

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



# STATE OF THE LIBRARY

In early December of 2022, Hartford Public Library (HPL) was looking ahead to 2023 with optimism and a renewed sense of hope after the traumatic years of the pandemic. All of our service locations, with the exception of the Ropkins Library which was under renovation, had reopened to full hours and days of service. In-person programs and events had been fully restored, and people were venturing back into our locations, eager to reconnect, borrow materials, attend programs and share experiences with their neighbors.

And then, the Flood. Our beloved Downtown Library was catastrophically flooded forcing the closure of our flagship location.

Flash forward to Summer of 2023 – our branch locations are thriving, community partners have opened their doors to us, and we’re as strong as ever – but missing our 500 Main Street Library. By summer of 2024, we hope to be welcoming everyone back to a beautifully restored and renewed Downtown Library and also continuing the additional days and hours of service at our branch locations.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our incredible staff and generosity of our community. HPL employees are resilient, and remain committed to our mission and to providing residents and visitors with stellar service. Our users, donors, community, corporate and foundation partners have been generous, kind and patient as we work through the challenges of rebuilding. Together we are quite a team, once again demonstrating that HPL is truly a Place Like No Other.

Now, we hope you enjoy learning all the ways HPL serves our community and all the ways our community benefits from HPL in this annual report.



*Bridget E. Quinn, President and CEO    David S. Barrett, Chair, Board of Directors*



*Cover photo by Mary T. Tzambazakis*

To Luke Bronin, the 67th mayor  
of the City of Hartford and  
Ex Officio of Hartford Public Library's  
Board of Directors, thank you. Your  
determination and clarity of vision  
forged a new path for our City.  
We are deeply grateful for all that you  
have done to support and sustain our  
communities, our neighborhoods, our  
families and our Library  
for generations to come.

*Photo by Leslie Gomez for the GHAC*



2022-23  
AT A GLANCE

**TOTAL CIRCULATION (INCLUDING EBOOKS)**

168,269

**TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS**

314,040

**TOTAL PROGRAMS (LIVE & VIRTUAL)**

3,492

**REFERENCE QUESTIONS ANSWERED**

44,103

**TOTAL PROGRAM ATTENDANCE**

56,816



## Top Titles for 2022-23

### ADULT FICTION (ENGLISH)

*Black Bird*

by Kanoko Sakurakōji

### ADULT FICTION (SPANISH)

*Estefania*

by Marcialm Lafuente

### ADULT DVD

*Yellowstone*

### ADULT EBOOK & AUDIOBOOK

*Lessons in Chemistry:  
A Novel*

by Bonnie Garmus

### MAGAZINE

*The New Yorker*

### TEEN FICTION (ENGLISH)

*Naruto* by Masashi  
Kishimoto

### TEEN FICTION (SPANISH)

*Chicos Típicamente  
Americanos*

by Jason Reynolds

### TEEN DVD

*DC's Legends of To-  
morrow*

### YOUTH FICTION (ENGLISH)

*Dog Man*

by Dav Pilkey

### YOUTH FICTION (SPANISH)

*Hombre Perro y  
Supergatito*

by Dav Pilkey

### YOUTH DVD

*Sonic the Hedgehog 2.*

**In FY23, 14,278 new items were added to the collection,  
including 86 new items added to the Library of Things!**

# WHERE WE WORK

## DOWNTOWN

500 Main Street  
Hartford, CT 06103  
860-695-6300

## ALBANY

1250 Albany Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06112  
860-695-7380

## BARBOUR

261 Barbour Street  
Hartford, CT 06120  
860-695-7400

## CAMP FIELD

30 Campfield Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06114  
860-695-7440

## DWIGHT

7 New Park Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106  
860-695-7460

## PARK STREET LIBRARY @ THE LYRIC

603 Park Street  
Hartford, CT 06106  
860-695-7500

## SAND/ROPKINS

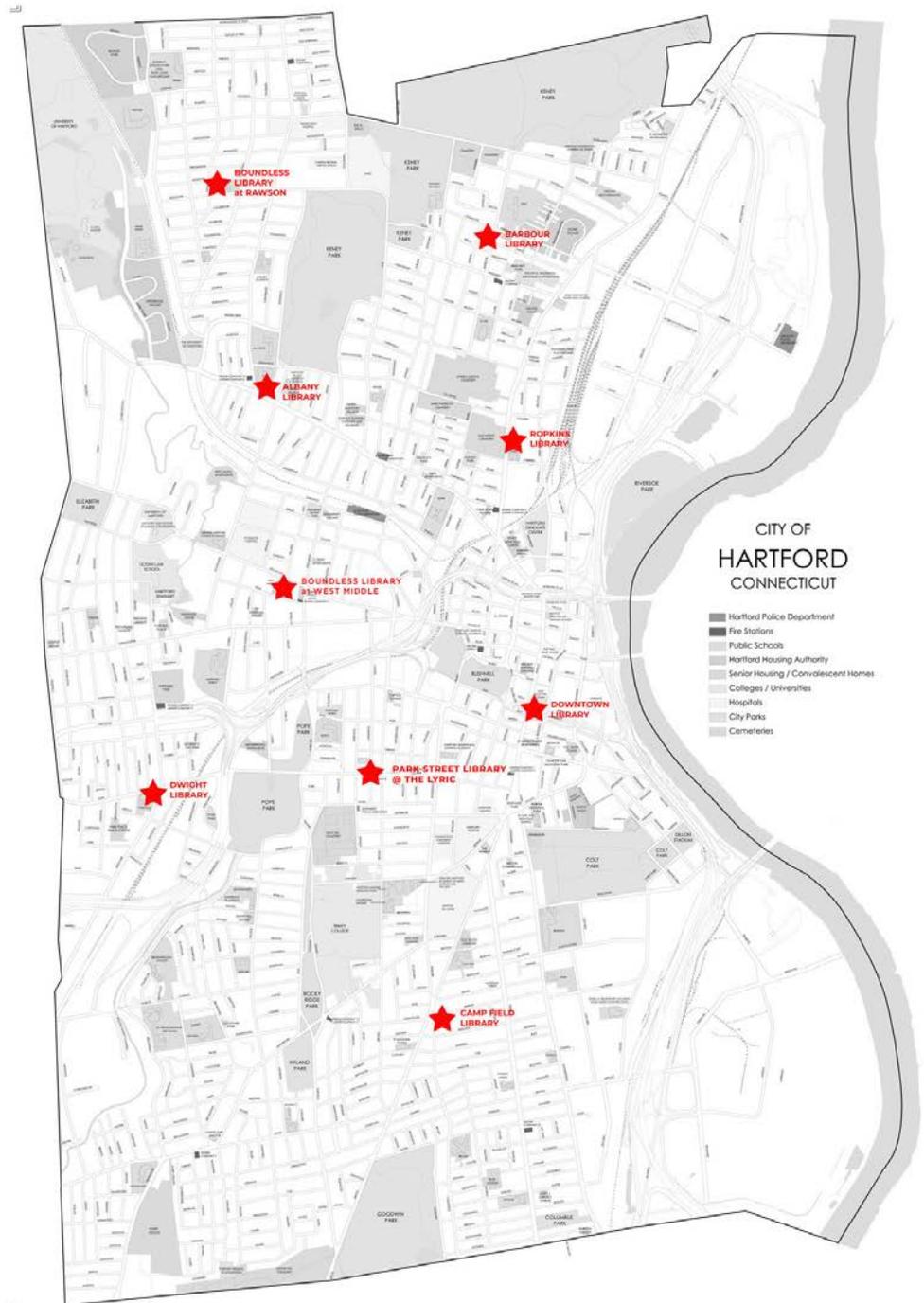
1750 Main Street  
Hartford, CT 06120  
860-695-7520

## BOUNDLESS AT RAWSON SCHOOL

260 Holcomb Street  
Hartford, CT 06112  
860-695-7481

## BOUNDLESS AT WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL

44 Niles Street  
Hartford, CT 06105



## LEADERSHIP

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CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE OFFICER

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DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & FOUNDATION RELATIONS

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DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICES

Brenda Miller  
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE AMERICAN PLACE

Gilda Roncari  
DIRECTOR OF DONOR RELATIONS

Mary T. Tzambazakis  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

## HPL BOARD MEMBERS

2022-2023

David S. Barrett, *Chair*  
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Hon. Luke A. Bronin, *Mayor, Ex-Officio*  
Geraldine P. Sullivan, *Director Emeritus*

To ask why we need libraries at all, when there is so much information available elsewhere, is about as sensible as asking if roadmaps are necessary now that there are so very many roads.

—Jon Bing

*Romare Bearden's "Olympics" is moved to a secure location within the Downtown Library while renovations are underway.*



# Shaping Our Future: Capital Projects on the Move

## **DOWNTOWN LIBRARY**

On December 23rd and 24th, 2022 the Downtown Library sustained catastrophic water damage from HVAC pipes that cracked during an unprecedented freezing weather event. The water infiltrated throughout four floors of the building (walls, ceiling, floors, panels, conduit, elevator shafts, etc.) damaging infrastructure and systems. Extensive water damage necessitated a thorough review of the physical structure, including the electrical wiring, the HVAC system, and all informational and operational technology.

After assessing the damage and coordinating the first response activities (clean up of the water, relocation of unaffected materials and equipment, commencing demolition of impacted spaces and removal of anything wet or damaged), library staff shifted focus to operational priorities. Through the generosity of our local community partners, Library staff and programs relocated to alternative service locations in the community and to other Library locations.

