a level of English proficiency to competently navigate the interview. One outstanding Citizenship Coach is Rick Porter, who has served as a volunteer for four years. Most Saturday mornings, Rick is providing 1-on-1 or small group prep sessions cheering on applicants whose interview appointments are fast approaching. He quizzes them on the facts of the 100 Civics questions with both humor and gentle guidance.

Carolyn Dorais is another longtime volunteer for TAP. A former English teacher, Carolyn has been especially helpful to students for whom English is a second

language. Among the many TAP clients whom Carolyn has assisted, one student in particular stands out: Apolina Jerome and her family are refugees from Tanzania, Africa, and when Apolina was in high school she attended Hartford Public Library's after-school program for immigrant and refugee teens.

Carolyn **tutored** Apolina in person with her homework at Hartford Public Library during the 2019-2020 school year. However, in March of 2020, Covid hit. Carolyn taught herself Zoom so that she could continue to help Apolina virtually, during the spring of Apolina's senior year of high school. Carolyn continued to tutor Apolina when she became a student at Capital Community College. When Apolina applied for citizenship, Carolyn became her Citizenship Coach. Carolyn was also the Citizenship Coach for Apolina's brother, Wilondja, a student at the University of Hartford. Both siblings became **US Citizens** in the last year!

Over the years, it has become apparent that as coaches work towards the common goal of their tutees' citizenship attainment, friendships of mutual regard often form that endure beyond the excitement of the naturalization ceremonies that many coaches are invited to witness.

*Toussaint Tumaini, a new arrival from Rwanda, works on English language and academic skills with tutor Abigail Salcedohernandez*



# garden club

The Garden Club of Hartford (GCH), in partnership with Hartford Public Library, raised money from their members to design and plant the garden beds in the Park Street Library @ the Lyric's Fromson Courtyard this past spring.

*Pictured left to right: Kathy Krackowsky, GCH member; Laura Berrera, HPL Volunteer; Donna Stout, HPL Ambassador & GCH member; Mem Morrissey, GCH member and garden designer; Katie Nixon, GCH President; Susan Rathgeber, CGH member; Al Gatti, GCH member, Carrie Hammond, HPL Ambassador & GCH member.*





# the **big** read

Hartford Public Library was one of 62 organizations nationwide selected to receive a National Endowment for the Arts Big Read grant. Funding supported a **community reading program** focused on the novel *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi. The Big Read programming series kicked off with an author event with **Yaa Gyasi** at the 5th Annual Hartford Book Festival. The event coincided with HPL's "Our Narratives, Our Power" programming series supporting BIWOC (Black and Indigenous Women of Color) writers in Hartford hosted in partnership with local author group Hartford's L.I.T. (Literary Integrated Trailblazers). This year's festival included a focus on **literary women's groups**; and featured local authors, book stores, workshops, panels, youth activities, open mic, literary highlights, publishers and a vibrant cultural live stage.

As an initiative of the NEA in partnership with Arts Midwest, the Big Read serves to broaden understanding

of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the power of a **shared reading experience**.

The Big Read has been a staple at HPL for years. This year's book selection was about the divergent lives of two half-sisters in Ghana and their descendants and offered opportunities for programming related to Black culture and history, including African Dance workshops, Kente cloth crafts, and book and panel discussions.

Youth and Family Services selected the children's book *Nana Aka Goes to School*, by Tricia Elam Walker, as a complement to the adult selection, and hosted Adinkra fabric stamping and family history workshops, among other activities. In total, more than 400 participants of all ages attended this year's Big Read programs.

TOP: Best-selling author Yaa Gyasi speaks with an attendee during a book signing held during the 2023 HLIT Hartford Book Festival. BOTTOM: Attendees browse vendors featured at the 2023 HLIT Hartford Book Festival







# baby grand jazz

Hartford Public Library celebrated the **20th season** of the Baby Grand Jazz (BGJ) Series, sponsored by the Kaman Foundation. Longtime partners include the Hartford Jazz Society and WWUH 91.3 FM.

For two decades, this iconic series has been a bright spot in cold winter weekends as hundreds gather for free performances in the spirit of this city's great **legacy of jazz**. From singer-songwriters to salsa combos, and all kicked off by a performance by Hartford's own legendary bassist Nat Reeves, the 2024 season of Baby Grand Jazz brought audiences a diverse slate of musical styles from around the region and across the state.

