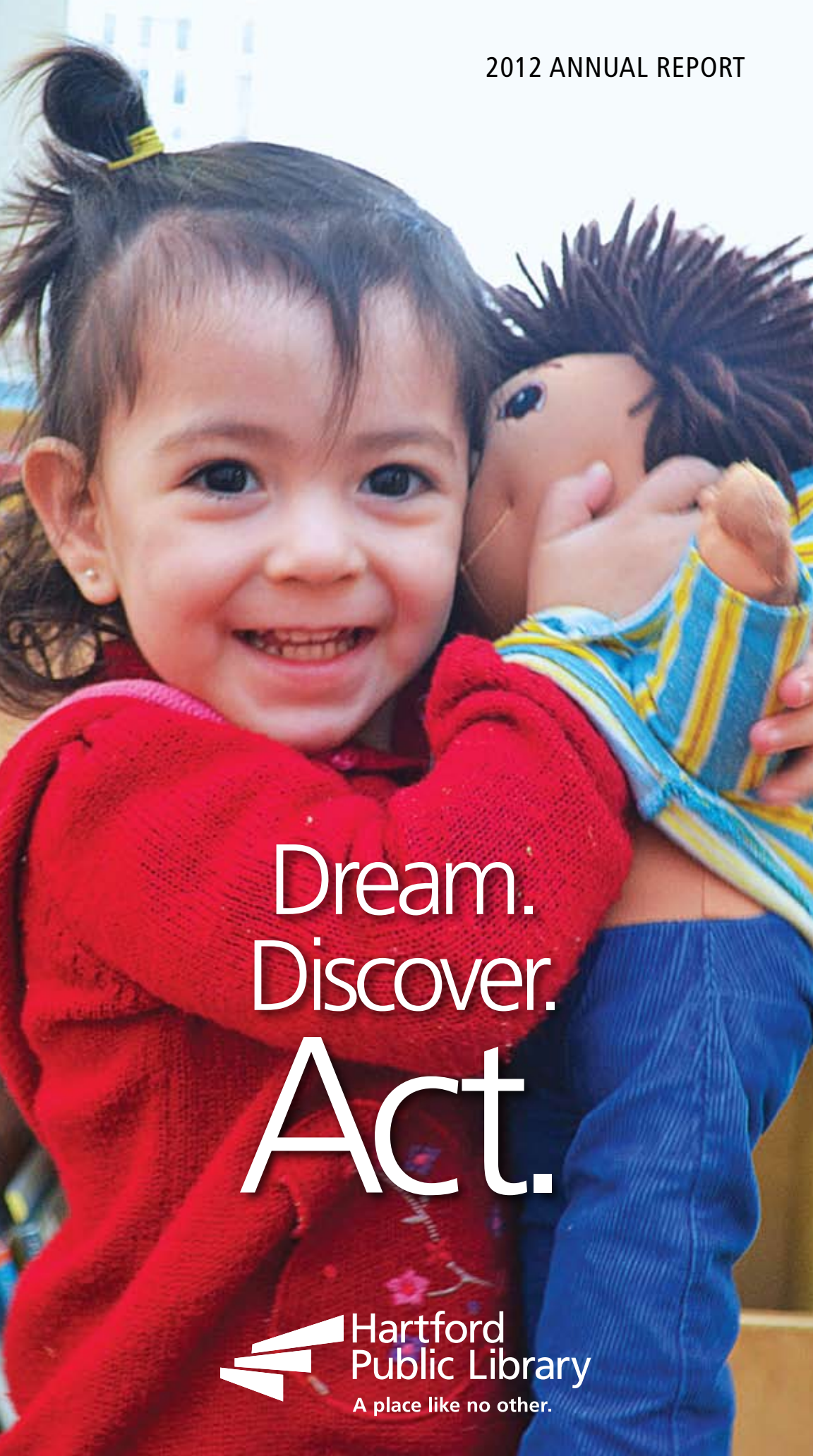




Dream.
Discover.
Act.



Hartford
Public Library

A place like no other.



MATTHEW K. POLAND
CEO
HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

There are naysayers who believe that public libraries are discretionary, no longer important in the age of Google, Facebook, and Twitter. Hartford Public Library is not one of those libraries.