Thanks to the efforts of Speaker Matt Ritter and the Hartford Delegation, and of Mayor Luke Bronin, the Library was awarded \$3.2M in state funding to address repair costs not covered by insurance and for a redesign of the facility. Once the repairs and renovations are completed it will be a state-of-the-art library, education and cultural center providing new and enhanced services to the Hartford community. The Restore and Renew Campaign was launched from the outpouring of support from the community, including a generous grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. (Please see page 13 for a complete list of R&R donors.)

RESTORE AND RENEW COMMUNITY  
PARTNERS WHO GENEROUSLY  
HOSTED HPL PROGRAMS

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Artist Collective  
Boys & Girls Clubs of Hartford  
Bushnell Park Conservancy  
Capital Community College  
Center Church  
City of Hartford  
Classical Magnet School  
CREC  
CT Public  
Hartford Foundation for  
Public Giving  
Hartford Public Schools  
Knox  
Old State House  
South Church  
UConn Hartford

Current operations include enhanced hours and days of service at all branch locations and expanded services at West Middle Community School. Programs are being held throughout the community in partner locations. (See left panel). Examples include:

- Many families that frequent the Downtown Children's Department have limited access to transportation and cannot easily get to one of HPL's other branches. South Church quickly became HPL's temporary library space for library story times and afterschool programs for children and families and has hosted, to name a few programs, I Love My Library, Robot Party, Slime Time, Paint Night, Carnival Mask Making, and Holi.
- The Children's Dept. worked with Bushnell Park Conservancy to provide a space at the Bushnell Park Carousel for story times and free carousel rides to downtown families.
- Connecticut's Old State House, the oldest state house in the nation, opened its arms to the nation's newest arrivals, and welcomed TAP's Citizenship program.



*Speaker of the House Matt Ritter (middle) meets with HPL President and CEO Bridget Quinn and HPL Board Chair David Barrett. Speaker Ritter said, "Hartford Public Library's branches across our city are unique places for the community to gather, learn, discuss important issues and more. At the end of 2022, HPL's Downtown Branch suffered catastrophic water damage. I was so pleased to work with the library, city and our legislative delegation to ensure state funding was in place for renovations and repairs."*

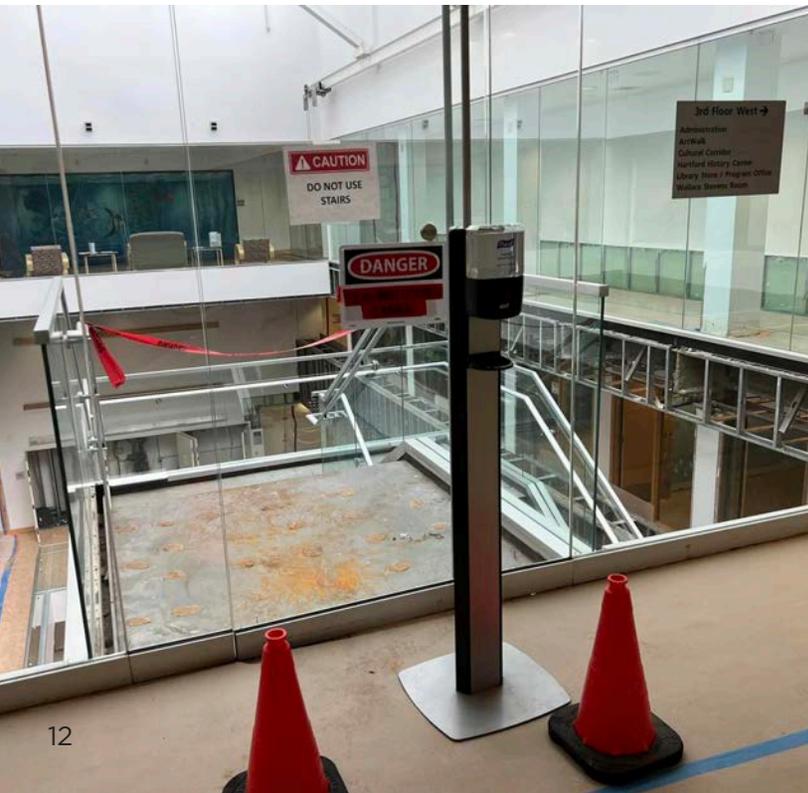


- The Downtown Library's extremely popular winter program, Baby Grand Jazz, now in its 20th year, was moved to two locations: Center Church and The Artists Collective, founded in 1970 by world renowned alto-saxophonist, composer, and educator Jackie McLean.

Other service enhancements include expanded outreach through HPL's Library on Wheels, the introduction of StoryStash, a remote pick-up locker at the Downtown Library, and Monday public service on the Downtown patio.

The flooding catastrophe did create an opportunity to pursue needed renovations and improvements. A series of focus groups, surveys and community meetings in June 2023 solicited input from stakeholders regarding what the community would like to see in the renovated building. The architecture and design professionals, TSKP Studio and Margaret Sullivan Studios, were engaged to lead the renovation design and community engagement work.

We anticipate a Summer 2024 reopening of the Downtown Library.



EXTRA SPECIAL THANKS TO DONORS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE RESTORE & RENEW CAMPAIGN

Deborah Agrella-Raupach  
and Robert Raupach  
Kathleen and Sherwood Anderson  
Anonymous  
David Barrett  
Amy and Michael Barron  
Kelly Belanger  
Lisa Benet  
Katie Bradley and Eric Ben-Kiki  
Annette Blackwood and  
Frank Sentner  
Capri and John Brighenti  
Valerie Bryan  
Kristin Burgess  
Rajranie Busgith  
Nancy Caddigan  
Mackenzie and Peter Callahan  
Coleman H. and Jo  
Champlin Casey  
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Lois DeBoer  
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Anne Melissa Dowling  
Judy Dworin and Blu Lambert  
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Diane Mack and Robin Gilmartin  
Sharon and Guy Marhewka  
Gilberto Martinez  
Anne E. McAloon  
Michelle and Rick Milczanowski  
Brenda Miller and Pradeep Bajaj  
Monday Reading Club  
Casey Moran  
Sarah and Jim Needham  
Hannah Nelson-Teutsch  
Roohan Nistar  
Don Noel  
John O'Connell  
Linda Pagani  
Margaret and Robert Patricelli  
Brewster and Judith Perkins  
Karishma Pinto  
Sharon Pope  
Bridget E. Quinn  
Karen Renstrom  
Bessy Reyna and Susan Holmes  
Gilda and David Roncari  
Marilyn Rossetti and Gregory Rose

John and Theresa Ryan  
Janet Schloss  
Jennifer Searls  
Wanda N. Seldon  
Jennifer Sharp  
Lynn and Daniel Sharp  
Paul D. Shipman  
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Sharon and Alan Smally  
Robert and Sharon Smith  
Society of the Descendants of  
the Founders of Hartford  
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Eric Weeks  
John Weikart and Jennifer Chu  
Sarah Willen  
Lawrence Williams  
Elizabeth R. Wood  
Valerie Wozniak  
Fiona York  
Paula Jean Yukna and  
Frederick P. D'Aprilla



### **ALBANY LIBRARY**

The expansion of the Albany Library is in the planning process. The architectural firm of Silver Petrucelli has been hired to design the new construction and renovation. The project includes remediation and renovation of the former North West Jones School, which will become a part of the current Albany Library, linked by a newly constructed addition. The City of Hartford's development department will be managing the 1st phase of the project which calls for the stabilization and remediation of the former school building. The project is slated to commence in 2024.

### **BARBOUR LIBRARY**

The replacement of the current, leased, Barbour Library is the top priority of the Library's Capital Plan. In March 2023, the Hartford Public Library Board of Directors formally requested that the City authorize the Library to construct a new Library on the former Snyder Supermarket lot, 234 Barbour Street, Hartford. The decision to build a new library on city-owned property provides the Library with long term sustainability and the ability to serve as an economic, educational and cultural anchor for the community. The new 15,000 sq ft library will replace the current 2,000 sq ft storefront library current located in Unity Plaza. The project is in the design process and is anticipated to start in 2024.

*TOP: View of the Albany Library and the North West Jones School on Albany Avenue.*

*BOTTOM: Planned location for the new Barbour Library, 234 Barbour Street.*



## PUBLIC SERVICES

The Ropkins Library reopened March 6 to the delight of the community and SAND School. Included in the Ropkins' redesign was the creation of the Hartford History Center (HHC) annex. The HHC annex includes high density mobile shelving which houses the Hartford Courant Bound Volume Collection, holding original print newspapers from the 18th, 19th and 20th century; the Hartford Times Bound Volume Collection, holding print newspapers from the 19th and 20th centuries; and the 20th century collection of The Hartford Advocate. This specialized shelving was made possible through the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving's Pomeroy-Brace Fund.

The new Branch Manager at Ropkins, Shannon Strickland, started on May 8th and quickly began making connections in the neighborhood. One attendee of the new computer classes, Paul, was formerly incarcerated; he had received a computer from his case manager with the goal of helping him gain independence and employment.

Since attending the computer classes at Ropkins, Paul has learned to type, use Google Forms, update his resume, and search the web. He has become comfortable with HPL staff and even attended a terrarium class.

The Digital Inclusion for Older Adults program, funded through a \$100,000 grant from the Connecticut State Library, concluded on September 30th. During its nine-month run, the program assisted 120 residents, 70% who were 55 or older and 70% who identified as coming from a minority background.

