

A place for learning.



A place for transforming communities.



A place for the arts.



A place like no other.



# Our Mission

to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration.



## A Message from the Board President and the Chief Executive Officer

Hartford Public Library is a place for learning, a place for transforming communities, a place for the arts - a place like no other. You will see on the pages that follow an engaged community with a passion for learning and growing.

The Library has made our city stronger by providing free and open access to information and opportunity through our network of neighborhood libraries and the Downtown Library. Over the past year, building on its legacy, the Library has focused on its role as an active catalyst for literacy, learning, creativity, and as an agent of hope.

We are planning new library spaces for the future, a new role for the Downtown Library with the University of Connecticut, and strengthening our partnership with Hartford Public Schools. Together, these projects will transform lives and create boundless opportunities for our citizens, but so much more needs to be done. As a recent report by the Center for an Urban Future notes, a city's network of libraries is a powerful engine of individual and community empowerment. But to meet the growing needs of those we serve, a far greater investment from the City is necessary.

Within our libraries, we're also committed to expanding opportunities for our customers. We are improving and augmenting our services and spaces. For students, we're increasing access to after-school support (especially in the highly successful YOUmedia Hartford), and for adults, we're expanding our ESOL, GED, high school diploma and computer classes, and access to contemporary technology. And through our growing public programs and exhibitions, we are an essential cultural center.

Of course we are very fortunate to have citizens who love their Library! Equally important is a supportive Mayor and City Council, a committed Board of Directors, library leaders who push the envelope and challenge the status quo, generous donors and volunteers, and the best staff anywhere. We hope you'll continue to show your confidence in and loyalty to the Library as we strive to expand opportunities for even more people across the city.

All of you have helped us create a model for 21st century library service, one of the most respected in the nation. We are proud to be a place for people and for what we've accomplished. And our tradition of excellence will continue with a new Chief Executive Officer who we hope to announce in early 2016.

Onward to 2016.



**GREGORY C. DAVIS**  
*Interim President, Board of Directors*



**MATTHEW K. POLAND**  
*CEO, Hartford Public Library*



# A place for learning

Hartford Public Library is a place for learning, and not just through books. We host hundreds of classes, workshops and training opportunities at our ten locations every year. We also offer services that can help you learn a new skill, prepare you for the workforce, or get a high school diploma.



## Highlights



### ■ Leap Into Learning

As the community's primary center for free informal learning for people of all ages, HPL is building a collaborative early learning and literacy network for the City's youngest residents and their families.



### ■ YOUmedia

The coolest place in town for teens! YOUmedia is a 21st century digital learning and maker space for hanging around, trying new things, and pursuing personal passions to achieve academic and career success.



### ■ Career Online High School (COHS)

Earn an accredited high school diploma while gaining real-world career training through a flexible, supportive, online education program. Available by scholarship, COHS offers adults the opportunity to complete their high school education.



### ■ Summer Learning

Summer reading lists and programs are a thing of the past. Summer learning is about the discovery of the arts, science, technology, reading, and math. Summer learning is fun too.



### ■ HPS/HPL Partnership

Public schools and public libraries are a powerful combination. Together we help parents become more engaged in the academic success of their children. What could be better than that?



### ■ Citizenship

HPL holds citizenship classes and naturalization workshops to learn how to apply for U.S. citizenship, practice your English, learn American history for the citizenship test, or to put together the necessary documents, for government submissions.



## A place for learning



“A library is the only single place you can go to learn something new, be comforted, terrified, thrilled, saddened, overjoyed, or excited all in one day. And for free.”

