



Contact: Jessica Emonds
Communications and Marketing Director
jemonsds@hplct.org
(c) 860-559-4873
June 12, 2025

HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY RECEIVES THE EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES AWARD

[Hartford, CT] Hartford Public Library (HPL) is proud to announce that it has received the inaugural CT State Library 2025 Excellence in Public Libraries award for its innovative programming. HPL was one of six libraries selected from across the state.

In its first year, the CT State Library received 35 submissions covering all award categories. A diverse panel of reviewers, representing academic and public library professionals, partner state agencies, educators, community leaders, and representatives from the State Library, evaluated the nominations and selected the award recipients. The criteria considered included library achievements, community impact, innovation, leadership, collaboration, and sustainability.

“This award is a powerful affirmation of Hartford Public Library’s commitment to inspiring, and being inspired by, our community,” said Bridget E. Quinn, HPL President and CEO. “We are deeply honored to be recognized by the CT State Library. This achievement reflects the dedication of our incredible staff and the strength of the partnerships we’ve fostered across Hartford.”

At HPL, addressing community health and wellness is a core mission. The Library is committed to fostering a healthier, more vibrant community, and it is dedicated to promoting transformative community engagement. HPL submitted our comprehensive approach to community health and wellness. The programs include comprehensive mental health initiatives, a trauma-informed approach to care and staff training, dedicated onsite staff for community health support, initiatives addressing food insecurity, programs providing vision care opportunities, and programs that respond to community crises.

By integrating critical partnerships, health resources, and wellness initiatives into our programs and services, the Library serves as a vital hub for the Hartford community, promoting holistic well-being and fostering a culture of health literacy. HPL’s forward-thinking strategy not only addresses the immediate needs of our most vulnerable customers but also sets a commendable standard for libraries across the state.

We are honored to be included among other libraries sharing this achievement.

- Ansonia Library – Outstanding Children's Services
- Danbury Library – Accessibility and Inclusion
- Darien Library – Civic Champion
- Hamden Public Library – Advancement in Literacy and Education
- Wilton Library Association – Community Engagement



Later this summer, the CT State Library will host an awards ceremony on Thursday, August 14, at 11:00 a.m. at Memorial Hall, Museum of Connecticut History, Connecticut State Library & Supreme Court Building, 231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford.

About Hartford Public Library

Founded as the Library Company in 1774, and over its 250 years, Hartford Public Library (HPL) 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, and follow us on social media ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), [Bluesky](#)).

###