As you will read, we are an institution that is evolving to keep our Library responsive to the needs of our citizens in a radically different world in the 21st century. The work of the Library is made possible by our supportive Board of Directors; our creative and responsive staff led by a dedicated senior leadership team; deeply committed elected officials at the City, State, and Federal levels; and our extraordinarily generous private-sector donors — individuals, foundations, and corporations.

Our Library is a place to dream and discover – and act. It is a place where all things are possible. It is indeed a place like no other.

Onward.

*"Hold fast to dreams,
For if **dreams** die
Life is a broken-winged bird,
That cannot fly."*

LANGSTON HUGHES

dream

“My dream is to become a published poet. The Library offers classes that are equivalent to college level and they’re free. Studying Memoir Writing, Poetry, Sculpture, and Photography, just to name a few, are helping me pursue a bachelor’s degree in Journalism and Communications.”

KIM FRANCEÉ MCSPADDEN



“I was looking for a job on my own for several months without success. Once I started working with Martha Rolon at CTWorks@HPL, she revised my resume and provided me with leads. Within three weeks, I landed a job as a parking attendant at Laz Parking in Hartford.”

MARCUS SAMUELS



MAKING LIFELONG DREAMS POSSIBLE

Because everyone learns differently and are at different places on the learning continuum in their lives, people look for sources of information that best match their needs and help them excel. From arts and humanities to computer classes for adults, the Library is a place that offers a variety of free and engaging educational programs.



“The job center provided help with my resume and advice on how to sell myself, and speak to people about my skills. I had been out of work for one year and now I have a full-time position at Community Renewal Team, Inc.”

MICHAEL JOHNSON

BUILDING A WORKFORCE WITH 21ST CENTURY SKILLS

The first partnership of its kind, Capital Workforce Partners, the North Central Connecticut region's workforce board, and Hartford Public Library joined forces to open a satellite Career Center, named CTWorks@HPL at the Downtown Library.

The Center offers a host of services for job seekers, and assists businesses with hiring/employment needs. Two career agents are located at CTWorks@HPL, offering a range of information and advice about training and educational courses geared toward furthering career goals of individuals, helping the underemployed get better jobs, and helping the unemployed get back to work.

Within the first couple months the Center has helped over 1,000 job seekers.



CELEBRATING ARTS AND CULTURE IN NEW AND EXCITING WAYS

The Library engages local communities through an array of artistic programs, providing inspiration, exposure and encouragement to local artists, performers and arts organizations.

Our programs attract visitors of a wide range of ages and backgrounds, free of charge.

Two of the most popular cultural programs, the Baby Grand Jazz Series and the ArtWalk exhibits, were great successes with dramatic increases in attendance (400% and 300% respectively).

This year's ArtWalk celebrated an eclectic group of artists ranging from Andres Chaparro's reflection of jazz with *Improvised Reflections*, to Amy Xie's *Flight, Flora & Fantasy*, watercolors that combine traditional Chinese brush strokes and Western styles.

Baby Grand Jazz, offered Sundays during January and April, included performances with such famous jazz notables as Warren Byrd and Emery Smith.



“The Library is one of my favorite places in Hartford. From Baby Grand Jazz to art receptions to movie screenings, it offers the community and region access to high quality art and entertainment. It is truly one of the hippest joints in town!”

ANDRES CHAPARRO, ARTIST

*"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. **Discover.**"*

MARK TWAIN

“The Library has helped me discover the importance of teaching Alleya to read and more importantly to love learning!”

MARIA RODRIGUEZ

discover

READING = DISCOVERY

The Library is committed to anticipating and meeting the interests and needs of our children and families.

Our early literacy programs focus on children five and younger with parents/ caregivers on pre-reading and pre-writing skills, and also how to transmit knowledge and increase social participation. This year we had approximately 36,755 visits to early literacy programs, an increase of 58%.

The family is at the heart of a child's capacity to succeed, and the strength of their bonds increases confidence and ability. As parents recognize their role as first teachers, the Library is there to support them with education and resources that allows that relationship to flourish. Family story times and special events may be enjoyed by children, but they play a vital part in lifelong learning for the family.

