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Monday, July 21, 2025

## PRESS RELEASE

### **HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNOUNCED TODAY THE PUBLIC LAUNCH OF THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN. *RESTORE, RENEW, AND REIMAGINE***

**(Hartford, CT)** – Today, Hartford Public Library (HPL) President and CEO Bridget E. Quinn was joined by major donors, Speaker of the House Matt Ritter, and Mayor Arunan Arulampalam for a milestone celebration to officially announce the public launch of the capital campaign, ***Restore, Renew, and Reimagine***.

*Restore, Renew, and Reimagine* is a re-envisioning of HPL's Downtown Library. This transformation reflects the resilience, creativity, and aspirations of the city it serves. More than just a building renovation, the campaign is about rethinking what a public library can be in the 21st century - focusing on innovation, access, and opportunity for all. *The Restore, Renew, and Reimagine* campaign is an investment in Hartford's future, creating dynamic spaces where all are empowered to learn, create, and connect.

The successful completion of Phase 1—prompted by the catastrophic flood in 2022—restored many public areas of the Downtown Library, which have been open to the public since fall 2024. Phase 2 of this comprehensive renovation will further modernize the historic Downtown Library. Key improvements include upgraded technology infrastructure, flexible community spaces, expanded program areas, and enhanced accessibility features. The campaign will help create a 21st-century library that stands as Hartford's premier hub for learning, innovation, and civic engagement.

Phase 2 of the project is estimated at \$12.5 million. The State of Connecticut has committed \$5 million toward this cost. The campaign's goal is to raise an additional \$5 million, and thanks to the generous support of local foundations, businesses, and individual donors during the quiet phase, we have already secured \$4,367,900. This strong early momentum reflects the community's belief in the transformative vision of the *Restore, Renew, and Reimagine* campaign—and paves the way for even broader public support as we shape the future of Hartford Public Library together.

**Governor Ned Lamont** said, "The Hartford Public Library provides an amazing service to the residents of our capital city, especially our youths, and I am glad that the state is able to support the city with this grant that will be used to help the library strengthen its resources and provide positive impacts for many years to come."



**Bridget E. Quinn**, HPL President and CEO, said, "Today, we are ushering in a new chapter for our city by launching our campaign to the public. We are inviting our community to envision bigger dreams and to collaborate with us in constructing a stronger, more connected, and more empowered, inclusive community."

**Speaker of the House Matt Ritter** said, "Hartford Public Library is more than a City institution – It is part of the story that makes the City of Hartford so special. The launch of the *Restore, Renew, and Reimagine* is the next chapter in an amazing saga."

**Mayor Arunan Arulampalam** said, "Hartford Public Library is a cornerstone of our city, providing access to knowledge, technology, and community resources that uplift every neighborhood. My family visits regularly, and I've seen firsthand how the library creates a welcoming space for connection, curiosity, and learning. The launch of the *Restore, Renew, and Reimagine* campaign is a vital investment in Hartford's future, strengthening a place where all residents can grow, feel a sense of belonging, and thrive."

**Dan O'Shea**, Chief Administrative Officer for Global Atlantic Financial Group, said, "This campaign is about building opportunities. Hartford Public Library has always been a place to learn, connect, and grow." "With *Restore, Renew, and Reimagine*, we are investing in spaces that will empower and inspire for generations. I'm proud to stand with leaders who believe in the Library's power to transform lives."

**Ritu Paliwal Barna**, HPL customer, said, "Hartford Public Library has been part of my family's story since coming to the United States. It's a place where my children and I continue to learn and grow—through free workshops, support, and community. It's more than a library; it feels like home. *Restore, Renew, and Reimagine* means even more families will have that same chance."

Community members interested in supporting the campaign can visit [www.hplct.org/support/community-support](http://www.hplct.org/support/community-support) or contact Gilda Roncari, Director of Donor Relations, at [groncari@hplct.org](mailto:groncari@hplct.org) or 860-695-6296.

### **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](http://hplct.org), and follow us on social media ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), [Bluesky](#)).

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