The program assisted adults with their digital literacy needs, including how to sign up for low-cost broadband offered by the Affordable Connectivity Program and how to use Facebook on their mobile phones. 73 laptops and 23 tablets were distributed.

*Celebratory ribbon cutting for the Ropkins Library reopening March 6.*

## SPOTLIGHT

# Mujeres Emprendedoras

The Mujeres Emprendedoras Project @ Park Street began in July 2022 with support from the Latino Endowment Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. Through this grant, the Park Street Library offered programs and workshops in Spanish, led by local group Arte Popular, with a focus on entrepreneurship and handmade goods.

Arte Popular's members are skilled with sewing, bracelet making, and more—crafts they learned in their native countries (Venezuela, Guatemala, Puerto Rico, Argentina, Colombia). The 22 workshops were well-received by the community and were well-attended.

In October, the Park Street Library @ the Lyric worked in partnership with the Hispanic Health Council (HHC) for the fifth straight year to recognize Domestic Violence Awareness month. Programs around the topic of domestic violence included an awareness walk from HHC's headquarters to the Lyric, a small resource fair, a suicide prevention awareness yoga session with Nikki Adams, and a Poetry Slam with Bessy Reyna and Interval House.

*TOP: HPL Public Services staff Mia Lozado works to raise domestic awareness at the Park Street Library @ the Lyric. BOTTOM: participants enjoy the rich menu of programming offered at the Park Street Library @ the Lyric.*





## YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

HPL Librarians Lina Osho-Williams and Katherine Trouern-Trend teamed up with United Way of Central and NE CT and Hartford Public Schools (HPS) to organize Read Across America Day, a campaign mobilizing volunteers to read to HPS students in their classrooms. The selected book was *Hair Love* by Mathew Cherry. HPL President and CEO Bridget E. Quinn and Director of Public Services Marie Jarry were guest readers at the event's kick-off at Wish School. Five HPL Youth Librarians joined volunteer readers all over Hartford to read and discuss the book.

A yearlong partnership between Hartford Athletic, HPL, Cigna, CRIS Radio, Hartford Public Works, and other community partners culminated in a successful unveiling of the permanent Storywalk at Colt Park on September 29th, featuring an interactive reading of the book *Froggy Plays Soccer*.

HPL partnered with SINA for the first-ever REACH Book Author Contest. It was a great opportunity for students in grades K-5 to write, illustrate, and publish their own books!

Summer Space Mission, held in July and August of 2022, saw 1,351 students with a collective 581,970 minutes of reading! It was a successful citywide collaboration with HPS, United Way, City of Hartford, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, and many other community partners.

After a two-year hiatus, HPS Food and Nutrition Services resumed Summer Lunch Service in June 2022 and served 2,823 meals at the Downtown Library.



*TOP: Children enjoying the digital StarLab at the Ropkins Library.  
 BOTTOM: HPL Public Services Director Marie Jarry (second from left) and Assistant Director of Youth and Family Services Lina Osho-Williams (third from left) with Youth and Family Public Service staff (from left) Juanita Montalvo, Denise Martens and Karina Ramirez at the Colt Park StoryWalk.*

## SPOTLIGHT

# Leap into Learning

Thanks to funding from the Gawlicki Family Foundation, the Leap into Learning (LiL) Home Daycare program is once again serving daycares across the city.

LiL Home Daycare Coordinator Nichole Hawkins joined the Library in April 2022 and recently received the 2023 Read to Grow's Literacy Champion Award. She conducts weekly visits to eight home daycare centers stationed in the North and South ends of Hartford. Services are currently being provided to 57 children and 25 adults.

To date, 38 Supercharged Storytime visits with a total of 76 hours of early literacy engagement have been delivered. Providers receive weekly coaching and participate in literacy training. LiL Home Daycare is for children ages birth through five, along with their parents and caregivers, to ensure all children in Hartford are well prepared and enter kindergarten ready to learn.

This interactive, immersive literacy program offers support to home daycare providers in the form of early literacy resources and training, books, activities and materials, story time home visits and more.

*LiL Home Daycare Coordinator  
Nichole Hawkins*





## YOUMEDIA & TEEN SERVICES

The Nellie Mae Education Foundation awarded the Albany Library a grant in the amount of \$23,400 to support Mindful ARTS. The objective of this program is to teach youth and families mindfulness practices that can be used in everyday life and to give youth the opportunity to express feelings and concerns in a safe space. All courses were well-attended with 12-50 participants.

One of the program's youth ambassadors, Shammia, age 16, shared: "Mindful Arts has been a greater learning experience than most classes have been in school. Rope Flow taught me how to use my body in ways that dispel pent-up anger or anguish; dance taught me how to move my body in a way that suits me, and so did Step/Drill. This program was fun, and I'd love to see it more in schools, where programs like it aren't usually readily available or accessible!"

On May 13th, YOUmedia organized a virtual reality demo of art created by students at the Art ManiFESTation festival. The festival was an outdoor event in the Parkville neighborhood. YOUmedia talked to several students and parents that were interested in visiting the Library and exploring what HPL has to offer.

A science class from Ethel Walker visited YOUmedia in November, where they explored the solar system in virtual reality and modeled their own planet designs with Tinkercad to create a virtual diorama.

The STEP Transition Program at Hartford Public High School visited and explored the space, drawing designs that would later be turned into a virtual world. Working with the Hartford Performs program, YOUmedia went to Kennelly and Breakthrough Magnet schools to teach stop motion animation and game design.



*TOP: Visitors to the Library's YOUmedia enjoy a virtual reality experience. BOTTOM: YOUmedia Manager Marc Pettersen presents a variety of choices to a teen participant.*

## SPOTLIGHT

# Boundless

The Boundless Enrichment Program completed its fourth year and concentrated on serving the diverse multilingual community at Hartford Public High School, offering both academic and recreational activities. English classes were offered twice a week, providing personalized instruction, group activities, and assignments.

Enrichment opportunities featured various workshops, homework assistance, and field trips during the summer months, including events at Hartford Athletic soccer games and family gatherings.

One student referred to the program as a “second home,” and another described it as “life-changing.” These instances underscore the meaningful impact of the program, which often goes beyond quantifiable measures.

The program continues to provide a safe space for students to connect, seek guidance, and explore. The Boundless Enrichment Program is made possible by a federal 21st Century Community Learning Center grant.



*BOTTOM: HPL's YOUmedia celebrated Parents Night and the end of the school year watching Hartford Athletic play Sacramento Republic FC at Trinity Health Stadium. Students, parents and staff were joined by Assistant Principal Justin Taylor, Classroom Teachers Dr. Mirtha Aldave and Zoe Cruz, and Security Guard Pedro Vega from Hartford Public Schools. Cade Buckheit and Emily Linton, recent graduates from the UConn School of Social Work were also in attendance. HPL's Teen Services Coordinator Mike Elder is pictured in the back row, third from the left.*



## ADULT PROGRAMMING

Hartford Changemakers, a Hartford History Center program celebrating Hartford Black, Latinx and Indigenous historical changemakers, was supported by Ensworth Charitable Foundation. Programming focused on mural design and execution, storytelling, photography and nature tours in support of shifting the historical narrative of Hartford to include the majority of current Hartford residents and make Hartford's history more visible and inclusive.

After the Downtown Library's unanticipated closure, the 2023 Baby Grand Jazz series, sponsored by The Kaman Foundation, was welcomed by Center Church. Hartford jazz lovers were able to enjoy bands from Boston to Baltimore for 16 weeks. The final show, a double-header with the AA Team and Matt Dwonszyk and the Dwonztet, took place at the Artists Collective, founded in 1970 by world renowned alto-saxophonist, composer, educator Jackie McLean. With close to 200 jazz lovers at the final concert, Baby Grand Jazz 2023 ended on a high note.

In October 2022, Ebony Horsewomen Inc., Equestrian and Therapeutic Center and HPL, alongside a planning committee of local Indigenous community members, planned and hosted the 2nd annual Hartford Harvest Festival. The Festival celebrated Indigenous identity and culture and featured live music and dance performances by CT tribal representatives, free food from Sly Fox Den Catering, vendors and community organizations.

Support came from Friends of Keney Park, Connecticut Land Conservation Council, Connecticut Museum of Culture and History, Connecticut's Old State House, Hartford 311, the City of Hartford and Witness Stones Project.



## SPOTLIGHT: ADULT PROGRAMMING

### Women Writing and Marching into History

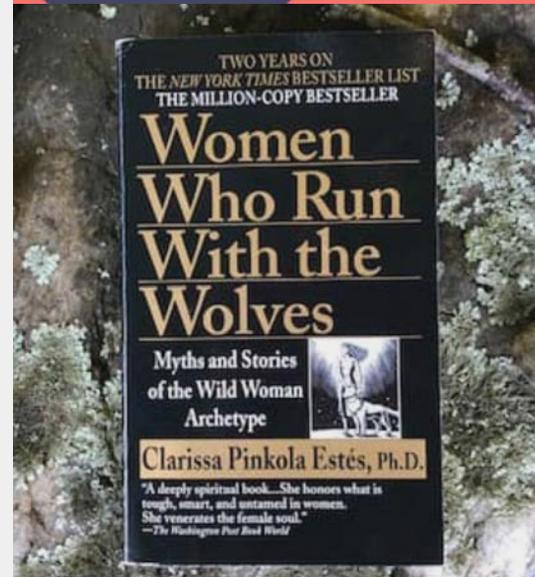
Funded by the Cornelia T Bailey Foundation, in partnership with HPL, and with the support of Capitol Region Education Council's meeting spaces, the Women Writing and Marching into History Conference took place between October 2022 and March 2023.

