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HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY'S HOMA NAFICY SELECTED AS ONE OF CARNEGIE CORPORATIONS 2024 GREAT IMMIGRANTS, GREAT AMERICANS

The philanthropic foundation established by Scottish immigrant Andrew Carnegie celebrates immigrants who make our country strong and vibrant.

HARTFORD, CT — On Tuesday, July 23rd, Hartford Public Library (HPL) and Hartford Mayor Arunan Arulampalam hosted a joint press event at the Downtown Library to celebrate Homa Naficy, Executive Director of HPL's The American Place (TAP).

Naficy was selected as one of the Carnegie Corporation's 2024 [Great Immigrants, Great Americans](#), a public awareness campaign celebrating immigrants' vital role in American life. The campaign honors 24 naturalized citizens whose contributions have enriched our society and strengthened our democracy. The philanthropic foundation has sponsored the campaign since July of 2006.

"Access to citizenship services plays a crucial role in empowering individuals to participate in their communities and exercise their rights as valued members of society," said Homa Naficy, Executive Director of TAP. "Given that the pathway to citizenship can be challenging and lengthy for many hardworking immigrants, Hartford Public Library offering free citizenship application assistance and educational support is a valuable resource for our community. We are honored to provide such life-changing services."

TAP is a division of HPL that was established in 2000. It offers English as a Second Language programs, provides industry-recognized certificate training, GED preparation services, and a nationally recognized U.S. Citizenship program, supporting immigrants in achieving citizenship and becoming vested citizens.

"Homa is passionate about connecting people with the services and information they need to succeed and has touched thousands of people's lives. We are proud to have Homa as part of the HPL family," said HPL President and CEO Bridget E. Quinn. "At The American Place, Homa has led efforts to provide programs for acquiring English language skills, preparing for employment in IT, healthcare, and food service industries, obtaining GED or high school credentials, achieving U.S. citizenship, and much more."

During this academic calendar year, TAP offered a combined average of 18 ESL and citizen classes with an average attendance of 15 students in each class. Since January, the citizenship legal staff has completed 148 citizenship applications, and the average pass rate is 98%.



HPL is a vital civic anchor in the City of Hartford. Our mission is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Access to immigration services at a Library is vital in ensuring that individuals have the information and resources they need to navigate the complexities of immigration processes, fostering a sense of inclusion and support within our communities. The services offered at TAP help support HPL with its strategic plan, which aims to serve as a national model for 21st-century urban libraries while working together to create safe and sustainable communities.

"The Hartford Public Library is a place of welcome for so many in our community, and Homa's work with The American Place has equipped Hartford's prospective citizens with the tools and resources they need to succeed," said Mayor Arulampalam. "The Great Immigrants initiative highlights the importance of building a City where residents feel connected to each other, and I congratulate Homa for her recognition and dedication to her work in service to our immigrant community."

The Great Immigrants initiative aims to increase public awareness of the economic and societal benefits of immigration as part of the Corporation's focus on strengthening democracy and reducing political polarization. According to the American Immigration Council, a Corporation grantee, immigrants comprise 13.8 percent of the U.S. population, more than half of whom are naturalized citizens. They account for 22.6 percent of the nation's entrepreneurs, 23.1 percent of its STEM workers, and 15.6 percent of its nurses.

"The 24 Americans honored serve as a reminder of the economic and societal benefits that each new generation of immigrants brings to our country and the richness of talent, skills, and achievements they contribute to our democracy," said Dame Louise Richardson, President of Carnegie Corporation of New York and a naturalized American citizen, born in Ireland. "In honor of our founder, Andrew Carnegie, a Scottish immigrant, we celebrate these extraordinary individuals who have made notable contributions to American society."

About Hartford Public Library

Founded as the Library Company in 1774, and over its 250 years, Hartford Public Library has remained at the forefront of redefining the urban library experience in the 21st century. The Library has seven locations throughout the city and annually provides education, intellectual enrichment, and cultural development for thousands of children, youth, and adults. Hartford Public Library has also 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](#), [X \(Twitter\)](#)).

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