The opening performance also marked the **re-opening of the Center for Contemporary Culture**, just in time for HPL's 250th year. Hosted by Hartford Jazz Society board member Matt Chasen, this year's series included Andrew Wilcox, Grammy-winning jazz singer and songwriter Nicole Zuriatis, the Thread City Jazz Trio, and many others, concluding with a performance by perennial BGJ favorite and longtime friend of the Library Haneef Nelson.

Hartford's love for jazz is a long and ongoing story, and, as a complement to the beloved Sunday performances, this year HPL brought back the popular Jazz 201 series, funded by the Greater Hartford Arts Council. This year's eight-part lecture series on the **history of jazz** featured esteemed local musicians Haneef Nelson, Zaccai Curtis, Dr. Emmett Goods, and Alta DeChamplain.



TOP: Nat Reeves plays during the 2024 season of Baby Grand Jazz. BOTTOM: Grammy Award-winning Nicole Zuraitis performs on March 17th, 2024 at the Downtown Library for Baby Grand Jazz. Photos by Maurice Robertson.



# hpl studios

HPL Studios is a growing and evolving service innovation offering **recording and film production** services including content production, and audio and video production/post-production workshops and training sessions to enhance user skills and content. HPL Studios also develops in-house film and audio projects.

*Thoughts are Things*, a 2022 short film exploring the impact of libraries and literacy on local communities, continues to screen at film festivals and director's Q&A's. The film, produced by HPL Studios, was selected to be shown at this year's New England Library Association Conference. HPL Studios staff presented an informational session to a packed room of library professionals from across the country at the bi-annual Public Library Association conference in Columbus, OH.

HPL Studios was awarded a grant from Public Utilities Regulatory Authority which supported expanded programming and the purchase of publicly-accessible technology. This grant allowed HPL Studios to offer **workshops** in video and audio production and podcasting. Hosted by professional recording artists, videographers, and DJs, these workshops took students from idea to production, and culminated with listening parties and film screenings.

In celebration of Hartford Public Library's **250th anniversary**, HPL Studios launched the **250 Stories** project, an archive of 250 community members' library stories, giving tangible context to the impact of HPL on its community, and connecting this ground-breaking multimedia program to the Library's history.

TOP: Christopher Brown, Production Manager of HPL Studios, records footage for the 250 Stories series. BOTTOM: Watch party for the Digital Filmmaking workshop.





# boundless

Hartford Public Library (HPL) in partnership with Hartford Public Schools (HPS) opened a new library media center at West Middle School (Pre-K through grade 5). The Boundless Library @ West Middle was funded by a generous grant from The Hartford that allowed HPL to transform the old media center into a renovated school media center and space for HPL's The American Place (TAP) programming. The funding also allowed HPL to hire a full-time Youth Services Librarian to provide services including **story times, technology access, research assistance and book checkouts** to West Middle students and staff.

In addition to books, students have access to computers, STEAM learning backpacks, Launchpad tablets, and audio books.

"The strong partnership between HPL and HPS serves as an impactful and dynamic model that creates equitable access to resources and programming," said Bridget E. Quinn, HPL President and CEO. "We are excited to be able to grow upon the already successful, award-winning model of our Boundless program and welcome The Boundless Library @ West Middle. We sincerely appreciate the investment of time and resources The Hartford has contributed to these efforts, which has created a seamless integration between the Library and West Middle School, opening an array of educational opportunities for students and targeted assistance for teachers."

*Ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new Boundless Library @ West Middle.*



## driver's ed

The Boundless Enrichment Program supported 14 students while they obtained their driver's permits and two students while they earned their driver's licenses, all while providing 190 hours of driver's education through a partnership with The Next Street. Our students felt empowered with greater independence as they worked toward these goals and reinforced our commitment to removing the financial barrier to participate in driver's education.



# summer learning

Hartford Public Library provides a rich array of literacy resources to summer learning program participants including storytelling, poetry, songs and hands-on STEAM and art components to expand students' reading and language skills. This year's "3, 2, 1 Blast Off... Summer Learning to the Moon, Mars, and Beyond" program participants explored science through **STEAM-related workshops** developed around our visiting NASA exhibit. The exhibit, which had components at three branches, was complemented by related library content including books, videos, and other materials designed to ignite the students' interest in reading, science, and space exploration.