The conference featured a lineup of workshops, one-on-ones with publishers and literary agents, guest speakers, and a keynote author speaker. Hartford's Literary Integrated Trailblazers (HLIT) hosted two writing workshops at Park Street Library @ the Lyric.

Programming supported Hartford area Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color (BIWOC) in writing and publishing their own narratives, with a goal to expand and diversify Hartford area literary arts and build capacity around continued collaboration and advocacy among BIWOC writers and artists within Connecticut and globally. Over 100 women participated.

In partnership with HLIT, the book club Hartford Reads in Color continued to meet monthly, and HPL cohosted the 4th Annual Hartford's LIT Book Festival which featured Hartford Poet Laureate Frederick-Douglass Knowles II and Ngoma Hill. The festival was packed with local authors, bookstore vendors, workshops, panels, live stage, youth activities, open mic, literary highlights, publishers, a culturally vibrant live stage, and more.

# HARTFORD'S L.I.T. & HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY HARTFORD READS IN COLOR



# LIVE, ON THE BEAT

Hartford Public Library Presents  
*The BEAT*

**HARTFORD ARTISTS - HARTFORD SOUNDS**

LEE MIXASHAWN  
ROZIE

GHAZI OMAIR

THE LOST TRIBE



## HPL STUDIOS

The Beat is a collection of Hartford based music, curated by the HPL and a group of Hartford Community Curators. The Beat delivers commercial-free, curated music for free to HPL card holders. The Beat held its first inaugural 'Live, on the Beat' concert in October at the Bushnell Theater and included: Mixashawn Rozie, Ghazi Omair, and The Lost Tribe. The Beat was featured during the Bushnell's run of *Mean Girls* and full-page article about The Beat was published in the Bushnell's quarterly publication, *Muse*.

HPL Studios was awarded a grant for equipment, educational programming and training around content creation that can be aired on HPATV from the State of Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority.

Christopher Brown, Production Manager of HPL studios, wrote and directed *Thoughts Are Things*, a short film produced by HPL. The film exemplifies how storytelling has the power to promote values, foster new partnerships, influence people, and create change. It recently won the Platinum Remi Award for Dramatic Original short film production. "*Thoughts Are Things* is a story about the importance of reading, libraries, and small acts of kindness," said Christopher. "It's an honor to see the film be embraced in the way it has been."



# LIBRARY ON WHEELS

The Library on Wheels (LOW) visited and served over 200 locations and events.

LOW developed partnerships with Literacy Volunteers of Greater Hartford, The Urban League of Greater Hartford, Foodshare, The Boys & Girls Club, and The Open-Hearth. As part of a collaboration with the Know Thy Neighbor community action group, LOW participated in the planning of the Healing Hartford Mental Health Conference in May 2023. It featured breakout sessions in Mindfulness, Yoga, Creating Family Beyond Biology, a Men's Discussion Group, and keynote presentations by Warren Hardy, Helping Young People Evolve (HYPE), and Maria Jefferson, founder of Purpose Path Counseling Services, LLC..

LOW collaborated with Semilla Cafe + Studio to launch the "No Name Book Club". Each month, they highlight books written by authors of color. In addition, they send their monthly book picks to the incarcerated through their Prison Program. The book club meets at Semilla on a monthly basis. HPL is one of 18 libraries participating in this book club nationwide.

LOW continued regular visits to Hartford Farmers' Markets, as well as local senior centers and provided library cards, books and other resources. In partnership with community organizations, the LOW supports a circuit of 21 "Little Community Free Libraries" around the city.





## THE AMERICAN PLACE (TAP)

This year, TAP offered four strands of ServSafe courses: Food Handler, Food Manager, Alcohol Server, and Allergens. Instructional sessions were offered in a hybrid environment – onsite and remote. 115 students were enrolled this fiscal year. Students received individual and small group coaching, digital literacy, and employment counseling. Partner organizations included Hartford Public Schools and Knox Hartford Urban Farmers program. This program is funded by a Community Development Block Grant.

Opportunities Youth—CompTIA A+ certificate training, funded by Capital Workforce Partners, offered computer networking certificate training, job-shadowing experience, and a paid internship opportunity to 20 students. Classes were held on Saturdays at West Middle School. Most students were fully engaged in internship opportunities at Metro Hartford Innovation Services, East Hartford Public Library, and the West Indian Social Club.

English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, funded by the Connecticut State Department of Education, were offered at the Center Church location on weekday mornings, evenings, and Saturday morning serving beginning literacy, level 1, and level 2 ESL students. The total number of ESL students for FY23 was 231.

Beginning in January 2023, Citizenship classes, funded by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, were held on weekdays at Albany, and Saturdays at the Connecticut Old State House. Volunteer citizenship coaches provided numerous hours of small group/individual tutoring sessions supporting students. Additionally, pro-bono attorneys provided several hours of service supporting TAP clients with application preparation, mock interviews or application review. In addition to the classes The American Place provided legal consultations to 374 customers seeking to apply for Citizenship and prepared and submitted 216 Citizenship Applications. Over 200 applicants achieved Citizenship through The American Place and can vote!



*TOP: English Learner Success students celebrated the end of the summer program with a ride on the Bushnell Park Carousel. BOTTOM: English Learner Success students enjoyed a performance of “It’s a Wonderful Life” at the Hartford Stage Company.*

## SPOTLIGHTS

The English Learner Success afterschool program served over 50 students in grades 9-12 who were newly arrived immigrant and refugee teens from Bulkeley High School in Hartford during the Summer of 2022 and the 2022-2023 school year. The summer program was funded by the Nutmeg Foundation and the after-school program was funded by the Office of After-School Programs at the State of Connecticut Department of Education. Students were rewarded with certificates, gift cards and several enrichment opportunities.

One of the most significant opportunities was the puppet show they performed in collaboration with the staff from the UConn Dodd Human Rights Impact project. The teens created the puppets from scratch. They performed a live puppet show in English using an original script by Neda Izadi, a UConn staff member. The puppet show was performed on a Saturday in March at Center Church for children and their families. After the show, the teens helped the children to make sock puppets under the direction of Enitzaida Rodriguez from Inside ARTside. The room was filled with children, teens, and parents working together and having fun!

On June 20th, HPL's The American Place (TAP) co-sponsored World Refugee Day in collaboration with the CT Old State House and the Dodd Global Impact project of the Gladstein Human Rights Institute at UConn. World Refugee Day featured a panel of refugees who live within our community. They shared stories about their journey to the United States, and how they overcame the challenges of adjusting to a new culture and language in this country. The panelists consisted of HPL's Lina Osho-Williams (Sierra Leone), Assistant Director of Youth Services; Fereshteh Ganjavi (Afghanistan), founder of Elena's Light; Aiti Rai (Nepal), Case Manager at Integrated Refugee and Immigration Services (IRIS); and Salahuddin Adam (Sudan), a Hartford Promise scholar who recently graduated from American International College. Erna Alic (Bosnia), Program Coordinator at TAP, was the moderator.

*TOP: English Learner Success students performed a puppet show for children and their families at Center Church. BOTTOM: Panelists, including HPL's Lina Osho-Williams, shared their experiences coming to the United States during a program at the CT Old State House in honor of World Refugee Day.*





## Hartford History Center (HHC)

HHC's Hartford Changemaker program supported the Juan Fuentes mural development led by Hartford-based artist Lindaluz Carrillo. HHC also managed the Hartford Nature Tour and Urban Farming Program with Lauren Little Edutainment, a Hartford-based farmer who taught participants about community gardens, highlighting Hartford Changemaker Gertrude Blanks (1920-2019), a beloved storyteller. Later in the fiscal year, utilizing HHC's Hartford Changemaker resource guide, the City of Hartford launched the Hartford Black Heroes Trail.

HHC facilitated a number of educational workshops introducing HHC collections, online resources and research strategies. Educational groups included TAP's English Language Learner high school students; Trinity College's first-year seminar classes; and, UConn first year classes learning about histories of inequality and activism.

Hartford History Center was honored as a Game Changer in Connecticut history by CT Explored magazine.

HHC partnered with UConn on a major exhibit, *Picturing the Pandemic*, which opened in October. The exhibition featured images from people around the globe who participated in an online journal project. Included in the display were photographs from HHC's "Hartford 2020 Collection", showcasing three Hartford based photographers: Andy Hart, Jasmine Jones, and Ray Shaw.

HHC continues to be a testing site for UConn's Greenhouse Studio's App, Sourcery. Sourcery assists students and scholars in accessing collection materials remotely. HHC is one of only 4 sites in the country participating in this project funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The HHC continues to prepare for the Library's 250th anniversary year in 2024. HPL's 250th Anniversary Committee is developing events and celebrations to mark this milestone in HPL's history.