To that end, the Library's summer reading program has become a priority through its new parent/child, youth, and teen reading programs.

This year the Library registered 2,610 youth ages 18 or younger, an incredible 870% increase more than last year. Completion rates for the inaugural year show that Hartford youth are committing to the program, with 47% reading halfway through the program (10 books/ hours) and 26% of readers completing the program (20 books/hours). Readers earned more than 5,000 prizes and 667 books as incentives.



Young women join Ensler in her quest to empower girls across the globe. "I am thrilled that *One Book One Hartford* has chosen *I Am An Emotional Creature* and will be focusing attention on the situation of girls both at home and around the world."

EVE ENSLER



Trini Harris with son Shaye Harris participated in the Summer Reading Program.

Families attended over 70 special event programs with an attendance of more than 4,150, an increase of approximately 150% over last year. Young parents said the Parent/Child Luncheons, which attracted over 275 family members, taught them important new ways to read, and they were excited to receive 230 free picture books.

The summer reading program was funded through the generosity of presenting sponsor The Lincoln Financial Foundation, and other support from the City of Hartford, The William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund, NewAlliance Foundation and XL Insurance. The program also received written endorsement from Hartford Public Schools and nearly every school in Hartford participated.

An investment in early and family literacy programs is paid back by future generations of productive and responsible citizens.

DISCOVERING OUR HISTORY

Hollis Schneider's relationship with Hartford Public Library goes back to the special day when she received her first library card at the Albany Branch.

Following retirement as a therapeutic recreation director, Hollis has spent many happy hours at Hartford Public Library's Hartford History Center. The History Center has both enabled and encouraged her to continue her personal and professional growth through its many resources.

Spending many hours in the History Center has led Hollis to present Hartford cultural history programs to seniors. As a volunteer at several long-term care facilities, she is delighted to share memories of our city, and assure others that Downtown Hartford is an evolving and still vibrant cultural center!



"Arts and Archives Master Classes in the Arts and Humanities has helped me explore untapped creative abilities in the arts, writing, music, and photography, and also introduced me to new friends. Additionally, I have enjoyed exhibits, book discussions and films."

HOLLIS SCHNEIDER, HARTFORD RESIDENT



ABRAHAM LINCOLN: SELF-MADE IN AMERICA sponsored by the Lincoln Financial Foundation was enjoyed by more than 1,000 visitors. The exhibit featured reproduction artifacts from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois.



HARTFORD: THE MAKING OF A CITY, 1900-1930 funded by the Greater Hartford Arts Council through a Heritage Advancement Grant, made possible the digitization of glass negatives of Hartford streets reflecting every neighborhood in Hartford between 1900 and 1930.

*"So be sure when you step,
step with care and great tact.
And remember that life's
A Great Balancing Act.
And will you succeed?
Yes! You will, indeed
(98 and $\frac{3}{4}$ percent guaranteed!)."*

DR. SEUSS, OH, THE PLACES YOU'LL GO!

 *"Simply, the Library inspires people to act. "*

IVO JAQUEZ
HARTFORD RESIDENT AND CHAIRPERSON
AND FOUNDER OF THE
CONNECTICUT DOMINICAN SOCIETY

act

CREATING GLOBAL ACTION

The American Place at Hartford Public Library is a gathering place where residents and immigrants can grow and learn, and access a wide range of multilingual and multicultural resources and activities such as ESOL and Citizenship classes, *World of Sounds* and much more.

The Library's educational programs, discussion groups, cultural events and technology tools have helped the Connecticut Dominican Society evolve into a multidisciplinary hub for community leaders, artists, scholars, educators, and residents.



“The Library has truly become a multicultural embassy, not just for the Dominican culture, but for all cultures.”

IVO JAQUEZ



Fiesta del Norte performs at World of Sounds, a summer music series showcasing performers that represent the diversity of musical cultures and ethnicities in Hartford's neighborhoods. Funded for the second year by The Evelyn W. Preston Memorial Fund.



Bhutanese dancers perform at World Refugee Day.