Hartford Public Library was honored to be one of only eight public libraries across the country selected to receive the **NASA exhibit**. A formal exhibit opening took place at the Ropkins Library on July 5, 2023 with Kickoff events at the Ropkins Library, Camp Field Library, Albany Library, and Park Street Library. Participants enjoyed astronaut ice cream, raffles, free books, space science demos from UCO-NN STARS, several space-themed activities along with the Children's Museum STARLAB planetarium programming.

NASA also loaned the Library samples of **moon rocks** for a two-week period in July/August. HPL presented several workshops throughout the summer to HPS Early Start, giving students, teachers, youths and adults the opportunity to engage with samples from the moon collected by astronauts from the Apollo missions and samples of meteorites found all over the world.

*A family celebrates the Summer Learning Kickoff during the Library's 250th anniversary parade.*



# building success

Over the past two years, The American Place (TAP) program *Barriers Can't Stop Us* has assisted 35 young women to gain **admission to college** and succeed. All students are immigrants or refugees from Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, or the Middle East. These young women are graduates of TAP's **English Learner Success** program for immigrant and refugee teens.

The goals of *Barriers Can't Stop Us* are to: 1) **build success** for young immigrant women as they strive to

overcome academic, financial, and social barriers to earning a college degree 2) **guide and support** these young women as they attempt to navigate the unfamiliar channels of US higher education, and 3) **reduce social isolation** by creating networks of support with students from similar racial, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds.

Of these 35 students, one graduated from the University of Connecticut last June, and 30 are currently

enrolled in college and plan to continue their higher education this fall. The program, funded by The Aurora Foundation for Women & Girls, utilizes the natural assets and strengths of these women—resiliency, compassion, and community/family orientation—to build nurturing networks of support with other women from similar backgrounds who share **common educational goals**.

*TAP received grant funds from the U.S. Department of Education: Congressionally Funded Community Project to offer high dosage tutoring and a summer ESL bridge program to English Language Learners in high school. Through this program, 45 high school students will be entering college this fall. High school seniors (pictured below) were awarded computers for their successful completion of this after school ESL Opportunity for All program.*





## social service

Hartford Public Library (HPL) added its first social worker to its staff as a means of strengthening the organization's ability to respond to social service requests. In the first half of 2024, over forty referrals were made to various social service agencies by the social worker. A formal relationship was established with the Connecticut Department of Social Services, and HPL now serves as an advisor on the creation of the CT Department of Social Services' Opportunity Centers as well as supporting the department's work on reaching clients virtually.



## cultural passes

HPL expanded the free museum and attraction passes through new partnerships with Theaterworks and the Hartford Symphony Orchestra. Theaterworks productions included *Sanctuary City*, a play about teen DREAMers forging their place in the US and the production *Sandra*, a psychological thriller about a woman's mysterious disappearance. Hartford Symphony Orchestra presented the symphony *The Planets*, inspired by the musical experience of an African American Pentecostal church service.

## john e. rogers collection

For Meryth Andrews, the former North-West School in Hartford's north end holds special meaning. It will become home to her grandfather's collection of materials documenting the **Black and African American experience** in the Greater Hartford area. "We were told by the appraiser that we were holding on to the largest private collection of African American materials in New England," she said. The collection, named after her grandfather, John E. Rogers, is now part of HPL's historical collections housed in its Hartford History Center. Formally transferred to the Library this past year, it will be a key holding in a **proposed research center** planned for HPL's expanded Albany Library into the neighboring historic school.

The John E. Rogers African American Cultural Center was founded in the early 1990s with the goal of finding a permanent home for the collection. It has spent many years being moved around to various storage sites in the area.

A ceremony to mark the donation of the collection to the Library, which filled more than two moving vans, was held in February at the Albany Library.