**AMY NEFTZGER**

Author of *The Orphanage of Miracles*



### HOMAGO

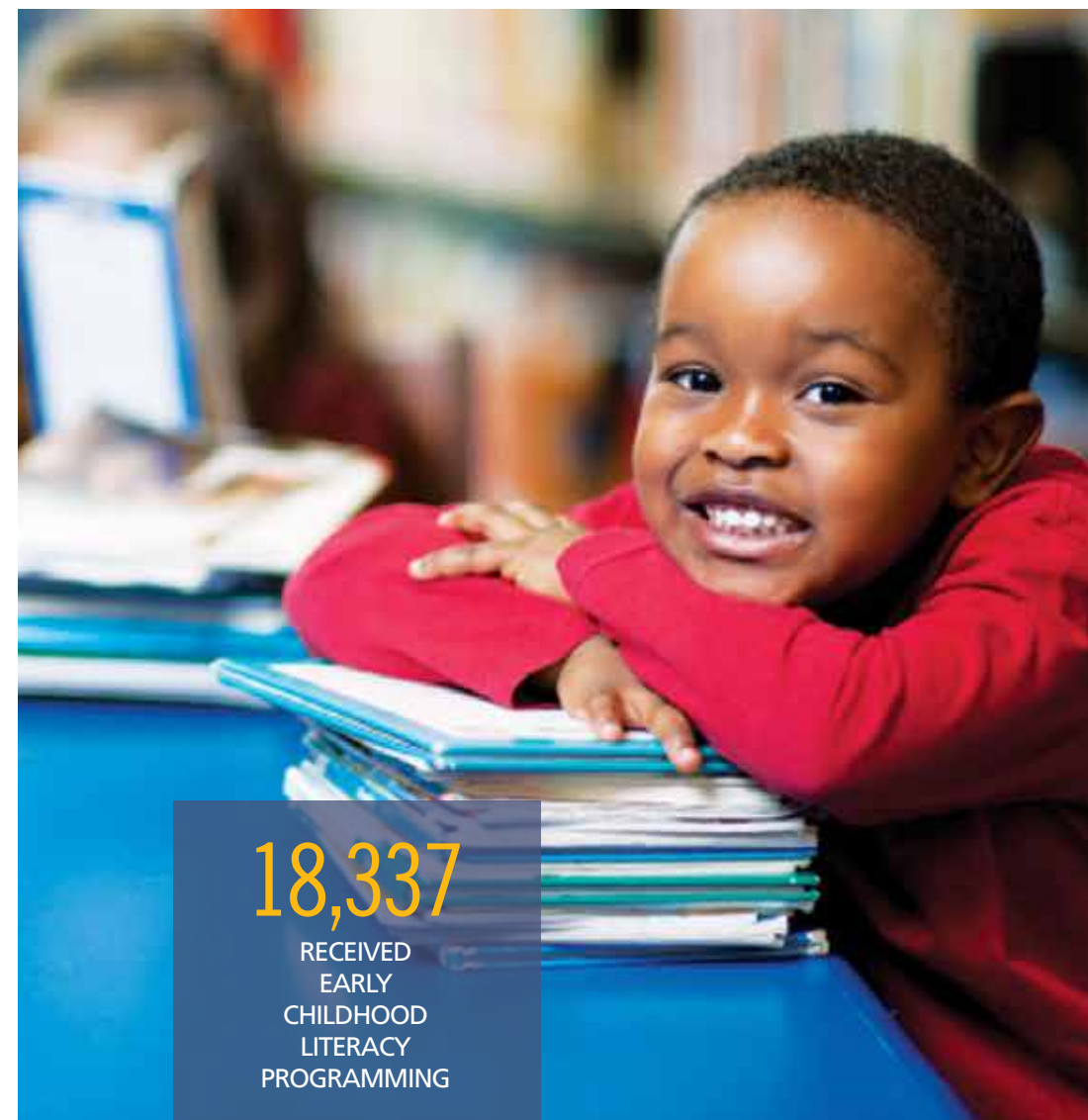
Over the last year, YOUmedia Hartford has focused its programs and services around creation, production, invention, and entrepreneurship. Thanks to the help of mentors and visiting artists, and in collaboration with community partners, teens have completed high-tech projects featuring advanced electronics, textiles, 3D printing, laser cutting, music production, and more.

Last March, several teams of youth used YOUmedia equipment to create digital projects they then entered into the 2015 Reel Youth Hartford Film Festival. One team won the “Hartford Awesome Award.” Teens are now utilizing the recording studio to produce, distribute, and market a “Best of Hartford Hip Hop” album with the help of local musicians and mentors. More than 750 teens are registered. Who knew hanging out (HO), messing around (MA), and geeking out (GO) would be so much fun?

### Loss Prevention

Every summer, our City’s low income youth risk losing two to three months in reading achievement while their higher-income peers make slight gains. And, our youngsters also risk losing about two months of grade-level equivalency in math skills in the summer. Year after year, these losses accumulate. By the end of third grade, four out of every five low-income students fail to read proficiently, making them four times more likely to drop out of high school.

Our summer learning program this year had 5,421 participants up from a few hundred just three years ago. While feeding the soul is important, summer nutrition is also a significant factor in learning and play – the Library provides nearly 10,000 lunches throughout the summer. We are on this.