*Top image: HPL board member and City of Hartford Director of Equity and Opportunity Karen Taylor, Hartford History Center Education and Community Outreach Manager Jasmin Agosto, and HPL board member Steve Harris stand outside the Downtown Library near a sign for Gertrude Blanks, one of nineteen honorees on Hartford's Black Heroes Trail.*

## SPOTLIGHT

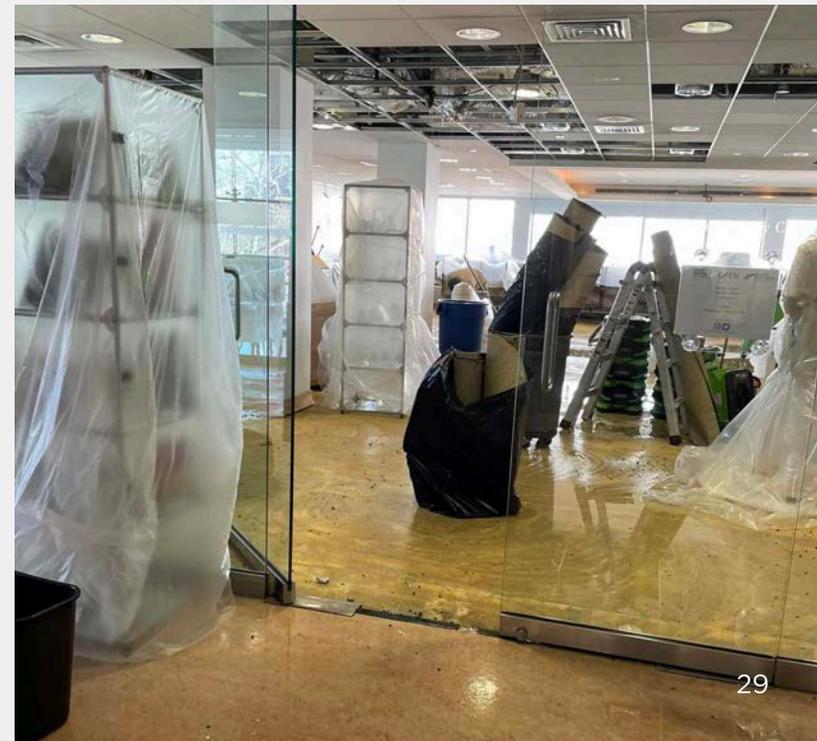
# HHC Annex Opens at Ropkins

HPL's Downtown Library suffered significant water damage late December. Hartford History Center was ground zero for a burst pipe and the public research room was extensively damaged, but no historical collections were impacted. The third quarter was one of significant transition for HHC staff. January and February were spent securing the collections and moving into the newly renovated HHC annex in the Ropkins Library.

With the soft opening of Ropkins on March 6th, the HHC Annex began to have visitors again and many curious SAND students. The students, teachers and parents were intrigued by the bound volumes of the Hartford Courant and the Hartford Times. The new exhibit case, displaying the Hartford Courant from 100 years ago and the Hartford Times from 75 years ago, continues to be a draw. Several students and parents come daily to see the changed headlines.

More than 100 people came to the Ropkins Library April 12 to celebrate the re-opening of the Ropkins Library after its recent renovations. The re-opening also celebrated the new HHC Annex. Joining Library staff to mark this occasion were Mayor Luke Bronin, State Representative James Sánchez and special guest Clyde Mark Billington III, who gifted his father's photographic mid-20th century Hartford streetscapes to the Library's HHC.

The 4th quarter saw a significant uptick in research visits as well as visitors to the HHC Annex. Many visitors come specifically to see the enlarged panoramic photos of Albany Avenue which are a part of the recently acquired Clyde Billington Collection.





## THE ARTWALK

Hartford Public Library hosted two ArtWalk openings this quarter: Christa Whitten's *Gateways to the Places We're Told We Cannot Go*, July 15–August 19, which invited visitors to engage with sacred places around the world where women were not allowed; and Brigid Kennedy's *Visual Narratives*, which opened on September 16 and featured works of art that spoke to current social issues from COVID-19 to war and voting rights. Over 500 people came to enjoy the exhibitions.

Artist Brigid Kennedy hosted an artist talk in November where she discussed the trajectory of her work from largescale abstract work shown in the 1980s and 90s to her current smaller works inspired by critical socio-political issues of our times.

In December, Barbara Hocker opened her show *Ebb & Flow*, showcasing gorgeous, meditative works that brought audiences through water-centric natural environments.

In late December, while there was no damage to any materials on the ArtWalk, Barbara Hocker's show *Ebb & Flow* was removed from the gallery within days of the burst water pipe. The closure of the Downtown Library required staff to extend the Artwalk 2023–24 exhibition calendar to the 2024–25 exhibit year.

The 2022-23 season was funded by the Edward C. and Ann T. Roberts Foundation and Suzanne Hopgood in memory of Frank Lord.



*CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: Brigid Kennedy's "Waiting" from her show Visual Narratives. "Waterfall Library" by Barbara Hocker, displayed in her show Ebb & Flow. Artist Christa Whitten. Images (right) from Christa Whitten's ArtWalk late summer show Gateways to the Places We're Told We Cannot Go.*



## DIGITAL LIBRARY LAB

FY2023 was a busy year for the Digital Library Lab that saw it make great strides toward becoming a premier area studio for multi-faceted, high-quality 2D and 3D digitization.

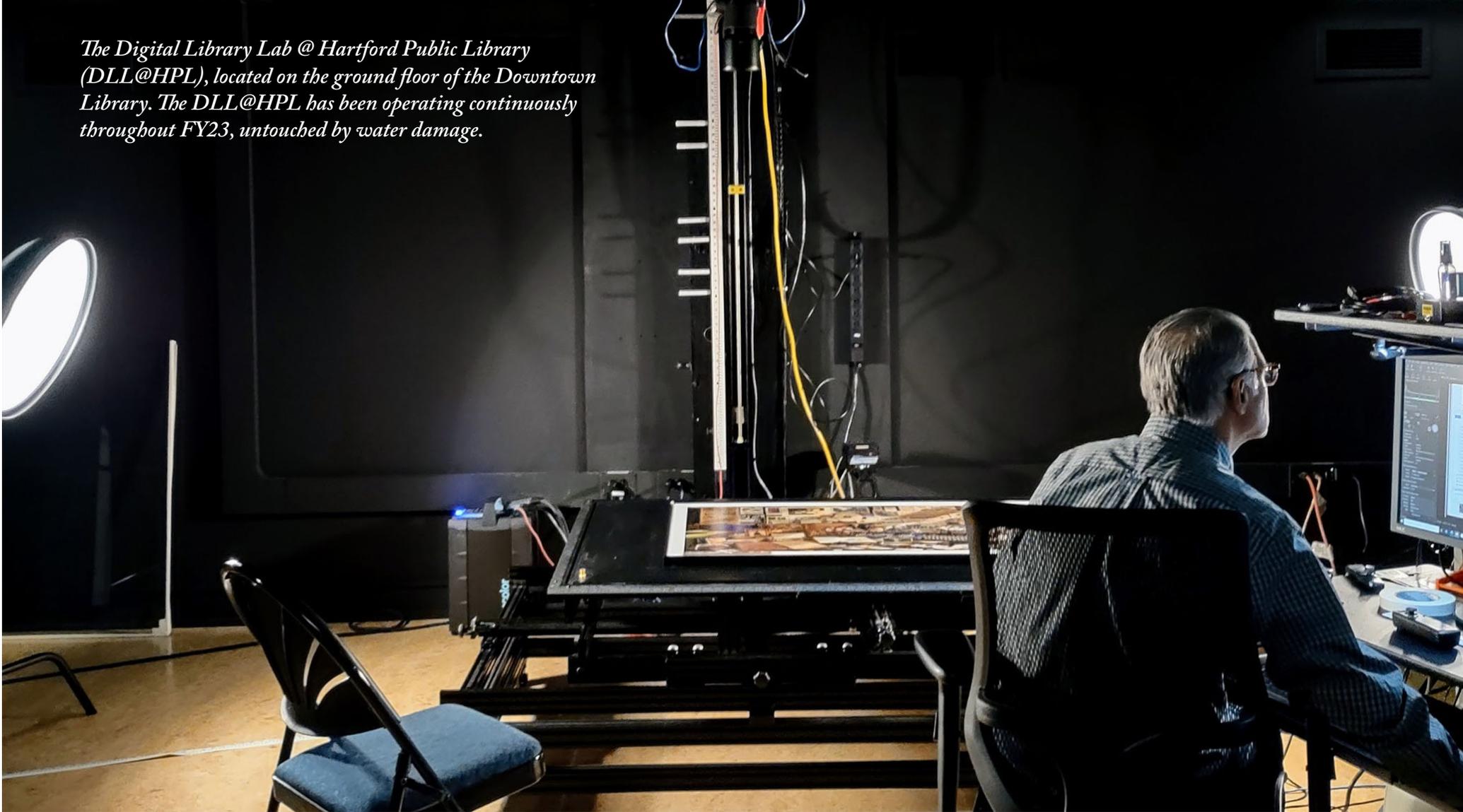
To keep up with the increasing demand of services, DLL employed all of its photographic and standard scanning hardware and software to complete numerous projects of varying scopes, concurrence and materials that included:

- 10-years of document digitization for Hartford's McDowell Communications Group;
- 500 historical roadway construction prints, negatives, and lantern slides for the University of Connecticut's Advanced Pavement Laboratory; CAPLAB's Executive Program Director, James Mahoney said of the work, "We had accumulated a collection of mid to late 20th century pavement related glass lantern slides, black and white photographic prints and negatives from various sources that we had long wanted to digitize for display and educational purposes. Within a week we agreed on a price, got the materials to the DLL and received amazing digitized images back. We were thrilled to see them brought to the digital age!"
- 25-years of Annual Reports and Meeting Minutes for the Housing Authority of the City of Hartford. The DLL has more work scheduled with HACH in 2024;
- Over 500 folders of city street, designs and other planning documents for the Hartford Department of Development Services. The DLL is in talks with this office for additional work in 2024;
- 85 high school yearbooks for the Housatonic Valley Regional High School Alumni Association; and
- DLL's support of the Hartford History Center continued as over 7,500 Hartford Times photographs were scanned for public access on the Connecticut Digital Archives (CTDA).