*John E. Rogers' granddaughter, Meryth Andrews, speaks during a press conference held to announce the acquisition of the John E. Rogers collection to the Hartford History Center.*





# awards & recognition

**Nicole Hawkins, Leap into Learning Home Daycare Program Coordinator**  
*2023 Read to Grow's Literacy Champion Award*

**Hartford Public Library**  
*2023 Leadership Greater Hartford's Polaris Award, Excellence in Community Leadership*

**Graciela Rivera, Branch Manager**  
*12th Tribute to Hispanic Women*

**Hartford Public Schools (HPS)**  
*nominated by HPL for I Partner with My Public Library Award.*

**Homa Naficy, Executive Director, The American Place**  
*Carnegie Corporation's 2024 Great Immigrants, Great Americans*

**Hartford Public Library 2024 logo rebrand**  
*created in partnership with Miranda Creative, won 1 gold and 3 silver design awards at the Connecticut Art Directors Club Awards*

# staff awards

**JULY 2023**  
**Alexandra Cabrera**, *Creativity & Innovation Award*  
**Nancy Caddigan**, *Above & Beyond Award*  
**Maureen Heher**, *Nurturer Award*  
**Stephany Dominguez Jorge**, *Teamplayer Award*  
**Zachary Peters**, *Customer Service Award*

**SEPTEMBER 2023**  
*Celebrated Andrea Figueroa, 35 Years of Service*

**OCTOBER 2023**  
**Daniel Alexandre**, *Above & Beyond*  
**Marianne Lorio**, *Teamplayer Award*  
**Lizandra Matias**, *Nurturer Award*

**JANUARY 2024**  
**Desiree Anderson**, *Above & Beyond*  
**Angel Aviles**, *Above & Beyond*  
**Felicia Gardner**, *Nurturer Award*  
**Billy Ortiz-Diaz**, *Teamplayer Award*  
**Karina Ramirez**, *Teamplayer Award*  
*Celebrated Elizabeth Davis, 40 Years of Service*

**APRIL 2024**  
**Rajranie Busgith**, *Community Award*  
**Alexa Esposito**, *Departmental Service Award*  
**Ada Roman**, *Community Award*



# beyond words

Hartford Public Library honored Mayor Luke Bronin with the Caroline M. Hewins Medal – for his outstanding work as Mayor of Hartford and his partnership with the Library.



TOP: Featured author Ayana Mathis was interviewed on Stage by HPL Ambassador, Duby McDowell. БОТТОМ: Greg Davis, past HPL board chair; Mayor Luke Bronin,;Bridget Quinn, HPL President & CEO; David Barrett, HPL Board Chair.



# digital library lab

The Digital Library Lab @ Hartford Public Library (DLL@HPL) enjoyed significant growth this past year. The digital lab added **staffing and technology**, increased its **training and knowledge-base**, and expanded its role as a **social enterprise** for Hartford students and young adults.

Student interns worked on projects ranging from digitizing HPL's large collection of *Hartford Times* newspaper photographs and clippings to digitizing **historic videotapes** of Hartford Puerto Rican culture for the University of Connecticut. The DLL@HPL is a resource for the City of Hartford's various agencies and authorities including the Hartford Housing Authority and the Hartford Development Services Office. This past year, the DLL@HPL has worked on grant proposals with the Mark Twain House and Museum, Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, and the University of Connecticut's Department of History, developing a scope of work for creating, indexing and sharing **digital objects**.

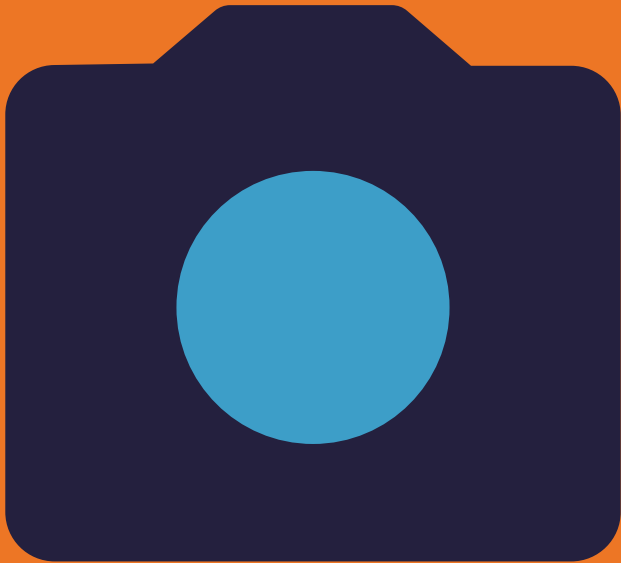
Acclaimed architecture and dance photographer Philip Trager of Fairfield, CT entrusted his entire collection

of published and unpublished prints, as well as career documents to the DLL@HPL for **digitization, indexing and metadata** services. Trager, whose work is archived in the Library of Congress, preferred DLL's high level of technology and expertise coupled with personalized local service and simple communication.