18,337

RECEIVED  
EARLY  
CHILDHOOD  
LITERACY  
PROGRAMMING



### Out of the Classroom, Into the Library

The Library and Hartford Public Schools have expanded their partnership this year to include 9 schools in 2 zones. Together we are creating a comprehensive learning environment by supporting student learning and school success through programming and other activities that develop students’ language, reading and critical thinking abilities, by providing digital resources, such as e-books and online collections of traditional media, to students and learners across the City, by providing robust broadband connectivity and wireless access within our facilities, and, by ensuring accessibility by providing every student with a library card. There is nothing more important than ensuring that our children have the education and resources to thrive in the 21st century.



# A place for transforming communities

Hartford Public Library, with its sustained stature as a highly trusted entity, is an ideal resource to shape and lead discussions, decisions, and strategies that encourage active and purposeful civic engagement. HPL is already at the heart of the community, and civic engagement is at the heart of where the public library is going in the 21st century.



## Highlights



### ■ Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC)

Through its participation in LTC, HPL is deepening and broadening its capacity as an agent of hope by becoming as effective as possible in turning outward and leading positive change.



### ■ Job And Career

America's Job Center@HPL can help guide your search for a job with resume help, databases, classes and expert personal service from career guides – your one-stop shop for your entire job search needs.



### ■ We Belong Here – Hartford

The Library provides support to new arrivals by linking them to programs and services available at both the Library and within the region, positioning them for success. We are all citizens of the world.



### ■ Four Freedoms

HPL is a fulcrum for public discussion and debate about the universality of freedom, religious extremism, and “dangerous ideas” and what they mean to the contemporary world.



### ■ Center For Community Engagement

The public library, as the most democratic of public institutions, is a place for the community to experiment and collaborate, to gather and engage, and to explore and confront important community issues such as homelessness, economic development, public health and environmental sustainability.



### ■ Get Money Wise

The Library offers a series of financial literacy workshops – for youth and families at library branches, schools, and at local community organizations with topics such as credit, paying for college, and the basics of investing.



## A place for transforming communities



*People view their public library as this democratic place where opinions are heard, resources are universally available, everyone is welcome, and programs are offered about things that matter in the community.*

**MATTHEW K. POLAND**

Chief Executive Officer, Hartford Public Library



### Turning Outward

The Library is one of ten public libraries in America participating in an intensive 18-month training program to strengthen our engagement with the community on high-priority challenges. Foundational concepts of the program include turning outward towards the community, developing an understanding of the community's aspirations, and working with community members to foster positive change.

Eight community conversations were held throughout the city's North End this year to learn about residents' aspirations and challenges, and to generate ideas for action. As a result of the conversations, the Library partnered with residents and the Hartford Police Department on a dialogue focusing on public safety, community violence, safe streets and building stronger relationships with the police. Participants identified action ideas, some of which are being implemented.

### Citizens of the World

We Belong Here connects individuals of different backgrounds and countries together to learn from one another, foster mutual understanding, share their experiences and enrich their lives. The Library is a connector for immigrants to resources, services and programs that can help them thrive in America and become involved in their communities, and a catalyst for conversation and collaboration between immigrants and the receiving community.

We do this through our Cultural Navigators program that pairs mentors with new residents, community dialogues that bring immigrants together with the citizens to discuss and develop solutions on issues of common interest, cultural programs at the Library where traditions and customs are celebrated and shared, and by engaging influential local, community, business and educational leaders as ambassadors of our work and partners in our programming.



1,939

CITIZENSHIP  
AND ESOL  
ATTENDANCE



### Jobs = Success

America's Job Center @HPL provides services that include skills assessments, online job search assistance, career plan development, assistance with resume writing, counseling services and job referrals. One-on-one services are offered to help job seekers with career planning, referral to training and workshops, and job development and placement. Because these specific services will be available at the at the Library, career agents are available for more hours than the traditional one-stop employment center.

The Library has dedicated technology resources for the Center and a range of programming and onsite/online services to support the the career agents' work. Specialized software that builds technical skills is available to the Library's customers to ensure appropriate skill development to meet jobs that are in Hartford's job funnel.



# A place for the arts

HPL is a place to connect and create. By promoting and supporting the arts, the Library nurtures a more creative and expressive community, allowing those without access to art education or art museums to participate and learn in this cultural center of the City. Our programming allows customers both to consume and create.



## Highlights



### ■ ARTWalk

The gallery offers one of the largest and most stunning exhibition spaces in greater Hartford and the opportunity for visitors to view art in a magnificent setting in their own community.