June of 2023 marked another important milestone for the DLL as it welcomed its first paid intern. Trinity College international student Elviana ("Via") Guterres of Timor-Leste (pictured upper right) was selected to work in the DLL as part of Trinity's "Tech-Edge" program. Via is developing a digitization skillset as she assists in preserving the Hartford Times collection.



*The Digital Library Lab @ Hartford Public Library (DLL@HPL), located on the ground floor of the Downtown Library. The DLL@HPL has been operating continuously throughout FY23, untouched by water damage.*





## COMMUNICATIONS

The Barriers Can't Stop Us grant from The Aurora Foundation to create a new program assisting immigrant women in completing their college degrees was featured in the Library Journal as well as the local NPR affiliate.

In September, Communications organized a press conference with Sen. Richard Blumenthal at the Downtown Library to announce a significant grant that The American Place received to expand banking access for immigrants. The partnership with Liberty Bank and the Connecticut Association for Human Services was featured in several local media outlets.

In partnership with Cinestudio and Hartford Stage, Communications developed marketing and promotional materials for an October screening of the documentary *When My Sleeping Dragon Woke*, a behind-the-scenes look at the development of Sharon Washington's critically acclaimed play.

Communications met biweekly with the Town & City Clerk's Office and other stakeholders on a voter engagement campaign that led to the development of "B.B. the Ballot Box," a character designed by local artist Joe Young featured in a public service announcement, newspaper ads, music video, posters, social media posts and a comic book that was produced and distributed at library branches and other sites across the city.

The New Year began with a press conference January 5 in the Downtown Library to update the public on damage caused by a burst water pipe on the rooftop of its 500 Main Street location as well as introduce the Library's Restore & Renew Campaign. The media event was widely covered.

*TOP: Fox61 interviews Community Hub Manager Deirdre Brickhouse and HPL President and CEO Bridget E. Quinn to highlight HPL's branch locations. YOUmedia manager Marc Pettersen seated at left.*



In early January, Communications worked with FOX 61 news to have Hartford Public Library branch locations highlighted during one of their daily “Good News” segments. The tour included the Albany Library, Park Street Library @ the Lyric and the Ropkins Library.

Collaborating with the Development team, a new website was launched ([www.hplrestoreandrenue.com](http://www.hplrestoreandrenue.com)) to provide updates about the progress of repairs at the Downtown Library as well as the community partners who have stepped forward to support HPL during this time.

Communications created and posted an RFP to seek a design firm to create a new HPL logo. Communications managed the RFP review and interview panel discussions throughout the month of March. More than 28 talented design firms applied for an opportunity to re-imagine the HPL logo. CT firm Miranda Creative was chosen, their logo work began in May. An interdepartmental team was identified and has been working with Miranda Creative on logo design. Three designs were presented in the fall of 2023 for larger consideration.

In collaboration with the City of Hartford and City Council, Communications created materials to promote Hartford’s Black Heroes Trail at library locations and other sites in the city.

We continue to partner with Identidad Latina to promote programming at the Park Street Library @ the Lyric to a Spanish-speaking audience. This has included advertising in their magazine as well as digital coverage of library events on Facebook and other social media platforms.

The 3rd quarter began with the reopening of the Ropkins Library and the formal opening of the Hartford History Center Annex. The program was covered extensively by multiple media outlets.

In early June, Hartford Public Library welcomed Jessica Emonds as the new Communications and Marketing Director. Most recently, Jessica served as the Director for Market Events for a local community venture building studio, Breakfast Lunch & Dinner in Hartford.

*Speaker of the Connecticut House of Representatives Matt Ritter announces state funding to support renovating HPL’s Downtown Library. With Speaker Ritter (from left) Hartford City Councilmember Amilcar Hernandez, State Senator John Fonfara, Mayor Luke Bronin and HPL President and CEO Bridget E. Quinn.*



## 2022–23 AWARDS AND SELECTED GRANTS

2022: NATIONAL LEADERSHIP GRANT FOR “BUILDING SOCIAL CAPITAL: AN INCLUSIVE APPROACH TO IMMIGRANT FINANCIAL INTEGRATION,” INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES  
*The American Place, Hartford Public Library*

2022: SELECTED AS ONE OF 20 “GAMECHANGERS: INNOVATORS IN CONNECTICUT HISTORY,” CT EXPLORED  
*Hartford History Center*

2022: SULLIVAN AWARD FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY ADMINISTRATORS SUPPORTING SERVICES TO CHILDREN, AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
*Marie Jarry*

2022: FAITH HEKTOEN AWARD, CONNECTICUT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
*Lina Osho-Williams*

2022: GOLD AWARD, CORPORATE/ INSTITUTIONAL/PUBLIC SERVICE VIDEO FOR “SWIFT FACTORY,” CONNECTICUT ART DIRECTORS CLUB  
*Hartford Public Library*

2022: OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY ADVOCATE AWARD, CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF LATINO ADMINISTRATORS AND SUPERINTENDENTS  
*The American Place*

2022: PRESERVATION GRANT FOR “HIRAM PERCY MAXIM COLLECTION,” NATIONAL FILM PRESERVATION FOUNDATION  
*Hartford History Center*

2022: SELECTION, PAN AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL; REMI AWARD, WORLDFFEST-HOUSTON INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, “THOUGHTS ARE THINGS”  
*Christopher Brown, HPL Studios*

2022: ROBERT’S FOUNDATION  
*ArtWalk 2022–2023 season*

2022: INNOVATIONS IN CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION GRANT FROM U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES  
*The American Place*

2022: GRANT FROM THE INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES (IMLS) TO LAUNCH A NEW PROGRAM TO EXPAND BANKING ACCESS AMONG IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES  
*The American Place*

2023: LEADERSHIP GREATER HARTFORD’S POLARIS AWARD, EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP  
*Hartford Public Library*

2023: READ TO GROW’S LITERACY CHAMPION AWARD  
*Nichole Hawkins, Leap into Learning Home Daycare Program Coordinator*

2023: 12TH TRIBUTE TO HISPANIC WOMEN  
*Graciela Rivera, Park Street Library @ the Lyric branch manager recognized*

## EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

### QUARTERLY AWARDS

JULY 2022

*Liz Castle*  
*Caleb Hartage*  
*Patricia Knapp*  
*Nelson Lora*  
*Adriana Quinonez*  
*Shannon Strickland*

OCTOBER 2022

*Sully Lugo*  
*Bonnie Solberg*  
*Christina Torreira*  
*Nygel White*

FEBRUARY 2023

*Joe Eshleman*  
*Leo Laffitte*  
*Marc Pettersen*  
*Julie Redding*

### ANNUAL AWARD

OCTOBER 2022

*Mai Chu*

### 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

JULY 2022

*Rick Sanchez*

### 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

JULY 2022

*Mai Chu*

JUNE 2023

*Nelson Lora*

### 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

JULY 2022

*Adria Camacho*



# HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resources team maintained a steady volume of hiring in FY23, with 51 new employees joining Hartford Public Library compared to 54 new employees in FY22. Several key positions were filled across the organization, including internal promotions. Moving forward, we want to benchmark key metrics that will inform solid hiring goals, retention strategies and guide our leadership development work.

Following the flooding of the Downtown Library, HR became a key partner in the strategic,

temporary re-design of staffing models necessary to maintain services to our communities during this challenging time.

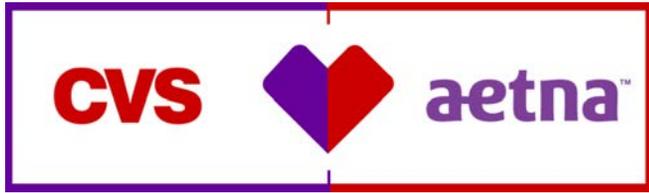
We are excited to report that HPL's diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) efforts continued to move forward. Taking the feedback from our focus groups, surveys and staff trainings in FY22, staff-led groups have spent time clarifying and prioritizing emerging themes, and identifying staff at all levels to build DEI programming. We are actively planning to have an assigned staff

position responsible for DEI advancement in FY24.

We continue to be committed to building a culture of personal and professional development, staff and community connection, and collaborative decision making, all within the spaces of a trusting, safe and empowered workplace.