The DLL@HPL is a resource for all. Individuals who want personal service and fear the risks inherent in shipping have hand-carried their most cherished personal documents and memorabilia to the Library. The Mermin family of New Haven recently contracted with the DLL@HPL to digitize ten family notebooks and additional family photo albums. For the notebooks, the DLL@HPL applied **AI tools and techniques** to transcribe challenging handwriting into searchable text.

The DLL@HPL digitized two original oversized scrapbooks maintained for years by the lead guitarist of the legendary rock 'n roll band The Animals. The high-quality digitized scrapbook pages will be used in a 2025 BBC documentary.

*The Digital Library Lab Manager, Brad Overturf, works on digitizing historic clippings from the Hartford Times*





# grandpads

The Emergency Broadband Funds provided for the acquisition and distribution of 20 GrandPads, digital tablets designed for older adults, to low-income seniors. After a demonstration at the Parkville Senior Center, borrowers received one-on-one training prior to checking out the device. The GrandPads have 24/7 customer support and can be used with cellular connectivity, making them accessible for users who may not have Wi-Fi at home. They have large icons, an easy-to-use interface, and preloaded apps such as video calling, email, and internet browsing.

*A customer using their new GrandPad.*



# library of things

HPL's Library of Things is a collection of non-traditional items available to be checked out with a library card: board and outdoor games, sewing machines, kitchen equipment, home repair items, craft kits, and beyond. Items are available at the branch libraries and Downtown, and provide opportunities for lifelong learning, discovery, and engagement. In April, the Dwight Library hosted a Library of Things Petting Zoo, showcasing the full catalog of items. Customers were able to try, play, and check them out with their library card. In the spirit of sharing and sustainability, the Library of Things allows customers to try before they buy, or to borrow an item for which they have a brief and temporary need, such as a baking pan or cookie cutter in a specific or seasonal shape.

Popular with customers, the Library of Things has proved to be a favorite online as well: an Instagram reel featuring the Library of Things was viewed almost 5,000 times!







# 250 years

On January 3, Hartford Public Library launched its 250th anniversary celebrations with a reveal of a new brand and logo in HPL's Center for Contemporary Culture. The launch event, led by HPL President and CEO Bridget E. Quinn and recently sworn-in Hartford Mayor Arunan Arulampalam, offered attendees the "first look" of the new primary brand as well as an anniversary brand that will be used through 2024. The new brand is a collection of meaningful icons that represent the services, community, and core values of HPL. "We are so thrilled to unveil this new brand, bringing a refreshed visual identity to our distinguished institution founded in 1774," said HPL President and CEO Bridget E. Quinn.

HPL has a wide range of programs and activities planned to celebrate this historic milestone and engage the community in the ongoing legacy of HPL. Events to date included birthday parties at all Library locations, a February 22nd evening reception, a "historic" parade to kick off the 2024 Summer Learn programming, and a citywide scavenger hunt. In FY 25, the celebrating continues with a "fun"raising event at the Thomas Hooker Brewery this September. This October, HPL will debut *Caroline Hewins: First Lady of the Library*, published by HPL and written and illustrated by Library staff Marie Jarry and Natalie Curtis.

"This is a major milestone for a library system that is older than our nation," said Mayor Arulampalam. "Bridget and her staff are continually innovating and expanding the ways in which they serve the residents of our city. It is part of what makes Hartford Public Library the best library system in the country."

# 250th donors

As of 6/30/24

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OPPOSITE: Scenes from Hartford Public Library's 250th birthday party.





# construction **update**

The repair and first phase of **renovation** of the Downtown Library is nearing completion, with plans to re-open the Main Street doors in the fall of 2024. Over the past year significant updates and repairs were made including a new main elevator, structural repair of the signature stairwell, walls and flooring, lighting, electrical, HVAC, plumbing, signage, acoustical treatments, ADA improvements and other updates. Most HPL employees were relocated to other Library locations or to temporary workspace during the construction. **We reopened** the Center for Contemporary Culture and first floor classrooms in early 2023 for meetings, classes and events. We welcomed Berkins Café in December 2023 to the delight of staff on site, and neighborhood residents and businesses. Outdoor Patio Library service was launched in the summer/fall of 2023 and was back in the spring of 2024. StoryStash, a 24/7 book locker, was launched to provide materials to users missing books!

