



CONTACT:
Donna Haghghat
Chief Development Officer
860-695-6296
dhaghghat@hplct.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**“LARGE AND SMALL: THE SCULPTURE OF DAVID HAYES” EXHIBIT OPENS
JUNE 5 AT HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY’S ARTWALK GALLERY**

Hartford, Connecticut (June 2, 2015) — Master sculptor David Hayes’ *Large Vertical Motif* has graced the front portico of Hartford Public Library on Main Street for twenty years, and now visitors and art lovers will have a chance to see, in a library setting, more sculptures by the late, nationally regarded artist.

At 6 p.m. on Friday, June 5, the Library’s ArtWalk gallery overlooking Main Street will open a specially curated show called “Large and Small: The Sculpture of David Hayes.” This special exhibition of many sculptures, mostly made during the last decade of the Connecticut-based sculptor’s life, grew out of a conversation between the Library and the Hayes Family, and has been curated, primarily, by Robbin Zella, the Director of the Housatonic Museum of Art in Bridgeport, where these works were shown earlier this year.

“I simply cannot fully express how meaningful this show of David Hayes’ sculptures is to us here at the Library,” said Matthew K. Poland, the Library’s Chief Executive Officer. “In every weather, snow and rain and sunshine, I love to study the two-story sculpture of David’s that is out in front of the Library, and its beautiful abstract shape is a comforting and steady reminder to us of David’s great gifts.”

David Hayes, who was born in Hartford and died in 2013 at age 82, gathered every artistic accolade in a career that spanned six decades, and his sculptures are included in the world’s leading art institutions, the Guggenheim Museum and the Museum of Modern Art among dozens of others. He had more than 300 exhibitions during his lifetime and is recognized nationally and internationally as a modern master. He worked with steel and torch to create modern abstract art in both organic and geometric forms, sometimes brightly painted, sometimes shrouded in flat black.

“Most of the small sculptures [in this show] were made during the last 10 years of my father’s life,” said David M. Hayes, the sculptor’s son. “The small sculptures are often models for larger, scaled-up pieces.”

“Also included in this show is *Seal*, a rare kinetic sculpture of my father’s and a hanging sculpture which, when hanging in a tree outdoors, twirls gently in the wind. Since [my father’s] death two years ago, the family has been proud to mount 20 solo museum exhibitions across America, of which [the Library’s] is the most recent and among the most intimate.”

A special opening reception will be part of the show’s first evening on June 5th, and the public is invited to come and learn more about an artist who was inspired by Alexander Calder and Henri Matisse, who is revered by the wider world, and who called Connecticut home.

ABOUT [HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY](#)

As a finalist for the 2013 and 2014 National Medal from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, Hartford Public Library has been recognized as a national leader in redefining the urban public library in the 21st century as an innovative and stimulating place where people can learn and discover, explore their passions, and find a rich array of resources that contribute to a full life. Hartford Public Library provides free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Serving the residents of Hartford and beyond at its nine branches and Downtown location, Hartford Public Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year from adults, children and families seeking early literacy opportunities, work skills training, civic engagement, arts enrichment, and so much more. Visit hplct.org.