

President and CEO Highlights

August 2022

	PAGE NO.
Highlights	2
Grants	3
Public Services	3
Public Programming, Events and Outreach	4
Program Production & Engagement/HPL Studios	5
The American Place	7
Culture and Communications	8
Development	10
Capital Projects Update	11
Information Technology	12
Human Resources	12
Statistics	13



APRIL-JUNE 2022

at a glance



39,239

TOTAL CIRCULATION



984

TOTAL PROGRAMS



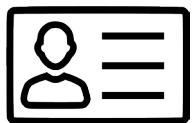
13,243

TOTAL PROGRAM
ATTENDEES



8,359

REFERENCE QUESTIONS
ANSWERED



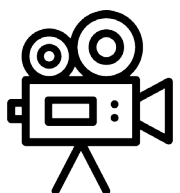
160

MUNICIPAL IDS CREATED



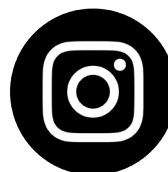
10,070

COMPUTER SESSIONS



3,647

VIRTUAL PROGRAM
VIEWS



17,900

SOCIAL MEDIA
FOLLOWERS AND FANS

GRANTS

In Q4, \$2,062,549 in Awarded Grants (consisting of Private Foundation, Corporate, Federal, State, and City Grants), and an additional \$1,628,569 in Pending Grants (as of 7/6/22)

Travelers awarded Hartford Public Library \$100,000 for operating support of educational initiatives and support of the 2022 Beyond Words event.

The 2022 summer learning program received \$20,000 from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and \$25,000 from the Fisher Foundation.

The Roberts Foundation is once again sponsoring Hartford Public Library’s Artwalk in the amount of \$14,000.

Hartford Public Library was also awarded grants from The Ensworth Charitable Foundation, the Evelyn Preston Memorial Fund, the Charles Nelson Robinson Fund, and the Aurora Foundation.

	AWARDED		PENDING	
	#	AMOUNT	#	AMOUNT
GOVERNMENT	0	\$0	5	\$694,444
FOUNDATIONS	7	\$85,200	9	\$934,125
CORPORATION	2	\$85,000	0	\$0
TOTAL	9	\$170,200	14	\$1,628,569

PUBLIC SERVICES

On June 21st and 22nd, Vision to Learn offered their services to customers at the Albany and Park branch locations. Vision to Learn is a mobile van that offers free vision exams and eyeglasses to children from ages 5-18. HPL was the first library to host this service. Altogether, they provided free eye exams to 27 children and prescribed free eyeglasses for 24. The children will receive their new glasses at the branches on July 20th. HPL is already discussing the possibility of providing this service again soon.



PUBLIC PROGRAMMING, EVENTS, AND OUTREACH

KINGS OF B'MORE BOOK RELEASE WITH R. ERIC THOMAS, IN CONVERSATION WITH VERSATILE POETIQ

Thursday, June 9th 2022: 6-7:30pm
Hartford Public Library, Atrium
500 Main Street Hartford, CT

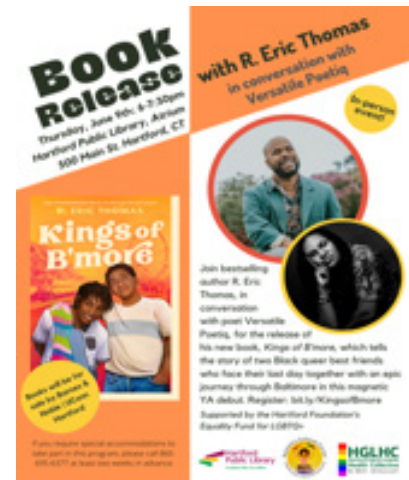
Hartford Public Library had the opportunity to host best-selling author R. Eric Thomas in an in-person event in conversation with Hartford poet Versatile Poetiq, celebrating the release of his new book, *Kings of B'more*. HPL received grant funding for this event from Hartford Foundation's Equality Fund for LGBTQ.