### ■ Romare Bearden

Two precious murals by the Harlem Renaissance artist were relocated to the Library from the XL Center. The paintings were appraised at a combined \$4.2 million.



### ■ Elbert Weinberg

The Library is now home to six Elbert Weinberg original sculptures – and by no mere coincidence. Weinberg was a Hartford native, so exhibiting the statues here at the Library may even be called a homecoming of sorts.



### ■ Baby Grand Jazz

A series of 16 free jazz performances held in our Downtown Atrium on Sunday afternoons, January through April, that blends traditional styles with new sounds in a celebration of the diversity of jazz music.



### ■ The Hartford Weaver's Exhibition

Promoting the craft of hand weaving by people with low or no vision and those 55 and older to develop their skills and interest in weaving original and beautiful hand woven items.



### ■ Arts & Archives

As a creative aging library, HPL presents collections-based instructional arts and humanities workshops for older adults. The program demonstrates how a public library can use its historical collections as a source of lifelong learning and new directions.



## A place for the arts



*“Creativity, like information, is free to everyone who steps into Hartford Public Library.”*

**BRENDA MILLER**  
Chief Cultural Affairs and Public Programming Officer  
Hartford Public Library



### Big Art

The complex and colorful art of Romare Bearden (1911-1988) is autobiographical and metaphorical. Rooted in the history of western, African, and Asian art, as well as in literature and music, Bearden found his primary motifs in personal experiences and the life of his community.

Born in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, Bearden moved as a toddler to New York City, participating with his parents in the Great Migration of African Americans to states both north and west. In 2014, the Library received two magnificent murals (Untitled 18’x12’ and Olympics 18’x14’) in a most unusual way.

### Native Son

The Library is now home to six Elbert Weinberg original sculptures. These works pepper our Downtown Library, perhaps the most prominent being an exuberant 13-foot-tall plaster sculpture of a woman, Demeter, whose only clothing is a hat of fruit, or perhaps the tender “Julia,” a bronze bust of Weinberg’s daughter welcoming guests into the main lobby. Now, documents of his fruitful but too-short life have come home to the Library’s Hartford History Center.

This extraordinary gift from the Elbert Weinberg Trust offers a window into the working life of a successful artist. His sketchbooks, photographs of all his sculptures, personal correspondence, and even his address books – filled with the names of art-world luminaries and East Coast foundries – are all part of the gift and is undergoing cataloguing and archival preservation.



**53,293**  
ARTS AND  
CULTURAL  
ATTENDANCE



### New Chapter

Hartford Public Library provides hands-on fine arts and humanities workshops as well as heritage-based seminars taught by professional artists, “masters” in their fields. A wide array of hands-on instruction in pen and ink drawing, visual arts, poetry writing, photography, music appreciation, sculpture, and memoir writing is available.

Courses include a heritage-based seminar, either artist- or scholar-led, which incorporates artifacts, images, and personal narratives from the archives and special collections of the Hartford History Center. The hands-on instruction is enriched as participants think about an art or literary form in the context of Hartford’s history. Participants enjoy opportunities to discover (or re-discover) and express their creativity and develop artistic and critical thinking skills. Or maybe a new career!



# A place like no other

HPL is a welcoming space for a wide range of purposes —reading, communicating, learning, playing, meeting and getting business done. Its physical presence provides an anchor for economic development and neighborhood revitalization, and helps to strengthen social bonds and community identity. The library is also a virtual space where individuals can gain access to information, resources and all the rich experiences the library offers.



## Highlights



### ■ Branches

Throughout the City ten facilities serve the information, access, and technology needs of diverse neighborhoods creating a tapestry of 21st century library services for adults, children and families.



### ■ Platform

Perhaps the greatest challenge facing HPL today is to transform our service model to meet the demands of the knowledge society while securing a sustainable funding base for the future.



### ■ Kitchen at Hartford Public Library

The Kitchen brings together employment, education, access to healthy eating options, and a connection to the environment using hands-on training, community interactions, and a shared love for food.



### ■ One Book One Hartford

One Book One Hartford brings our richly diverse city together around a good book. For more than a decade the program has engaged and challenged readers from every neighborhood and all ages.



### ■ Hartford History Center

The Center is home to a non-circulating, multi-media collection comprised of more than 100,000 books, trade publications, directories, postcards, photographs and memorabilia that convey community life in Hartford spanning more than 300 years.



