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March 5, 2026

**HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY WELCOMES THE KITCHEN AT FUTURES INC.
TO THE DOWNTOWN LIBRARY CAFÉ SPACE**

[HARTFORD, CT] —Hartford Public Library (HPL) has selected The Kitchen at Futures Inc. as its new café partner at the Downtown Library, 500 Main Street. The café had a soft opening on Thursday, March 5. The approximately 1,904-square-foot café and event space marks the third café location in the region for The Kitchen at Futures Inc., which provides on-the-job skills training and paid employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities and other barriers to employment.

“We are thrilled to welcome The Kitchen at Futures Inc. as the newest addition to our Downtown Library. Throughout a competitive RFP process, The Kitchen at Futures Inc. stood out as the partner that best aligned with our vision for exceptional service, community engagement, and innovative use of our café space,” said Bridget E. Quinn, HPL President and CEO. “We look forward to transforming this space into more than just a café. Together, we’re building a dynamic workforce pipeline that will support our job training programs and give learners meaningful, real-world experience.”

Library visitors, UConn Hartford students, faculty, staff, and downtown residents and visitors will be able to enjoy a diverse selection of hot and cold beverages, breakfast and lunch offerings, grab-and-go items, and daily specials at accessible price points. The café will be open Mondays through Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Find a preview of the menu [HERE](#).

Futures Inc. is a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to providing customized, community-based programs focused on addressing barriers to education and employment. Through The Kitchen at Futures Inc., the organization delivers inclusive workforce development, hands-on skills training, and competitive paid employment for more than 25 community members with disabilities.

“Creating opportunities and pathways to brighter futures is at the heart of everything we do at Futures,” said Pam DonAroma, Founder and President/CEO of Futures Inc. “We are grateful to partner with Hartford Public Library to create a downtown café space that reflects our shared commitment to access, inclusion, and the belief that everyone deserves the opportunity to learn, work, and belong.”

A ribbon-cutting and official grand opening celebration for the Hartford community is scheduled for April 23, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., with additional details to be announced.



About Hartford Public Library:

Founded as the Library Company in 1774, and over its 252 years, Hartford Public Library has remained at the forefront of redefining the urban library experience in the 21st century. The Library has seven full-service locations, two Boundless Library locations, and multiple outreach services, including the Library on Wheels and Story Stash, a 24/7 pickup locker. HPL provides education, intellectual enrichment, and cultural development for thousands of children, youth, and adults. HPL has gained local and national recognition for its wide range of new initiatives and partnerships designed to meet the needs of a diverse and dynamic city and region, including immigration services, employment assistance, and youth leadership training. For more information, visit hplct.org

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