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For Immediate Release

Hartford Public Library Receives María Sánchez Arts & Culture Award

March 8, 2018 —. Connecticut Institute Development Puerto Rican Parade Inc. is presenting Hartford Public Library with its 2018 María C. Sánchez Arts & Culture Award for its work in preserving the history of Hartford's Puerto Rican community.

The Hartford History Center, located on the third floor of the Downtown Library, has two video interviews with Sánchez in its Butch Lewis Collection, documenting the city's Civil Rights era.

The History Center also has archival photos of the Puerto Rican Parade, ran workshops on digitizing the stories of Latinos in World War 1, and hosted a exhibition of Robert Pauloski's photos in "When Hartford's Melting Pot Turned Brown: The Puerto Ricanization of Frog Hollow." The Library's Park Branch in Frog Hollow is a community hub for education, after-school programs, and immigration forums. A new, 12,000 square foot Park branch is expected to be built at Park and Broad streets soon.

The award is in memory of María C. Sánchez, known as "La Madrina" (the godmother), who became the first Hispanic woman elected to the Connecticut General Assembly, was the founder of the Puerto Rican Parade committee and co-founded La Casa de Puerto Rico, the Society of Legal Services, the Spanish-American Merchants Association, the Puerto Rican Business Association, and the Community Renewal Team.

The Puerto Rican Parade, will return in June 2, after a one-year break.

The Institute is also presenting its Community Service Award to Lydia Herrera for her radio show "Lilly Sin Barreras" which helps find resources for people who need help; and its Leadership Award to Aura Alvarado for her initiative to mobilize the community to staff the Relief Center for Our Caribbean Friends, for families

who moved to Connecticut after being displaced from their homes in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean.

Brenda Miller, executive director of the Hartford History Center; Jasmin Agosto, education and community outreach manager of HHC; and Letty Cotto, Customer Experience Officer, will be accepting the award on HPL's behalf at the Awards Banquet on Saturday, March 31 and the Hilton Hartford.

Information: www.hartfordparade.com