### ■ UCONN

An historic partnership like no other that will broaden and deepen library services for students and the public at the Downtown Library as part of the University's new Downtown Campus.



## A place like no other



*The public library is a welcoming space for a wide range of purposes—reading, communicating, learning, playing, meeting and getting business done. Its design recognizes that people are not merely consumers of content but creators and citizens as well. Its physical presence provides an anchor for economic development and neighborhood revitalization, and helps to strengthen social bonds and community identity. The library is also a virtual space where individuals can gain access to information, resources and all the rich experiences the library offers.*

ASPEN INSTITUTE 2014



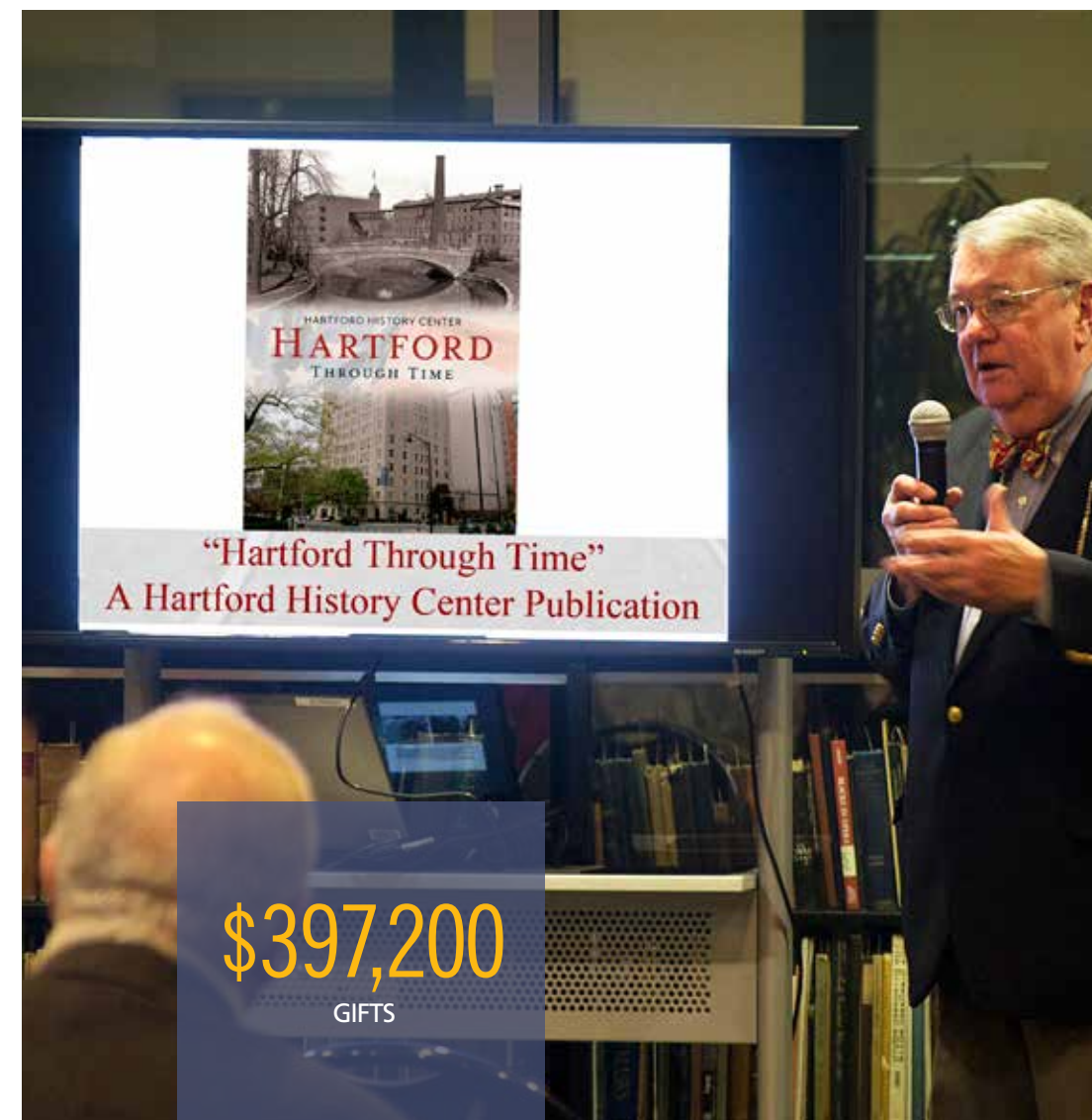
### Branches of Opportunity

We are rapidly evolving in two diametrically opposed directions - On the one hand, we are investing in technologies that facilitate virtual interactions over our website, while we continue to be invaluable community hubs where neighbors can go to take a wide variety of classes and tutorials or access public services and technology. To take full advantage of these two trends, we are investing in new kinds of branches and service models.