Two other major capital projects continue to move forward. The City of Hartford authorized the use of 234 Barbour Street as the future home of a new 15,000 square foot standalone Library to replace the current storefront Library in Unity Plaza. The **new Library** location ensures long term sustainability and the ability to serve as an economic, educational and cultural anchor for the community—including an additional 13,000 square feet of library space. Design development is well underway, with groundbreaking anticipated in 2025.

The **renovation and expansion** of the Albany Library includes an addition to and renovation of the North West School to become an expanded cultural, educational and youth services hub for the community. The project, which requires remediation and stabilization of the historic former school, is slated to commence in 2025.

*Construction at the Downtown Library.*





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July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024

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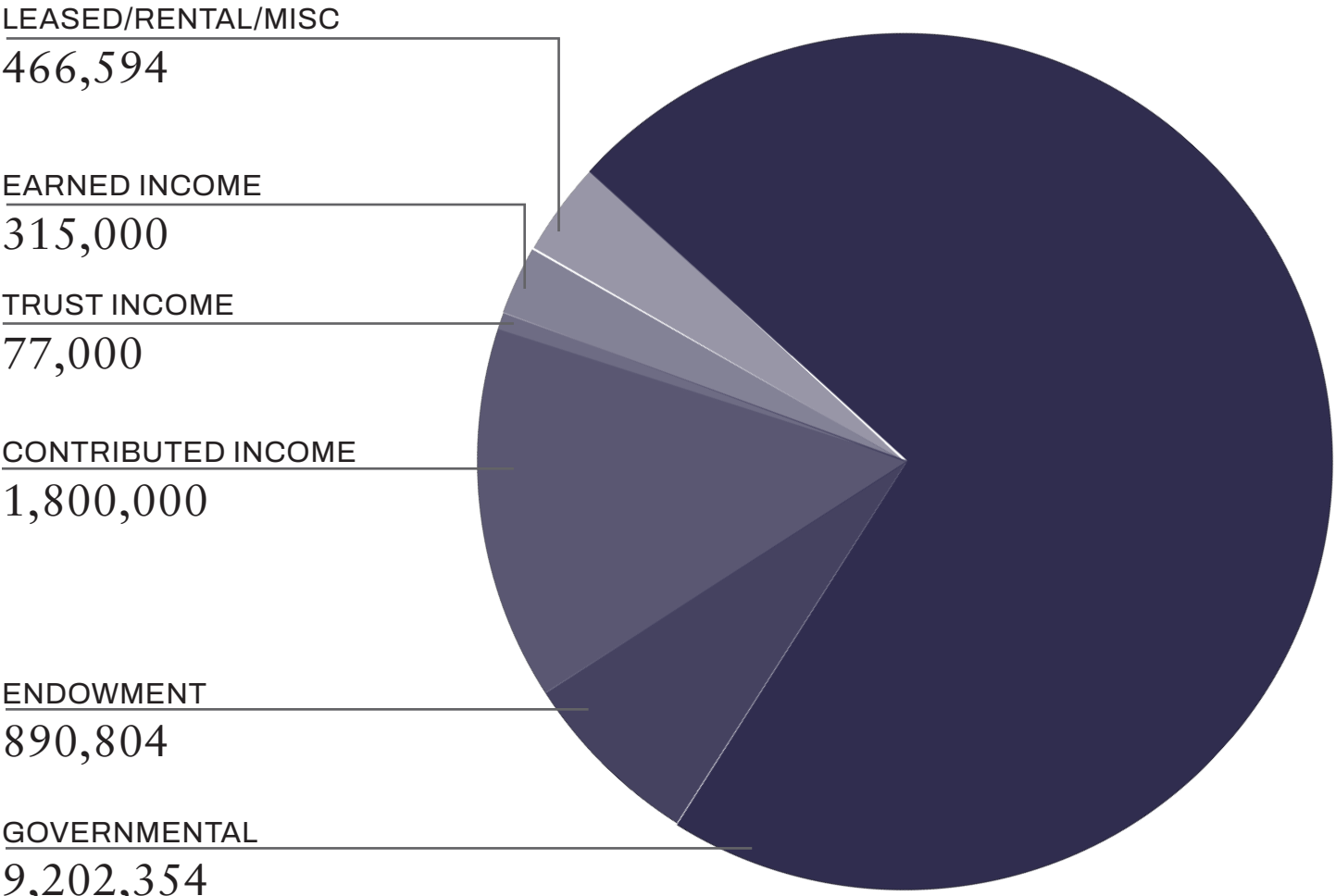
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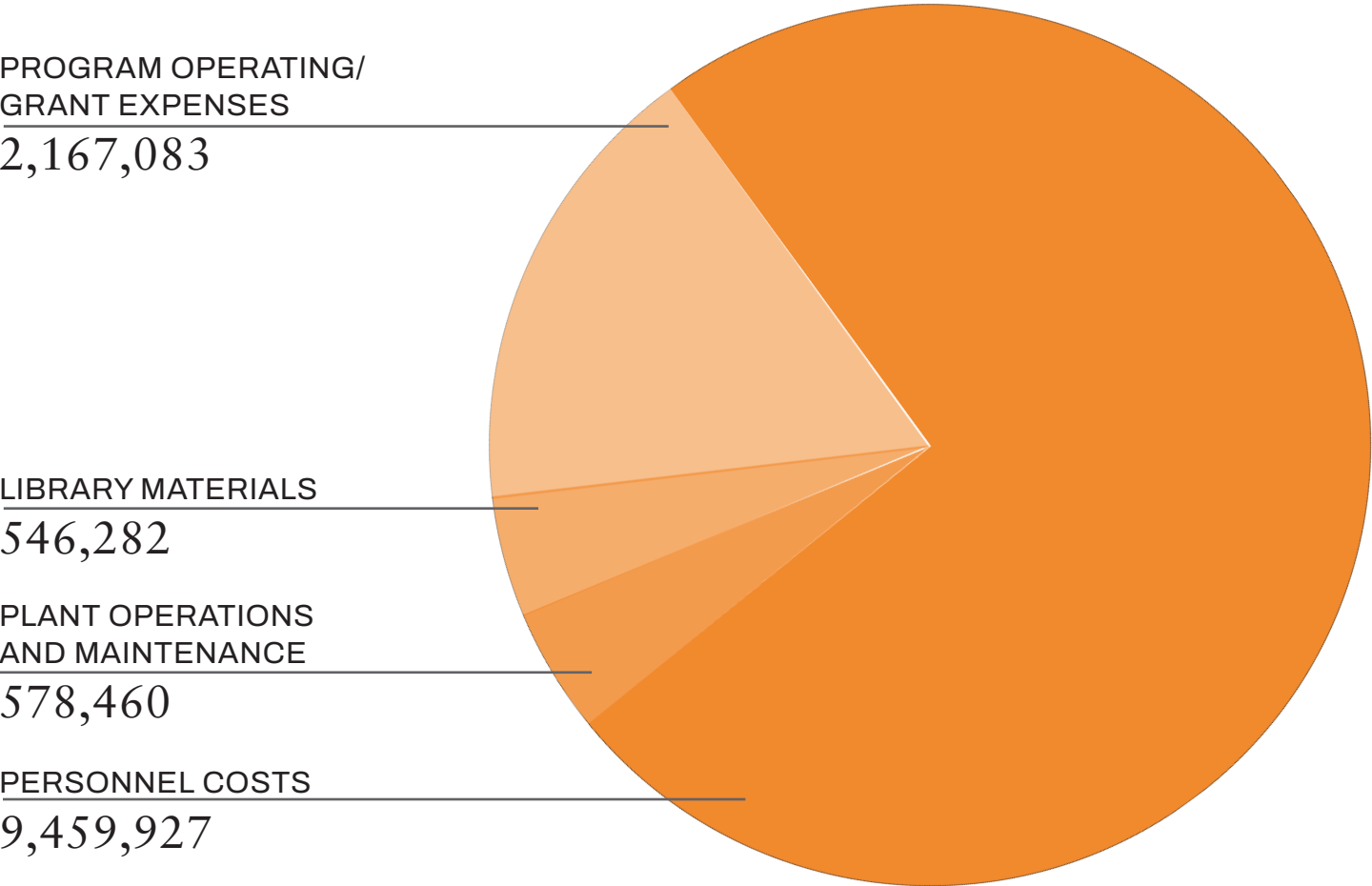