*Staff gathers for HPL's annual Staff Development Day*





*Many thanks to CVS/  
Aetna, The Hartford,  
and Travelers for their  
multiyear pledge to  
support the City of  
Hartford and HPL.*

## Hartford Public Library Thanks You, Our Donors

July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023

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MUNICIPAL SUPPORT*

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Connecticut Judicial Branch  
Connecticut Public Utilities  
Regulatory Authority  
Connecticut State Department  
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Connecticut State Library  
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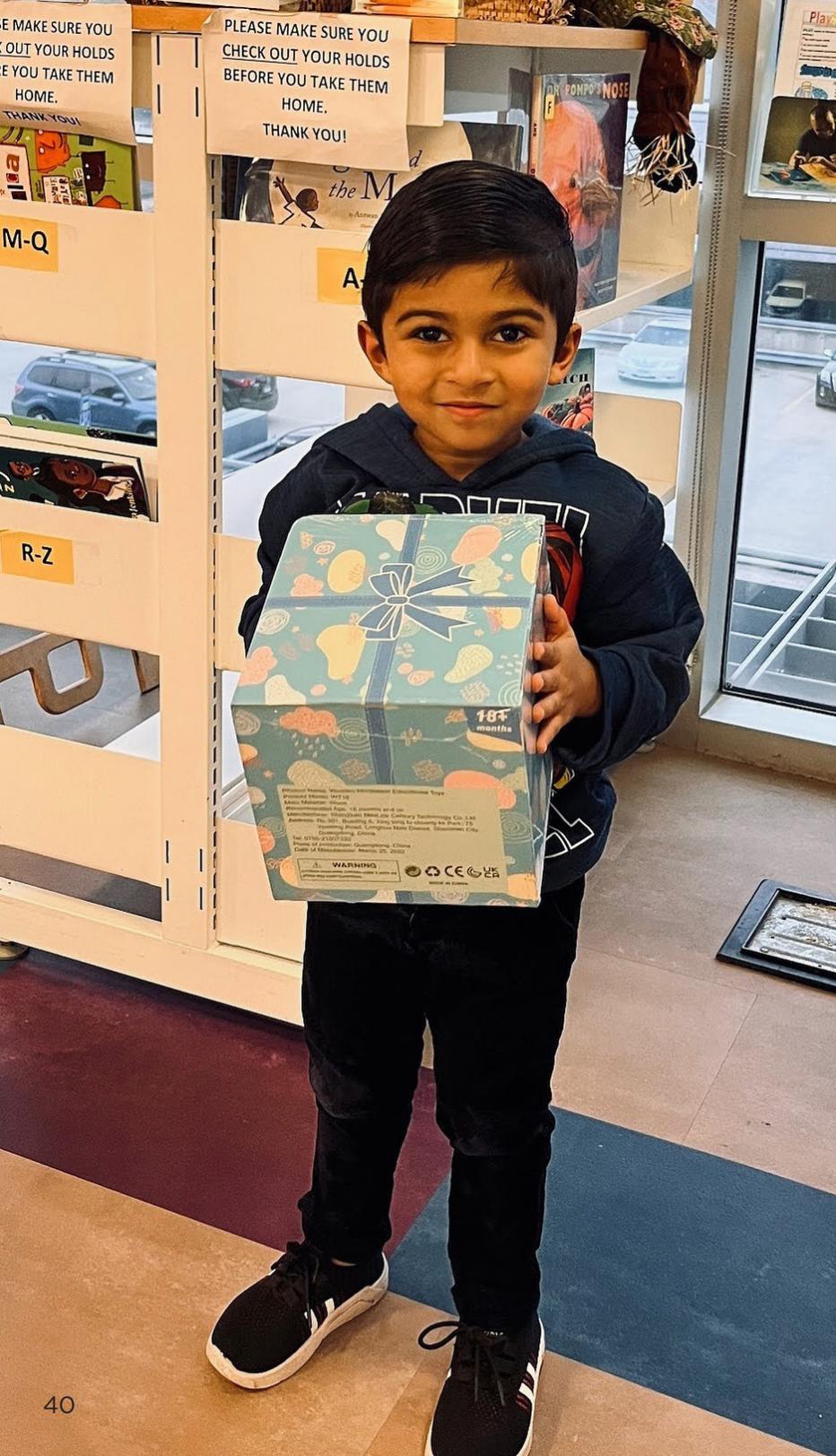
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Paula Jean Yukna and  
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Everlin Wright  
Fiona York

*TRIBUTES*

In Honor of  
Amy Barron  
Michele Brophy & Nancy Caddigan  
Cate D'Italia

Sandy & Howard Fromson  
Cate Grady-Benson  
Hartford Fire Department  
HPL Librarians  
HPL Staff  
The LEID Council  
Joyce Mandell & Meryl Braunstein  
Homa Naficy  
Dan O'Shea  
Bridget Quinn (2)  
Belle Ribicoff  
Gilda Roncari  
Phyllis Shikora  
Donna M. Stout  
Robyne Watkin-Anson (4)  
*In Memory of*  
Aileen Ambinder  
Carl Carlson  
Rose Marie Cilia (2)  
Edward T. "Ned" Coll  
The Kaminski family  
Frank C. Lord (2)  
Norma Kiehnle

Hilda Iris Negrón (2)  
Sandra Trudeau (2)  
Antonina (Ann) P. Uccello (3)  
Q. Williams  
Robert & Harriet Weinerman

*IN-KIND GIFTS*

Margaret Atzeni  
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Big Y Supermarket  
Gay-Ann Brathwaite  
Butterfly Restaurant  
Diane Cadrain  
Cinemark/Rave Motion Pictures  
Cinépolis Luxury Cinemas  
Cirque du Soleil  
Covenant Chapel  
Dave and Buster's  
Dignity Grows  
Michael C. Dooling  
Dadelyn Espinosa Rodriguez  
Fleming's Prime Steakhouse  
& Wine Bar  
Hartford Wolf Pack  
Barbara Hocker  
Suzanne M. Hopgood  
Tao and Amy Labossiere  
Llewellyn Worldwide  
Loomis and Loomis, Inc.  
Mohegan Sun  
Mr. Sparkle Car Wash  
Red Lobster  
Gilda and David Roncari  
Rush Bowls  
Salute Restaurant  
Sandy and Ronald Welch  
Texas Roadhouse  
Marilyn Parkinson Thrall  
and Roger Thrall  
Trader Joe's  
Unity  
Walmart Supercenter  
Hartford Yard Goats

*We would like to thank Shipman & Goodwin*

Through Shipman & Goodwin's pro bono partnership with The American Place at HPL, a conservative value of \$48,693 was contributed by their attorneys assisting immigrants applying for US citizenship.



**Shipman & Goodwin LLP**

## SPOTLIGHT

# The Fromson Courtyard

Howard Fromson's sculpture, *n'pirouette*, was unveiled during a ceremony in the Fromson Courtyard at the Park Street Library @ the Lyric on June 21st, 2023. Howard's wife Sandy helped to unveil the sculpture and shared Howard's love of learning and of libraries in particular. Sandy spoke of Howard's constant search for knowledge and his passion for libraries. One of Howard's favorite quotes was "Hartford Public Library is the heart of Hartford."

Claire Burnett, President of The Garden Club of Hartford announced the new partnership between the garden club and the Park Street Library. "We could not be happier to partner with the Park Street Library of the Hartford Public Library on this exciting project to design and plant the garden beds in the new Fromson Courtyard. Howard's wife, Sandy, is a much beloved member of our club. This project is so worthy of our support and will benefit this beautiful newly renovated Library, the surrounding community and particularly its children."

Guests enjoyed a reception in the Eversource Community Room where they admired the many talents of local artists in the HPL's Restore & Renew Art Show.

*Pictured, from left, Tim Fromson, Claire Burnett (President of The Garden Club of Hartford), Sandy Fromson and Roxie Fromson with Bridget E. Quinn, HPL President & CEO.*





Thanks to the Zachs Family Fund and other investors, Hartford Public Library's Endow Hartford 21 Fund raised \$81,500 with gifts and matching funds.

Thank you to the following donors who gave generously in Phase 1 and 2:

#### ENDOW HARTFORD 21

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Wendy Kwalwasser Ph.D.  
Hernan LaFontaine  
Marcia Lattimore  
Sharon Marhewka  
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Daniel P. O'Shea Jr.  
Belle K. Ribicoff  
Thomas G. Ronalter  
Gerri P. Sullivan  
Debrah Welling  
Ruth L. Woodford (2)

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† Deceased  
Donations 7/1/2022 to 6/30/2023.

**SPOTLIGHT**

# Beyond Words

Beyond Words 22 was held on Thursday, December 8; over 400 guests joined us at the Marriott Downtown Hartford. \$282,000 was raised to support Library programs.

