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AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR BRYAN COLLIER VISITS HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Hartford, Connecticut (May 8, 2012) — Hartford Public Library is proud to announce a presentation and book signing from nationally recognized author/illustrator Bryan Collier, Monday, May 14 at 6:00 p.m., at Hartford Public Library's new Center for Contemporary Culture, at its Downtown location. This program is free and open to all ages.

Collier will discuss the process of turning ideas into artistic stories. Known for illustrating great moments and people in African American History, Collier uses paint and collage to express the themes behind these important people and events.

Winning numerous awards during his career, Collier's accomplishments include 3 Caldecott Honor Awards and 6 Coretta Scott King Awards, and his first book, *Uptown*, earned him the Ezra Jack Keats New Illustrator Award in 2001.

Collier enjoys working with kids, and has donated significant time to working with urban youth. He considers it important to be a role model for youth that face challenges to success. "It gives the community, the schools, the kids, and the parents the opportunity to come together for a very positive uplifting cause - the building and re-building of self-esteem, teaching the appreciation of art, and keeping the kids connected and involved and away from negative influences," said Collier.

During Collier's visit to Hartford, he will meet with art students at Hartford High and Weaver High to illustrate how he uses his art to express ideas. The students will prepare new works based on his books, and Collier will lead a discussion on interpretation.

This program is funded by the 2012 ALSC/Maureen Hayes Author/Illustrator Award.

About Hartford Public Library

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Programs provide education, information and enrichment to the people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of Hartford Public Library is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Visit hplct.org and the library's new blog at blogs.hplct.org