Kings of B'more tells the story of two Black queer best friends who face their last day together with an epic journey through Baltimore in this magnetic YA debut. Through their unpredictable adventure, main characters Harrison and Linus learn about the necessity of friendship and queer community.

In order to connect with as many queer young people, as well as adult queer communities, in Hartford, HPL promoted this event to the Hartford Public School's Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) network, Q Plus, UConn Rainbow Center, and Trinity Queer Resource Center.

Local LGBTQ served organizations such as Kamora's Cultural Corner and the Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective who co-sponsored the event and provided giveaways and materials about their services.

The event started with a conversation between Eric and Versatile, as they discussed inspiration for the book, Eric's writing origin story, and the importance of Black queer representation. The audience Q&A furthered conversation around the seemingly bright future of YA publishing, writing diverse Black characters, and discussing what is next for Eric's varied career. Afterwards, Eric met with audience members for book signing, with book sales from Barnes and Noble UConn Hartford.





R. Eric Thomas is the bestselling author of *Here for It*, or *How to Save Your Soul in America*, a Read with Jenna book club pick featured on *Today* and a Lambda Literary Award finalist. He is the co-author of *Reclaiming Her Time*, a biography of Rep. Maxine Waters. He is also a television writer (AppleTV+'s *Dickinson*, FX's *Better Things*), a playwright, and the long-running host of *The Moth* in Philadelphia and D.C. For four years, he was a senior staff writer at *Elle.com* where he wrote "Eric Reads the News." *Kings of B'more* is his YA debut. Learn more at rericthomas.com.



Brittana "VersatilePoetiq" Tatum was born and raised in the Hartford area and has a Business Administration degree from the University of Hartford. She has been performing Spoken Word for 10 years and teaching Spoken Word for 8 years. Currently, she works for Charter Oak Cultural Center and Arts for Learning Connecticut and has taught at many schools in Hartford. Versatile has performed in front of 20,000 people at the 2019 Greater Hartford Jazz Festival and hosted the 2019 Trinity International Hip Hop Festival. Her stage name is VersatilePoetiq due to her universal appeal and unique mix of Spoken Word and Rap.
@versatilepoetiq

PROGRAM PRODUCTION & ENGAGEMENT/HPL STUDIOS

Long awaited, this quarter Hartford Public Library released the first ever online music collection of Hartford music: *The Beat!*

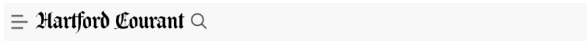
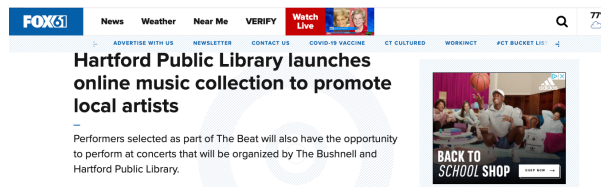


Thanks to the work of the Community Curators group, *The Beat!* was set up for success from the very beginning. The group was tasked with the job of curating the collection and consists of influencers of Hartford's music scene such as: Yolande Spears (Bushnell), June Archer, Maurice Robertson, Jocelyn Pleasant, Andres Chaparro, Stephen Cusano (Parkville Sounds), and Elijah Williams (HPL/YOUMedia).

The convergence of the influencers was immediately followed by the process of launching the platform to the public. The first step of the launching process was to produce marketing material that would grab and hold the attention of Hartford artists and music-lovers; therefore, HPL produced two promotional videos that showcased the idea of Hartford musicians bringing their music to HPL. The production featured Ghazi Omair, a Hartford producer and lyricist, who's album Lavender is one of the initial albums featured during the launch of The Beat!

The Beat! officially launched on June 6th, making the first submission round open to Hartford artists. This new platform and initiative garnered a great deal of excitement and buzz around the city, resulting in HPL being featured in multiple interviews and stories, including Fox61 News, and the Hartford Courant.

This new resource has continued to influence excitement for Hartford music-lovers of all kinds. As the first submission comes to a close, The Beat! has received a total of 14 album submissions, with many more interested artists looking forward to the Winter '22 round.