*Clockwise from top left: Joe Gianni, BOA President; HPL Board of Directors; UConn Hartford attendees; YOUMedia Hartford attendees.*



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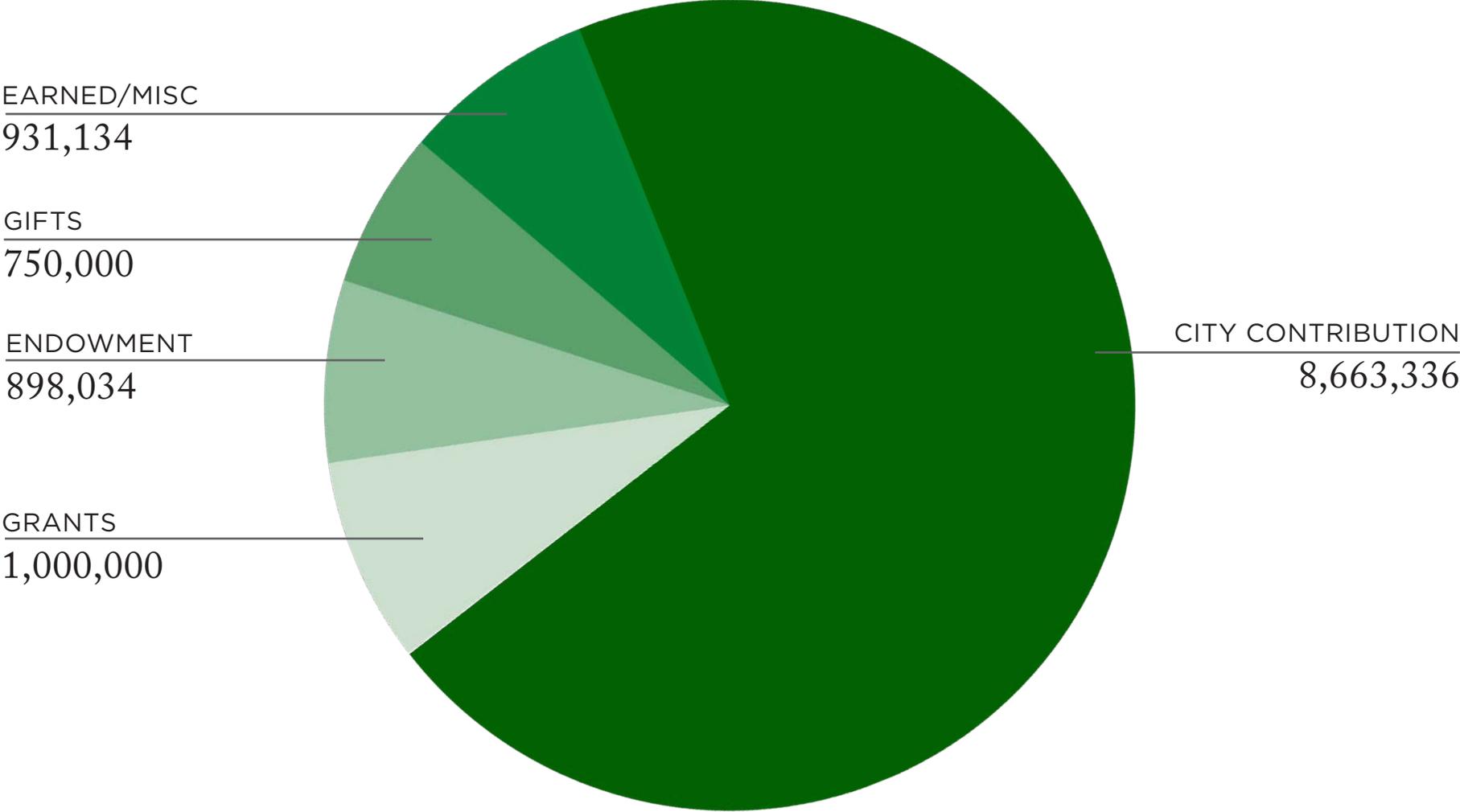
*Charmaine Craig, Ambassador of Distinction*





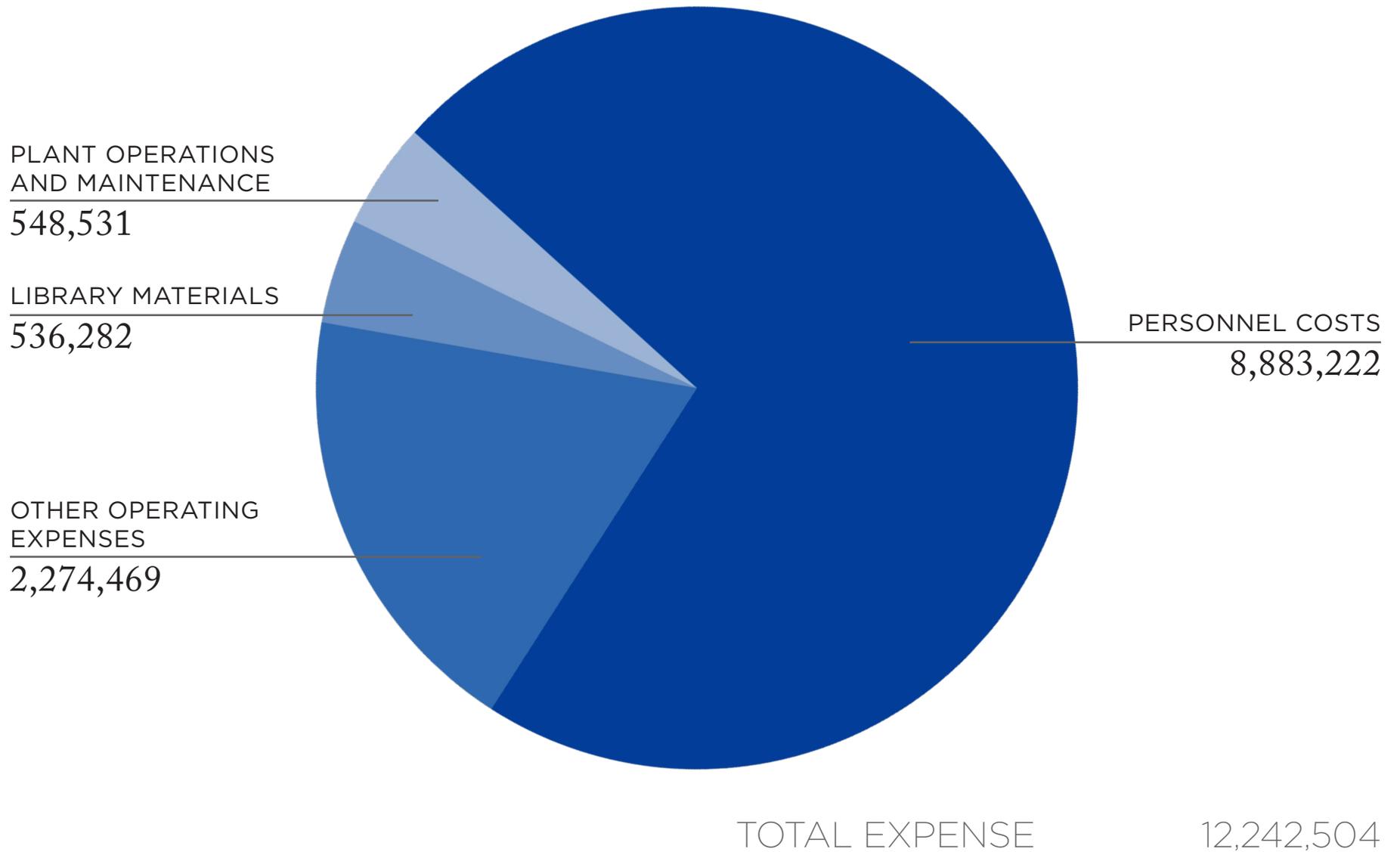
# FINANCIALS

REVENUE



TOTAL REVENUE 12,242,504

EXPENSE



## FY22—STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	FY23*	FY22
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash	885,890	857,453
Investments	31,715,636	26,058,174
Accounts Receivable	440,300	89,677
Contributions Receivable	3,829,513	3,532,526
Prepaid Expenses	85,104	86,795
Property and Equipment, net	7,308,962	8,128,540
Right-of-Use Assets, net	90,283	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>44,355,688</b>	<b>38,753,165</b>
 <b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSET</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	266,493	386,802
Deferred Revenue	525,919	22,403
Lease Liabilities	94,283	0
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>886,695</b>	<b>409,205</b>
 <b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Without Donor Restrictions	38,295,872	34,162,639
With Donor Restrictions	5,173,121	4,181,321
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>43,468,993</b>	<b>38,343,960</b>
 <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	 <b>44,355,688</b>	 <b>38,753,165</b>

*\*FY23 is unaudited as of the printing of the Annual Report*





*HPL's Ropkins Library, 1750 Main St., newly renovated, reopened to the public in March. This family-friendly library in the Clay Arsenal community is now also home to the first Hartford History Center annex in the library branch system.*

## Hartford Public Library is Celebrating 250 Years!

1774 – 2024

Hartford Public Library has a long and proud history as an anchor of civic life in the City of Hartford. The year 2024 marks the 250th anniversary of HPL's founding as the Library Company in 1774.

In preparation for the semiquincentennial anniversary, HPL staff formed a 250th committee to help plan and execute the yearlong, communitywide celebration. The year's events will include: a city-wide scavenger hunt highlighting Hartford history; Books Through Time: 250 Years of Reading; a special collaboration with the Thomas Hooker Brewery; and a 250th celebratory cocktail hour. It will kick off with branch-wide birthday parties with storytellers, performers, music, crafts and more. We will be highlighting milestones from HPL's past, and the dedicated community and staff who transformed a private, subscription library into a public library that has become a cultural hub for the region and a leading example of what an urban library can be in the 21st century.

We are so excited to celebrate this milestone with our community in a fun, inclusive and engaging way and to kick off the next 250 years with you.

We can hardly wait to share what we've been working on. Keep an eye on our website and stay tuned—this is certainly an anniversary celebration you won't want to miss!

## STORYSTASH IS HERE!

This past summer, we unveiled our brand new remote locker system that allows you to order and pick up your materials on hold at your convenience 24/7. The walk-up locker is located next to the Downtown Library's book drop on Arch Street. Hartford Public Library staff Samantha Bailey, Letitia Cotto, Bridget E. Quinn, Mia Lozado, and Marie Jarry joined with HPL Board President David Barrett to cut the ribbon, welcoming a new era in library service.