Seated next to citizenship project assistant for The American Place, Marianne Daly-Doran, Peter Karanjua proudly displays his U.S. Citizenship Certificate.

Kenyan Immigrant Peter Karanjua wanted to become a U.S. citizen. Peter said, “After attending a computer class at the Library, I noticed another class in progress, I went in, and little did I know it was a citizenship class. My prayers had been answered!” He attended citizenship classes, and checked-out self study

materials. Peter was finally ready to take his test. During the process, he discovered that he was eligible to apply for a waiver because of his disability. The Library staff helped Peter navigate the complicated procedure. “On June 4th, I became an American!”

Sylvia Gafford-Alexander joined with many community members to participate in the community dialogue on Adult Learning.



ENGAGING COMMUNITIES TO ACT

In response to the unprecedented need for civic engagement, the Center for Civic Engagement (CCE) was created this year. The CCE bring together HartfordInfo.org — the civic information database, visited 10,000-15,000 times per month, public programs on critical community issues, voter engagement, and community dialogues leading to action. Through this initiative the Library hopes to generate the framework for a community change process, foster the development of a community vision, contribute to creating a more successful community, and establish a civic engagement model for urban public libraries.

Community dialogues for the Immigrant Civic Engagement Project were funded by the Institute for Museum and Library Services.



More than 100 people came together for the Community Dialogue Action Forum on Adult Learning in May.

raising support

ONE BIG SUMMER NIGHT

Nearly 630 of its supporters, including state and local government leaders, business executives, media and literary celebrities, came together for the Library's dazzling annual gala, **One Big nearly Summer Night** at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford on June 12. The event was presented by Connecticut Light & Power and chaired by Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman, and also featured Arianna Huffington, president and editor-in-chief of the Huffington Post Media Group.

Thanks to the generosity of many, the Library's gala made \$128,000 to support high quality public education for all ages.



From left, Pita group's CEO and Executive Creative Director Paul Pita, Hartford Public Library's corporator and development committee member Lawrence Davis and wife Margery Davis.



From left, Trevor Prescod; Reina Lopez, El Gitano Supermarket; Ana Alfaro, Hartford Public Library board of director; Thea Montañez, Hartford Public Library board president and Martha-Rea Nelson, Hartford Public Library senior Library assistant.



DONOR RECEPTION

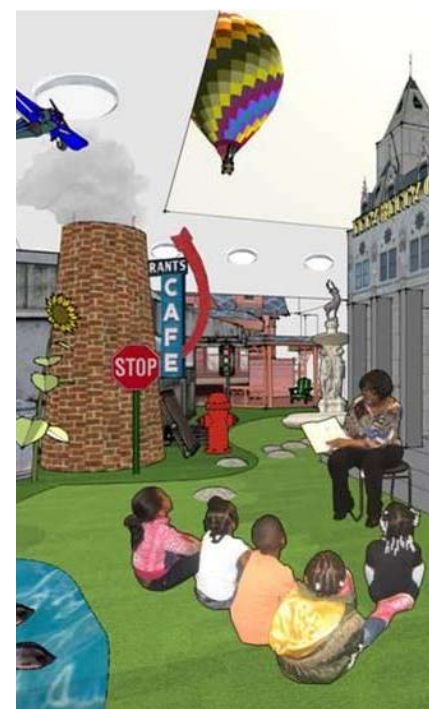
In April, the Library celebrated its second annual donor reception in the new Center for Contemporary Culture. Nearly one hundred Library supporters enjoyed an evening of good food, friends, and jazz. Special thanks to the generosity of Ascot Catering, City Steam Brewery Café and Restaurant, Floral Concepts by Tom, Modern Pastry Shop, and Vaughan's Public House.

"As a lifelong lover of books and libraries, I was delighted to be a part of One Big Summer Night."

ARIANNA HUFFINGTON
PRESIDENT AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
HUFFINGTON POST MEDIA GROUP

ITTY BITTY CITY

The Library's **One Big Summer Night** gala was the kick-off for raising nearly \$27,000 for **Itty Bitty City**, an interactive learning and discovery play space with a focus on early literacy for children age five and younger and their caregivers.



