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## **Hartford Public Library Kick-Off Celebration for Summer Learning Program Set for June 15**

**(HARTFORD, CT: June 6, 2019)** Hartford Public Library (HPL) will open its 2019 Summer Learning program with a Kick-Off Celebration from 12:30-3:00 pm on Saturday, June 15. The celebration will be held inside and outside of the Downtown Library at 500 Main Street, Hartford. Arch Street will be closed to traffic during the event, which will be held rain or shine.

The Kick-Off Celebration will include a wide range of things for the whole family to see, hear and do. Boogie Chillun' will get people dancing on the library terrace starting at 2:00 pm. There will also be zumba, kickboxing and yoga sessions, community organization information booths, face-painting and airbrush tattoos, art and sensory activities with teen interns, and much more. In addition, you can obtain your Hartford Public Library Card and sign up to join one HPL's Summer Learning Clubs.

A special feature of this year's Summer Learning Kick-Off will be soccer classes taught by members of Hartford Athletic, the city's new professional soccer team. Hartford Athletic will also play a big role in the conclusion of this year's Summer Learning Program. Those who complete at least five Summer Learning activities will be eligible for a free ticket to the Athletic's game at the new Dillon Stadium on Saturday, August 24!

"Read. Go. Do." is the theme of HPL's 2019 Summer Learning program and it's dedicated to getting out into the community and learning together. You can join one of six Summer Learning Clubs: Health, Hartford, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math), Art, Nature, and Reading. Complete five #readgodo #leevehaz activities and you'll be eligible for the Hartford Athletic game on August 24 and you'll also be awarded a special button designed by one of Hartford's top artists. You can also qualify by completing five activities from different clubs.

"During the summer, when school is out, the library is in," said HPL CEO Bridget Quinn-Carey. "Our Summer Learning program will be happening at all of our locations throughout the city all summer long, with lots of exciting and educational ways to Read, Go and Do. We're inviting everyone down to our big Kick-Off Celebration on June 15, so they can see how much fun learning can be!"

To find out more about the Summer Learning program, go to: <https://www.summer.hplct.org/>.

Funding for HPL's Summer Learning program is provided by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and the Stanley D. and Hinda N. Fisher Fund. Funding for the live music at the Kick-Off Celebration is provided by the Evelyn Preston Memorial Fund.

## **ABOUT HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Now celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> year, Hartford Public Library remains at the forefront of redefining the urban library experience in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. With seven locations throughout the city, the library provides education, intellectual enrichment and cultural development for thousands of children, youth and adults every year. Hartford Public Library has also gained local and national recognition for its wide range of new initiatives and partnerships designed to meet the needs of a diverse and dynamic city and region, including immigration services, employment assistance and youth leadership training. Please visit [www.hplct.org](http://www.hplct.org).