# revenue



TOTAL REVENUE 12,751,752

# expense



TOTAL EXPENSE 12,751,752



FY24—statement of financial position

	FY24*	FY23
ASSETS		
Cash	596,207	885,890
Investments	36,028,796	31,715,636
Accounts Receivable	408,780	440,300
Contributions Receivable	10,653,506	3,829,513
Prepaid Expenses	133,344	85,104
Property and Equipment, net	12,143,651	7,308,962
Right-of-Use Assets, net	40,722	90,283
TOTAL ASSETS	60,005,006	44,355,688
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSET		
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payble and Accrued Expenses	1,068,978	266,493
Deferred Revenue	10,038,257	525,919
Lease Liabilities	44,722	94,283
TOTAL LIABILITIES	11,151,957	886,695
NET ASSETS		
Without Donor Restrictions	42,715,613	38,295,872
With Donor Restrictions	6,137,436	5,173,121
TOTAL NET ASSETS	48,853,049	43,468,993
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	60,005,006	44,355,688

\*FY24 is unaudited as of the printing of the Annual Report

top titles

adult

*Mafioso*  
by Colin McLaren

adult ebook

*The Devil in the  
White City*  
by Erik Larson

adult audiobook

*The Heaven & Earth  
Grocery Store*  
by James McBride

young adult

*Cells at Work!*  
by Akane Shimiz

young adult ebook

*Throne of Glass*  
by Sarah J. Maas

young adult audiobook

*Throne of Glass*  
by Sarah J. Maas

youth

*Dog Man: Grime  
and Punishment*  
by Dav Pilkey

youth ebook

*The Lightning Thief*  
by Rick Riordan

youth audiobook

*No Brainer*  
by Jeff Kinney

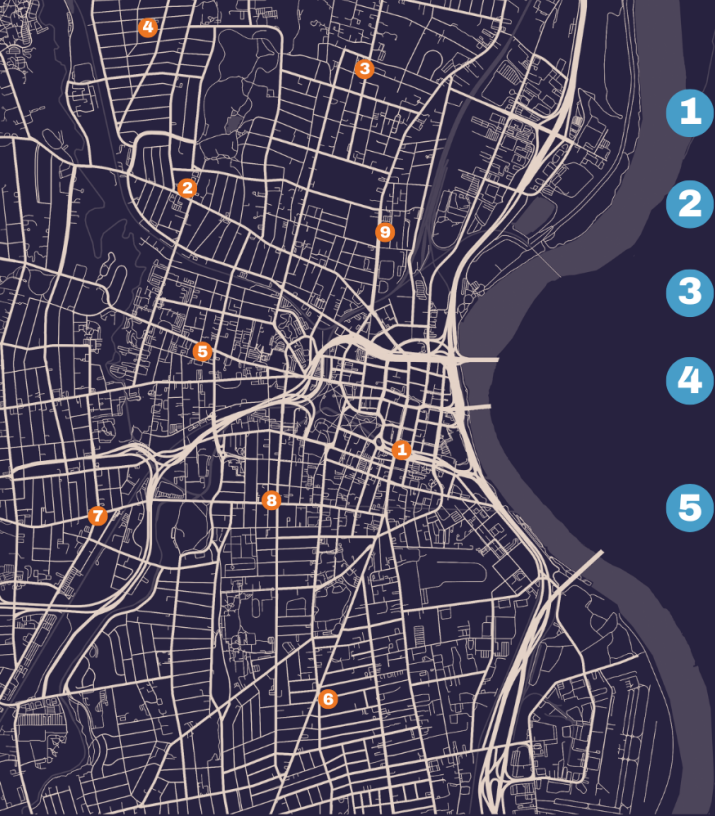
dvd

*Black Panther:  
Wakanda Forever*

magazine

*People*





1

**DOWNTOWN LIBRARY**  
500 Main Street

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**ALBANY LIBRARY**  
1250 Albany Avenue

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**BARBOUR LIBRARY**  
261 Barbour Street

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**BOUNDLESS LIBRARY  
@ RAWSON**  
260 Holcomb Street

5

**BOUNDLESS LIBRARY  
@ WEST MIDDLE**  
44 Niles Street



**250<sup>YRS</sup>  
HARTFORD  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY**

*in your neighborhood*

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**CAMP FIELD LIBRARY**  
30 Campfield Avenue

7

**DWIGHT LIBRARY**  
7 New Park Avenue

8

**PARK STREET LIBRARY @ THE LYRIC**  
603 Park Street

9

**ROPKINS LIBRARY**  
1750 Main Street