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Hartford Public Library Announces Departure of CEO

(Hartford, CT) - Matthew K. Poland, CEO of Hartford Public Library for the last seven years, has announced he will leave the library at the end of 2015. The board of directors of the Hartford Public Library will begin a national search for a successor immediately.

Poland has led the Hartford Public Library through a successful phase that saw the completion of the downtown library's renovations, expansion and redesign of the Albany, Dwight and Mark Twain branches. He worked to develop new programs including CTWorks@HPL, the groundbreaking digital learning center for teens named YOUmedia, and The American Place.

In both 2013 and 2014 the Library was a finalist for the National Service Medal from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. During Poland's tenure the library's downtown flagship and nine community branches became an integral part of public education and community engagement in Hartford's diverse neighborhoods.

"Matt is a passionate leader who brought a daily enthusiasm to his management of the library," says Greg Davis, interim President of the Hartford Public Library board. "Today, the library has a higher profile due to Matt's efforts and that will help attract good talent to be his successor."

Poland, who was born and raised in Hartford, has served as CEO since October 2009.

"I have been incredibly fortunate to serve as CEO of the Hartford Public Library. It's the best job I have ever had and a wonderful gift to have served in my hometown," Poland said.

"But after seven unforgettable years working with a dedicated and compassionate staff, my departure will allow a new generation of leadership to advance our mission of open and free access to information and opportunity."

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