LIBRARY-ON-WHEELS CAMPAIGN



The library-on-wheels campaign kicked off at the 2011 **One Big Summer Night**, the Library's annual gala with a goal to raise \$150,000.

Through the year, the Library raised \$106,000 through individual donations of \$31,000 and a generous contribution of \$75,000 from The Hartford Financial Services Group Inc.

The Library's customers have relied on this mobile service since 1956. In 2009 the vehicle broke down beyond repair.

Many people who depended on the library-on-wheels have been waiting for the return of the service. We are close to being on the road again, thanks to the generosity of many friends of the Library!

building capacity

ALBANY BRANCH

In October, the Albany Branch opened the doors to its new 8,000-square-foot one-story facility that replaced the sixty-one-year-old 5,400-foot two-story structure. The new facility offers greater access to educational programs, new technological services, a beautiful meeting space and the adaptability to expand its multimedia collections. The Branch received the 2012 CT Main Street Award of Excellence for its construction design.



MARK TWAIN BRANCH

Through a public and private collaboration between The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc., the City of Hartford, Hartford Public Schools, and Hartford Public Library, the community celebrated with a ribbon cutting in September 2011 to celebrate the move of the Mark Twain Branch to the Lewis Fox Media Center inside Hartford Public High School. Neighborhood organizations, residents and students applauded this relocation and have demonstrated their support with an increased number of visits.

DOWNTOWN LIBRARY'S NEW WING

With generous support from the City of Hartford and the Connecticut State Library, the renovation of the 10,430-square foot new wing at the Library's downtown location became a reality.

The Center for Contemporary Culture, a beautiful state-of-the-art auditorium, offers entertainment and educational programs and events.

It's also the new and improved home of The American Place, which offers services to immigrants and new arrivals to our city. The space also includes a passport office, classroom space for ESOL and citizenship classes, and computers for self-guided instruction.

In addition, the Living Room offers customers comfortable seating, a place to recharge electronics, and a Multi-Touch Table funded by a grant from The Nutmeg Foundation and through the generosity of Activate The Space, LLC.

BY THE NUMBERS

Library visits	865,556
Items circulated	540,582
Public computer sessions	267,393
Computer/technology classes attended by 1,735 people	463
Job and career workshops attended by 1,225 people	180
Youth and parents/caregivers participating in early literacy	22,973
Youth homework assistance sessions	31,417
Heritage programs attended by 3,721 people	70
Community events, meetings and forums attended by 4,375 people	78
ESOL classes were offered, attended by 319 students representing approximately 55 countries	335
Citizenship classes attended by 447 students	171

2011-2012 financials



REVENUES

City Contribution	7,915,000
Endowment Income	545,895
Fees Income	78,591
Grants	1,094,680
Gifts	150,000

TOTAL 9,784,166



EXPENDITURES

Personnel Costs	7,472,153
Library Materials	750,000
Plant Operations & Maintenance	282,702
Other Operating Expenditures*	1,279,311

TOTAL 9,784,166

* Programs, Technical Services, Professional Development and other System-Wide Services

NOTE: Budgeted revenues and expenditures. Final numbers to be made available upon completion of audit.

THEA MONTAÑEZ
PRESIDENT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS



My first year as president of the Library's Board has been a remarkable and rewarding experience. Every time I walk thru the doors of any one of our ten branches, I'm welcomed by the sounds of our community learning and exploring.

Whether I hear the pitter-patter of tiny feet running towards the early literacy stations in the Children's Reading Room or listen to the voices of our immigrant and refugee residents learning English for the first time at the library's newly constructed citizenship resource center, I am reminded of the important role we play in the lives of our community's children, adults, and families.

It's been my privilege to work in partnership with committed fellow directors, dedicated staff members and I am grateful to all those who supported the Library in 2011-2012. I look forward to all we can accomplish together in the year ahead.

donors

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- | | |
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Bold	BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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*	DECEASED

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Mr. Liam E. McGee

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Howard^C and Sandra^C Fromson
Timothy and **Geraldine Sullivan**
Matthew K. Poland^O and Jeffrey S. Capelle

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Carlos Valinho

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