### Where History Grows

The Hartford History Center is home to the Hartford Collection, a non-circulating, multi-media collection comprised of more than 100,000 books, trade publications, directories, postcards, photographs and memorabilia that convey community life in Hartford spanning more than 300 years. The archives and special collections of the Library date back to the 18th century, to our very beginning.

Today, the collection includes first edition volumes of Hartford authors Mark Twain, Lydia Huntley Sigourney, Thomas Tryon, Noah Webster, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Chuck Stone and Wallace Stevens as well as material from Dr. Horace Wells' estate. In addition, the collection holds an inscribed copy of Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and the complete 90 volume bound collection of the Noah Webster pamphlets. The Center maintains the most complete municipal archive in the country.



### The Third Place

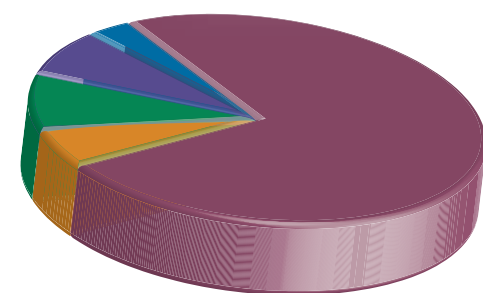
The Library is user-centered. It provides opportunities for individuals and the community to gain access to a variety of tools and resources with which to discover and create new knowledge. Our platform enables the curation and sharing of the community's knowledge and innovation.

Our library platform is a "third place"—an interactive entity that can facilitate many people operating individually and in groups—supporting the learning and civic needs of the community. Ensuring access to e-books, other e-content and more-than-adequate high-speed broadband is a big concern going forward because it impacts our ability to fulfill one of our core missions as a public library—to procure and share the leading ideas of the day and enable everyone to participate in the world's conversations.



# 2014-2015 Financials

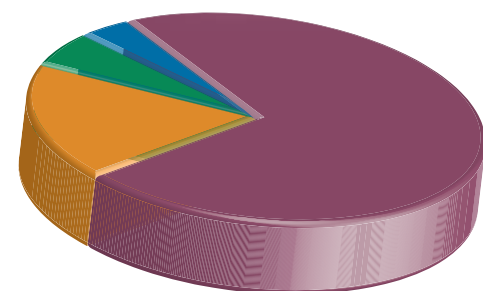
Revenues



City Contribution	\$8,215,000
Endowment Income	\$616,511
Fees Income	\$97,800
Grants	\$883,687
Gifts	\$397,200

Total Revenue **\$10,210,198**

Expenses



Personnel Costs	\$7,354,270
Other Operating Expenditures	\$1,831,818
Library Materials	\$604,724
Plant Operations & Maintenance	\$419,386

Total Expenses **\$10,210,198**

BY THE NUMBERS

722,047  
ANNUAL VISITS

544,124  
ANNUAL CIRCULATION

300+  
COMPUTERS IN ALL LOCATIONS

181,025  
COMPUTER SESSIONS

27,792  
AFTER SCHOOL SESSIONS

2,530  
RECEIVED JOB AND CAREER GUIDANCE

\$883,687  
GRANTS

## Corporate Partners

**Education Partner Circle**  
**\$75,000**  
Travelers Companies, Inc.

**Literacy Partner Circle**  
**\$50,000**  
The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc.

**Best Beginnings Partner Circle**  
**\$25,000**  
Hoffman Auto Group

**Community Partners Circle**  
**\$10,000+**  
CIGNA  
Eversource  
Hartford Municipal Employees Federal Credit Union  
Hinckley Allen

**Hartford History Partners Circle**  
**\$5,000**  
Comcast  
NBC Connecticut

**Friend Partners Circle**  
**\$2,500**  
Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield  
Fiduciary Investment Advisors, LLC  
First Niagara  
Legrand  
Landmark Partners LLC  
MetroHartford Alliance  
Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance, Inc.  
The Pita Group  
Trinity College

**"Small Business Loves HPL" Partners Circle**  
**\$1,000**  
AdamsAhern Sign Solutions, Inc.  
Berkshire Bank  
Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc.  
Siegel, O'Connor, O'Donnell, & Beck, P.C.