Lee Mixashawn Rozie is among the five inaugural artists in the new "The Beat" local music archive created by Hartford Public Library. The albums stream for free on The Beat's website, or can be downloaded with a Hartford library card. (Courtesy Hartford Public Library)

THE AMERICAN PLACE

OPPORTUNITIES YOUTH

On June 30th, ten youth program participants completed HPL's IT training program.

It has been rewarding to see them learn about the IT field, the world of work, employer expectations, and to complete three college courses at Capital Community College during this program. They've developed confidence in their futures and see HPL as an educational community resource for them and their families.

HPL's IT department provided a valuable job shadow experience for all of our students. Thank you to the IT staff Kashif Chaudhary and Zachary Peters. Our participants expressed that observing the activities in a busy IT department was quite an eye opener and enabled them to see themselves in this type of work.

Charisse Snipes and Linda Martinez of the City of Hartford enthusiastically welcomed eight of our students to internships at Metro Hartford Innovation Services (MHIS) where they were allowed to intern in units where they had specific interest such as network security, asset tagging, and technical support.

Two other students interned on site at HPL (downtown) in our children's department and in YOUMedia based on their specific career interests. Thank you to Lina Osho-Williams, Mike Elder and Marc Pettersen for providing these valuable learning experiences.

Two out of ten program participants have entered employment in IT at Infosys in Hartford. A third is also under consideration once his background check is completed. One participant is registered to continue IT study as a full-time student at Capital Community College this fall.

Our students have expressed that they were surprised to find such an opportunity at a library. Parents have also mentioned that they had no idea that this type of training would be free and available to their children at HPL. Some parents are referring new students to us based on their child's experience.

Our students enjoyed attending the musical Hamilton at the Bushnell the evening after program completion.

This was a perfect end of program celebration.

CULTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS



HARTFORD HISTORY CENTER

The Hartford History Center worked closely with its neighbor, the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, in support of the Wadsworth's recent exhibition on the life and work of Milton Avery. HHC staff located an image of Milton Avery in the Hartford Times Collections, which became the cornerstone of the Wadsworth's Hartford specific aspect of the traveling exhibition, "Milton Avery." The HHC's contributions landed the library's HHC an acknowledgement and thank you in the exhibition catalog. Additionally, the HHC hosted the Friends of the Wadsworth Atheneum on April 13th. HHC staff presented an overview of

the HHC and a tour through its exhibit, "October 1920" featuring Marilyn Parkinson Thrall's sculpture, "The Art of Perseverance." HHC staff also exhibited collection materials thought to be of interest to the group. On display were Hartford Times photographs of the exterior and interior of the Wadsworth. One photo featured a young woman who worked at the reception desk in the mid-1960's. One of the visitors was visibly moved upon seeing the photo. It turns out that the young woman pictured was our visitor's brother's fiancé who died shortly after the photograph was taken and shortly before she was to be married. This is just another example of the serendipitous things that happen in HHC.

ARTWALK

Hartford-based mixed media artist, Megyn Craine, showed her first solo exhibition on the ArtWalk May 13 through June 25, 2022. Her exhibition, *Artifact*, was a collection of work that mixes common materials and found objects with various concepts – from Alzheimer's to the prison system to sexist language – to reveal unseen connections and create new layers of meaning from our everyday experiences.

Approximately 720 people of all ages and backgrounds came to see the exhibition and also interacted physically with it as two of her pieces were made to add to and take from, being transformed by viewers throughout the exhibition period. Some of the comments visitors wrote included: "thought provoking," "witty and shimmering with spirit," "interesting use of space/layers/texture," "past and present converge" and "insightful." On May 21, Craine led 16 adults



through a conceptual collage workshop and made gorgeous, layered, mixed media work.

