TOGETHER
we are the LIBRARY

2010 HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT
Seeing our libraries filled to capacity is wonderful. Today, people are finding their way to our libraries in greater numbers – some for the first time. Whether they’re families wanting to save the cost of DVD rentals, people who can no longer afford to buy books or someone needing help with resume writing, customers are streaming in every day. Take a quick walk through one of our branches or the Downtown Library and you’ll be astounded at how much is going on and it’s all free.

The extraordinary support from the Library’s staff, the Board, the Mayor and the City Council, corporations, foundations and private donors reflects an appreciation that Hartford Public Library serves a vitally important function in our city – connecting people to the knowledge and inspiration to help them achieve their dreams. So it is not surprising that demand for the Library continues to rise. In fact, in-person visits to the Library increased by almost 4% in 2010, while online visits went up by more than 17%.

This Annual Report illustrates the wide range of connections that are made every day throughout the Library system – an intricate tapestry of people and place.

It’s been a great first year as chief executive officer. I appreciate your support of Hartford Public Library. And a BIG THANKS to the Library’s Board and staff who make all things possible.

Onward.
HIGHLIGHT SUMMARY

Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes in a year. How can we fully measure twelve months filled with so many moments of accomplishment and challenge? It is not easy, but this report will illustrate in images and words the best of what we do every day, every hour, every year.

- The ARTWALK produced four successful exhibitions over the year. Attendance at the opening receptions has reached 200 people. Thousands of people have visited the exhibitions over the last year.

- This year’s BIG READ celebrated The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, principal partner Mark Twain House & Museum, along with the Hartford Stage and 22 partnering libraries attracted 28,367 adults and 12,815 children to 496 programs, a 45% increase over the previous year.

- The VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA) program prepared and transmitted 701 returns, an increase of 18% from 2009.

- NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES are increasing dramatically. ESOL classes have increased by 58% and the number of students by 41%.

- The most successful ever ONE BOOK FOR GREATER HARTFORD, featuring Junot Diaz, author of The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao, attracted 450 attendees.
• Received **URBAN LIBRARIES COUNCIL TOP INNOVATIONS AWARD** for HartfordInfo.org. Use of HartfordInfo.org rose 57%, an average increase per month of 494,733 hits.

• The **CONNECTICUT BOOK AWARDS** recognized and honored the best books written, illustrated, or designed by Connecticut residents in 2009. Attendance increased by 13% over 2008.

• **HELD 17** Democracy in Action, HartfordInfo Today, and One City One Plan public programs with various collaborators. Nearly 1,000 people attended.

• **COLLABORATED WITH** 269 neighborhood/community groups, 568 non-profits, 30 youth organizations and 80 government agencies.

• **CHILDREN GROW AND LEARN** through 5,900 story times, enrichment activities and field trips, a 40% increase in the number of programs offered last year. Attendance was 59,000.

• **HARTFORD’S CITY COUNCIL** approved the transfer of Hartford Town and City Clerk Records, documents dating back to the 17th century, to the Library that will allow public access to these important documents for the first time in more than a century.

• The number of **JOB AND CAREER WORKSHOPS**, including workplace literacy and census testing, increased 116% from 2009; attendance increased 79%.

• Federally-subsidized **SUMMER LUNCH**, made possible through a collaboration with the City’s Department of Health and Human Services, continued to draw Hartford youth to all 10 locations. Students often stayed for reading and enrichment programs. This year the Library served 9,482 lunches, an 8% increase over last year.
• Twenty-one teens engaged in the Library’s positive youth development/employment initiative, **THE TEEN LEADER PROGRAM**. This is the first time in the initiative’s 14-year history that the program was funded by an outside source, in this case the Travelers Foundation.

• **THE SEWING CIRCLE**, brings together 20 immigrant and refugee women at the Library weekly, where they develop friendships, exchange weaving techniques, and build marketing skills.

• **TWENTY-NINE APPLICANTS** representing 22 different nations were sworn in as U.S. Citizens at this year’s naturalization ceremony hosted at the Library.

• It was one unforgettable evening June 24, 2010 at the Connecticut Convention Center as 450 guests celebrated the Library’s **ONE UNFORGETTABLE BIG SUMMER NIGHT** fundraiser that featured Julie Powell, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Julie and Julia*. Thanks to the generosity of many, the **LIBRARY’S FUNDRAISER** increased its net revenue by 306.2% over last year.

• **ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FOUR MULTICULTURAL CELEBRATIONS** and events were held throughout the system celebrating the great wealth of diversity in our City.

• The **BABY GRAND JAZZ** series on Sundays in the winter featured 16 performances and attracted record-breaking attendance at 1,414 for the series.

• **HONORED AS THE LIBRARY** that Demonstrates a Commitment to the Democratic Humanity of its Community by Librarians for Human Rights for the Neighborhood Teams project.
COSPIRATIONS, FOUNDATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

