



CONTACT:
Rachel Gary
Communications Manager
860-695-6352
rgary@hplct.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hartford Public Library Receives Grants in Support of Civic Engagement, Cultural Integration, and Teen Program Development

HARTFORD, Connecticut (October 15, 2014)-**Hartford Public Library (HPL) has received three generous grants totaling \$50,000** from the Connecticut Department of Education, the New Alliance Foundation, and Wells Fargo, to support critical free programs the Library provides to Hartford adults, children and families.

The Connecticut Department of Education-Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education awarded HPL funding in the amount of \$35,000 to fund a 2015 Adult Education Program Improvement Project **supporting English language learning and civic participation for low-literate immigrant populations**. The grant allows HPL to expand upon its ability to support the integration of Hartford's significant immigrant and refugee population within the community, reduce barriers to civic participation, and help them begin their path toward citizenship.

HPL received an award in the amount of \$10,000 from Wells Fargo to support its YOUmedia Core Programming Initiative (YCPI). The initiative will serve to develop the programming model for YOUmedia Hartford, the Library's brand new digital learning space for teens, act as a test for the center's first year of activity, and determine student interests and establish pathways that ensure future success. With this grant funding, YCPI will begin to develop first year programming through marketing, program testing, and a pilot program.

The New Alliance Foundation awarded HPL \$5,000 in support of *WordPlay Storytimes*, a program that serves approximately 1,800 English language learners ages 2-5 and their parents and caregivers across all 10 Library locations. The program helps to acclimatize immigrant and refugee children to a new cultural environment by utilizing common themes of letters, numbers, colors, shapes, and feelings, as well as well-known folktales that build cultural literacy and comfort.

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

ABOUT [HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY](http://hplct.org)

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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