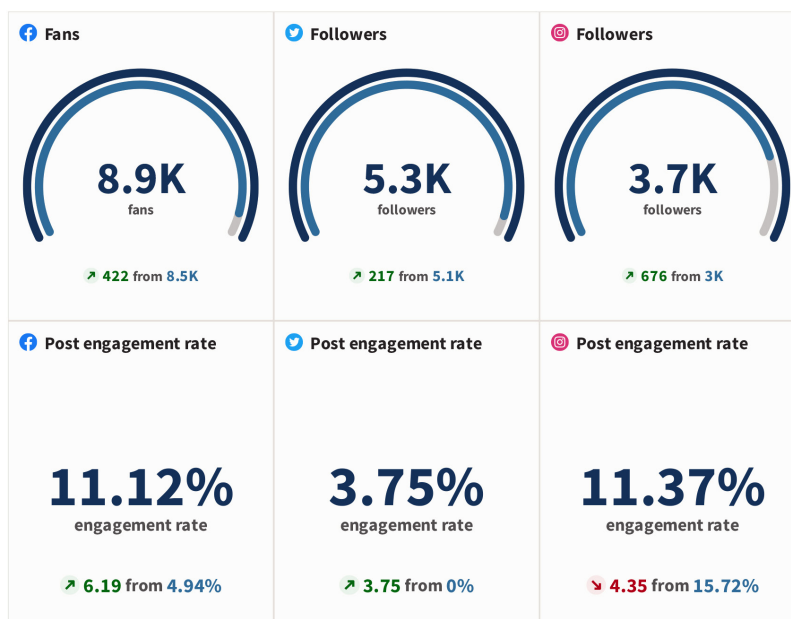
DLL@HPL

Brad Overturf was hired as the new DLL@HPL Manager, joining the library in mid-June. Brad worked on and supervised engineering, research, and planning teams at the CT Department of Transportation for over 30 years. As CTDOT's Photolog Supervisor he oversaw the first-ever High-Definition image collection of all state roadways completed by a US state DOT (think Google Street View before Google Street View) and the 35mm-to-4K digital transfer of over 11 million archived roadway film images. He holds a master's degree in American Studies from Trinity College. In his spare time, he runs, reads, and travels, and is the VP of the US Track and Field CT Association.



COMMUNICATIONS

In Q4, Communications wrapped up a multipronged marketing effort for HPL's popular Baby Grand Jazz Series that included a paid social media campaign as well as print materials and display advertising. While in-person audiences returned to the concerts at the Downtown Library, they continued to be streamed online and received strong interest across our platforms. In total the series was viewed more than 8,200 times on our YouTube channel and Facebook page.



DONOR RECEPTION FOR THE PARK STREET LIBRARY @ THE LYRIC LEGACY CAMPAIGN

A thank you reception was held on June 3rd at the Park Street Library for major donors to the Legacy Campaign. The recently installed donor signs were there for all to see.



*Eversource employees **Theresa Hopkins-Staten**, President Eversource Energy Foundation, and **Ana Alfaro**, Legacy Campaign Co-Chair.*



***Ana Alfaro** and **Marilda Gándara**, Legacy Co-Chairs, thanked all the donors.*



*HPL President & CEO, **Bridget Quinn**, welcomes the guests to the reception.*



***Jill Hutensky**, SVP, Hartford Market, shared how honored Bank of America is to be a supporter of HPL in many ways.*



Jason Rojas, House Majority Leader and Chief of Staff to Trinity College President Joanne Berger-Sweeney, explains why Trinity and the State of CT supported this important new addition to the Frog Hollow community.



Guests enjoy the new Eversource Community Room at Park Street Library@The Lyric—something the community had been requesting for a very long time.



Update: “Hartford Public Library Endow Hartford 21 Fund raised over \$53,000 with gifts and matching funds” the Library has signed on for Endow Hartford 21 Phase 2! Thank you to everyone who participated to date!

CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

ALBANY BRANCH ANNEX

The North-West School Building will be renovated and built out to create the Albany Branch Annex. The annex will be connected to the existing Albany space providing additional capacity to meet the needs of the community. The project will consist of two phases. Phase I consists of the stabilization and remediation of the North-West School Building. Phase II will be the building out of the space and connection to the existing library building.

The specifications and drawings for the remediation and stabilization work have been completed and an RFP was issued on June 24, 2022. A site walk through was conducted on July 12, 2022, with potential bidders. Bid responses are due back the 1st week of August.

