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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Foundation Grants Support Arts and Sciences Programming for Hartford Children and Adults

HARTFORD, Connecticut (July 14, 2014) – Hartford Public Library (HPL) has been awarded generous grants totaling over \$20,000 from three individual foundations to support free programs encouraging exploration in the arts and sciences for city children and adults.

Bank of America’s Evelyn Preston Foundation Fund has provided \$3,000 to fund the Library’s “World of Sounds” Summer Concert Series. The free, six-concert series, hosted at the Dwight and Albany Branches in Hartford’s South and North Ends (respectively), is a celebration of Hartford’s global music community and features local musicians performing latin jazz, classical, reggae, gospel, calypso and more.

A grant of \$7,500 was awarded by the Ensworth Charitable Foundation to support the Library’s Master Classes in Arts & Humanities for Older Adults program, engaging community participants over the age of 55 in creative expression and thinking, develops artistic and critical thinking skills, and uncovers their artistic potential and avenues for productivity. Each module includes a heritage-based seminar which incorporates artifacts, images, and personal narratives from the archives and special collections of the Hartford History Center.

HPL’s Summer of Discovery Program has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from Lincoln Financial Foundation. Summer of Discovery engages Hartford youth in continued learning throughout the critical summer months when low-income students can lose up to three months of reading and math achievement compared to their more affluent peers. The program helps Hartford families achieve summer learning gains as they participate in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) themed programs, read books, gain vocabulary, think expansively, earn incentives, and have a great time. More than a reading program, children will tinker with new tools and explore new ideas that motivate educational achievement and foster a relationship with their public library. Participation in the Library’s Summer Learning program has increased from 300 students in 2011 to over 6,500 students in 2013.

For more information about the above programs, please visit hplct.org

ABOUT [HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY](#)

As a finalist for the 2014 National Medal from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, Hartford Public Library has been recognized as 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.

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