## Foundations/Organizations

**\$100,000+**  
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving (HFPG)

**\$20,000+**  
Nutmeg Foundation  
The Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund  
The Charles H. Kaman Charitable Foundation, Inc.  
The Stocker Foundation

**\$10,000 - \$15,000**  
Brown Rudnick  
J. Walton Bissell Foundation, Inc.  
Wells Fargo

**\$5,000 - \$9,999**  
Bank of America  
Bank of America Charitable Foundation  
Lincoln Financial Foundation, Inc.  
The Fund for Greater Hartford  
The McPhee Foundation, Inc.  
NewAlliance Foundation

**\$2,500 - \$4,999**  
Capital Region Education Council  
Evelyn Preston Memorial Fund  
Hartford Area Childcare Collaborative  
Kettering Foundation  
Kids' Education Fund  
S.A. Johnson Family Fund  
The Charles Nelson Robinson Fund  
United Bank Foundation

**\$1,000 - \$2,499**  
Aaron Hollander Fund  
Ahern Family Foundation  
American Library Association  
Bear's Smokehouse LLC  
Belle K. and Irving S. Ribicoff Fund  
Florence and Charles Rubenstein Family Foundation Fund  
Greater Hartford Arts Council  
Saunders Foundation

Simon Hollander Fund  
Stanley D. and Hinda N. Fisher Fund  
The Hartford County Bar Foundation, Inc.  
The Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Co./Munich RE  
The Lyman B. Brainerd Family Foundation Fund  
XL Insurance Company

**Under \$1,000**  
Aetna Foundation  
B&P Realty, LLP  
Griebel Family Fund  
Hartford Preservation Alliance  
Hartford Steam Company  
Identifax Research Services  
Integrated Care Partners  
Marion and Ellsworth Grant Fund  
Marsh USA Inc.  
Phillip I. Blumberg Fund  
Prudential Foundation  
Pullman & Comley, LLC  
Shipman & Goodwin, LLP  
Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford, Inc.  
The Zachs Family Foundation, Inc.  
Transformed Health & Fitness Ministries International LLC  
Travelers Community Connections  
Truist, Inc.  
United Way Of Central and Northeastern Connecticut  
United Way of Pioneer Valley  
YMCA of Greater Hartford

**Government Funding**  
City of Hartford  
Connecticut State Department of Education  
National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)  
National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)  
Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)  
State of Connecticut  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Donors as of June 30, 2015



c	CORPORATOR
<b>Bold</b>	BOARD OF DIRECTORS
o	EMPLOYEE
*	DECEASED

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### \$20,000 +

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Elizabeth Schiro and Stephen Bayer

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Dr. Kenneth M. Gorfkle, Ph.D.