BARBOUR LIBRARY @ SWIFT

A series of Community engagement meetings were facilitated by Margaret Sullivan Studios providing the community with the ability to share the services they would like to have available at the new library.

Preliminary design schematics were completed by Silver Petrucelli and Associates architectural firm in June/July timeframe.

Downs Construction Company, LLC was selected as the Owners Project Manager for the Swift Project.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

In June, the Library successfully transitioned to a new IT infrastructure service provider, All Covered. As part of this transition a full time and a part time IT Help Desk staff were hired who will be supporting help desk and IT project implementations.

Cybersecurity – Knowbe4 cybersecurity company, providing employee education, testing, and phishing protection services was selected to provide cybersecurity services for the Library in June.

IT is in the process of implementing the services in the month of July and anticipates beginning all staff cybersecurity training by the end of the 1st quarter.

HUMAN RESOURCES

NEW HIRES

Abigail Gagliardi, *YOUmedia Mentor*
Madison Gaucher, *part time, Library Assistant*
Natasha Goodwin, *part time, Library Assistant*
Grady Jones, *Security Guard*
Nichole Hawkins, *Program Coordinator,*
Leap into Learning
Jeanne Hendricks, *Security Guard*
Sabrina Houghton, *Security Guard Supervisor*
Mia Lozada, *part time, Library Assistant*
Mary O’Neil, *Adult Education Coordinator*
Bradley Overturf, *Digital Library Lab Manager*
Stephen Pendergast, *floating, Library Assistant*
Michele Rosas, *YOUmedia Mentor*
Daniel Santiago, *Development Assistant*
Lenard Stewart, *Security Guard*

NEW POSITIONS

Lina Osho-Williams, *Assistant Director,*
Youth and Family Services
Stephanie Turner, *Maintainer I*

ORGANIZATIONAL INITIATIVES

HPL continues their ongoing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Programs & Efforts. Four of four facilitator-led modules in the Leadership Recenter phase were completed; 7 of 8 facilitator-led modules in the all-staff Learn phase were completed. All staff continue to have access to 12 self-paced learn modules through the LSC website.

STATISTICS

PROGRAMS 4th QUARTER April - June 2022

Downtown	FY 2020-2021			FY 2021-2022		
	Programs	Attendance	Views	Programs	Attendance	Views
American Place	372	2,459	0	385	2,961	0
Finance	4	116	0	5	178	0
Hartford History Center	9	112	2,798	11	341	0
Programming	16	448	3,436	35	969	1,072
YOUmedia	92	631	1,298	28	92	0
Youth Department	81	1,541	1,462	97	2,230	149
Totals	574	5,307	8,994	561	6,771	1,221

Branches	Programs	Attendance	Views	Programs	Attendance	Views
Albany Adult	2	11	0	11	87	0
Albany Youth/Teens	1	5	0	75	1,411	0
Barbour Adult	14	160	0	4	77	0
Barbour Youth	25	288	318	44	600	78
Camp Field Adult	5	20	0	7	36	0
Camp Field Youth	25	311	105	22	130	0
Dwight Adult	7	45	0	17	275	0
Dwight Youth	66	1,053	918	69	1,104	0
Park Adult	5	45	0	14	526	0
Park Youth	25	387	562	38	721	506
Ropkins Adult	4	45	23	4	11	18
Ropkins Youth	35	352	1,535	31	639	1,824
Library on Wheels	0	0	0	1	21	0
Totals	214	2,722	3,461	337	5,638	2,426

Pilot & Other Programs	Programs	Attendance	Views	Programs	Attendance	Views
Rawson	0	0	0	14	405	0
Boundless @ HPHS*	132	270	0	72	429	0
Totals	132	270	0	86	834	0

HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY 4th Quarter Programming Totals

	FY 2020-2021	FY 2021-2022
Programs	920	984
Attendance	8,299	13,243
Recorded Program Views	12,455	3,647

*Hartford Public High School

VISITS SYSTEMWIDE 4th Quarter

79,656