Aaron Hollander Fund
AdamsAhern Sign Solutions, Inc.
Advanced Workstations in Education
Aetna Foundation, Inc.
Allstate Insurance
American Book Collectors
AmeriPride Services
Anthem Blue Cross of CT
Arch Street Tavern
AT & T
AT&T Foundation
Baker & Taylor Books
Bank of America
The Bank of America Foundation
The Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Binding Source
Bingham McCutchen, LLP
Boys and Girls Club of Hartford, Inc.
Business & Professional Women's Club of Hartford, Inc.
CIGNA
Cigna Matching Gifts Program
Clemow Consulting Group, LLP
Connecticut Light & Power, a Northeast Utilities Company
Connecticut State Library
Cornerstone Eatery, LLC
CT Commission on Culture & Tourism
CT Department of Education
Data-Mail, Inc.
De Vars Phillips Florist & Antiques
Eastern Connecticut State University
EveryDay Democracy
Fairview Capital Partners, Inc.
Fiduciary Investment Advisors, LLC
Friends and Enemies of Wallace Stevens
Goodwin College
Greater Hartford Arts Council
The Hartford
Hartford Areas Rally Together, Inc.
Hartford Community Loan Fund
Hartford Distributors, Inc.
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
Harvey & Lewis
Hermann Family Charitable Foundation Trust
Hispanic Health Council, Inc.
Industrial Paper & Plastic Products Co., Inc.
Innovative Interfaces, Inc.
JDC Enterprises
The Koopman Fund
Law Offices of Lynne A. Ustach
Local Color Ink
The Andrew J. & Joyce D. Mandell Family Foundation, Inc.
MassMutual
McCutchon Burr & Sons/Stone Insurance Agencies
MedStar Television, Inc.
MetroHartford Alliance
National Endowment for the Arts
NewAlliance Foundation
Noble, Spector & O'Connor, PC
Nutmeg Exhibit Co., Inc.
Park Main Associates, LLC
Pita Communications, LLC
Professional Pest Control, Inc.
Reforma Northeast Chapter
Sevigny Architects, LLC
Siegel, O'Connor, O'Donnell, & Beck, PC.
Simon Hollander Fund
SINA
Society of the Descendants
Softproducts, LLC
Thomson Illustration & Design, LLC
Travelers Companies
Travelers Foundation
UCONN CO-OP
United Technologies Matching Gift & Volunteer Grant Programs
United Way of Central and Northwestern Connecticut
University of Connecticut
Wachovia Bank,
A Wells Fargo Company
Wachovia, Wells Fargo Foundation
The Waterford Group, Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Webster Bank
Weston Woods Institute, Inc.
Whittington & Hadley, PC.
The Zachs Family Foundation, Inc.

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Mr. Ron Pitz and Ms. Janice Netz
Sandra W. Pierog
Ms. Lisa K. Palen
Mr. Matthew K. Poland
Jeffrey and Carol Poehnert
Mr. Raphael L. Podolsky
Mr. Ron Pitz and Ms. Janice Netz
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Mrs. Judith Zuliani
Funding

- City Contribution: $7,915,000
- Grants: $469,462
- Gifts: $582,774
- Fees Income: $76,000

TOTAL: $9,043,236

Total Expenditures

- Personnel Costs: $7,253,519
- Library Materials: $600,000
- Plant Operations & Maintenance: $389,752
- Other Operating Expenditures*: $799,965

TOTAL: $9,043,236

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

Service Statistics

- Library visits: 859,862
- Items circulated: 710,361
- Database searches: 433,243
- Public computer sessions: 238,074
- Hours of public Wi-Fi use: 15,720
- Youth homework assistance sessions: 40,947
- Youth and parents/caregivers participating in literacy programs: 25,598
- Job & career workshops attended by 1,362 people
- ESL classes attended by 835 students representing approximately 58 countries
- Computer/technology classes attended by 2,237 students
- HartfordInfo.org hits: 16,415,019
My first year as president of the Library’s Board has been a remarkable and rewarding experience. Thanks to the efforts of the staff, our Library remained actively engaged in our City, where it is needed and much appreciated by the people it serves. The appointment of Matt Poland as our first chief executive officer has sparked new energy at the Library and in the City. And, of course, I am proud to lead a Board that is fully engaged in supporting and promoting the Library as one of Hartford’s essential resources.

What motivates every one of our Board members is an abiding and passionate dedication to the mission of Hartford Public Library. And I believe that it is because of a constant focus on the Library’s mission that we continue to attract talented new board members representing the best of Hartford’s leadership community. This year, we welcomed Bill Breetz and Shawn Wooden, who are already proving to be great directors, generously sharing their insights and expertise.

The next year will be an inflection point for the Library, as we complete a period of intensive strategic planning for the future. As technology opens new ways to share information, all public libraries will experience major changes. Hartford Public Library will participate in redefining change, and the exceptional commitment of our Board of Directors will play a key role in bringing plans to reality.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am grateful to all those who supported the Library in 2009-2010, and I look forward to all we can accomplish together in the year ahead.

GREGORY C. DAVIS
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Carlos Valinho
Allan B. Taylor
Margaret V. Tedone
James Thompson
Samuel H. Title
Dr. Humphrey Tonkin
Antonina P. Uccello
Carlos Valinho

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4/30/10

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Chief Public Services Officer
Marian Amodeo
Chief Development Officer
Mary F. Crean
Chief Financial Officer
Julio Mollena

Associate Librarian for
Neighborhood Services
Amwar Ahmad
Associate Librarian for Adult Services
Mary Albro
Associate Librarian for Reader Services
Mary Billings
Associate Librarian for Community
Development and Civic Engagement
Richard Frieder
Associate Librarian for Youth Services
Debra Carrier Perry
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500 Main Street • (860) 695-6295

ALBANY BRANCH
1250 Albany Avenue • (860) 695-7380

BARBOUR BRANCH
281 Barbour Street • (860) 695-7400

BLUE HILLS BRANCH
649 Blue Hills Avenue • (860) 695-7420

CAMP FIELD BRANCH
30 Campfield Avenue • (860) 695-7440

DWIGHT BRANCH
7 New Park Avenue • (860) 695-7460

GOODWIN BRANCH
460 New Britain Avenue • (860) 695-7480

MARK TWAIN BRANCH
256 Farmington Avenue • (860) 695-7540

PARK BRANCH
744 Park Street • (860) 695-7500

ROPKINS BRANCH
1750 Main Street • (860) 695-7520