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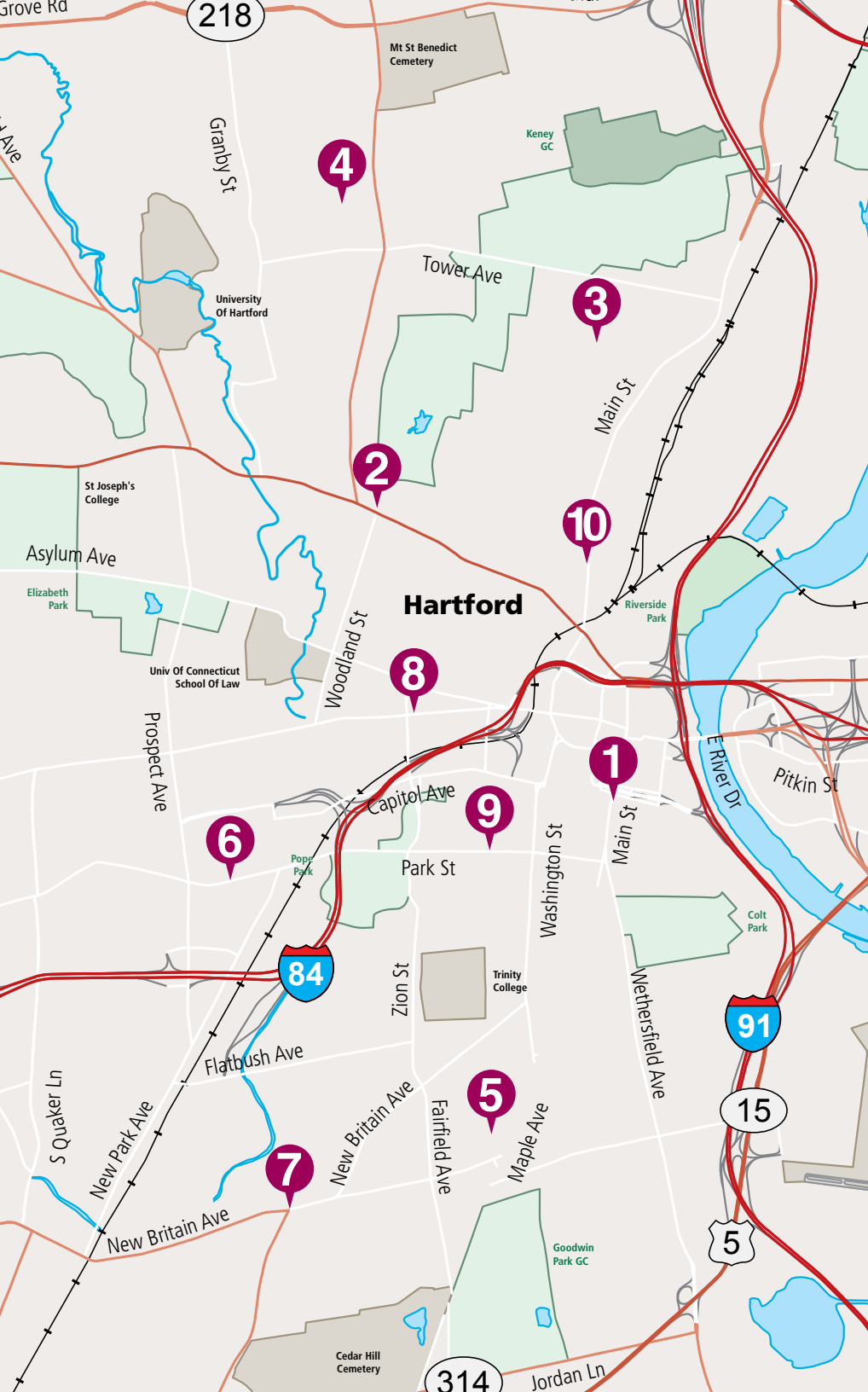
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- 1 Downtown Library**  
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 860.695.6300  
 M, T, W, Th 10-8 p.m.  
 F, Sa 10-5 p.m.  
 Su (Nov-April) 1-5 p.m.
- 2 Albany Branch**  
 1250 Albany Avenue  
 860.695.7380  
 M, T, W 12:30-5:30 p.m.  
 Th 12:30-7:30 p.m.  
 F, Sa 12:30-5 p.m.
- 3 Barbour Branch**  
 259 Barbour Street  
 860.695.7400  
 M, T, Th 12:30-5:30 p.m.  
 W 12:30-7:30 p.m.  
 F, Sa 12:30-5 p.m.
- 4 Blue Hills Branch**  
 649 Blue Hills Avenue  
 860.695.7420  
 M, W, Th 12:30-5:30 p.m.  
 T 12:30-7:30 p.m.  
 F 12:30-5 p.m.
- 5 Camp Field Branch**  
 30 Campfield Avenue  
 860.695.7440  
 M, T, W 12:30-5:30 p.m.  
 Th 12:30-7:30 p.m.  
 F, Sa 12:30-5 p.m.
- 6 Dwight Branch**  
 7 New Park Avenue  
 860.695.7460  
 M, T, Th 12:30-5:30 p.m.  
 W 12:30-7:30 p.m.  
 F, Sa 12:30-5 p.m.
- 7 Goodwin Branch**  
 460 New Britain Avenue  
 860.695.7480  
 M, W, Th 12:30-5:30 p.m.  
 T 12:30-7:30 p.m.  
 F, Sa 12:30-5 p.m.
- 8 Mark Twain Branch**  
 55 Forest Street  
 860.695.7540  
 M 12:30-7:30 p.m.  
 T, W, Th 12:30-5:30 p.m.  
 F 12:30-5 p.m.  
 Sa 9-1 p.m.
- 9 Park Branch**  
 744 Park Street  
 860.695.7500  
 M 12:30-7:30 p.m.  
 T, W, Th 12:30-5:30 p.m.  
 F 12:30-5 p.m.
- 10 SAND/Ropkins Branch**  
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 W 12:30-7:30 p.m.  
 F 12:30-5 p.m.

