

FISCAL YEAR 2022-23
FOURTH QUARTER
(APR-JUN 2023)

President and CEO Report

August 2023

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APRIL-JUNE 2023

at a glance



35,230
ITEMS CHECKED OUT



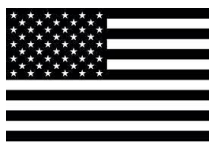
68,281
SYSTEMWIDE VISITS



6,975
TOTAL PROGRAM
ATTENDEES



12,662
REFERENCE QUESTIONS
ANSWERED



26
NEW CITIZENS
NATURALIZED



9,232
COMPUTER SESSIONS



247
MUNICIPAL IDS



\$1.1M
GRANTS AWARDED

This quarter HPL saw:

- 247 Municipal IDs created and 143 documents notarized
 - 35,230 items checked out
 - 9,232 computer sessions and 19,831 Wi-Fi sessions
 - 12,662 reference questions answered
- » The new Branch Manager at Ropkins, Shannon Strickland, started on May 8th and quickly began making connections in the neighborhood and offering computer classes. One attendee, Paul, was formerly incarcerated and received a computer from his case manager with the goal of helping him gain independence and get employment. He suggested Paul go to the library for help using his computer. Since Paul started attending Ropkins' classes, he has learned to type, use Google Forms, update his resume, and search the web. Paul has become comfortable with our staff and even attended the terrarium class.



- » The Dwight Library focused on providing programming to address concerns of the Hartford community. On May 26th, they partnered with DPW (Department of Public Works) to offer a Q&A session that would answer questions from the public that pertain to waste, recycling, bulk waste, fines, and so forth. The panel included a supervisor from DPW and two inspectors from the City of Hartford. They distributed free tote bags, along with informational packets of the services they provide. Physical wellbeing was also addressed with a weekly Zumba class in May. Customers participated on a consistent basis and were very excited and engaged. During the last class, participants requested to bring Zumba back in the Fall. The instructor was phenomenal, with amazing positive energy!



- » Park Library has also been addressing issues of community concern. On April 19th, CT State Treasurer representatives visited the Park Library, to provide information on Baby Bonds, a new law for children born after July 2023 under HUSKY. Funds will be invested in an account that accrues interest over time. When the child turns 18, they can use the funds to buy a home, pay

for college, pay for trade school, or save for retirement. Families who attended were very interested in the opportunity and had many questions. The presentation was offered in Spanish & English.

- » On June 22nd, 120 people rocked out to Boogie Chillun, a soulful band, as part of Barbour's Foodshare distribution. Jewelry making with Jackie Bright and kite making with The Children's Museum was offered to families as part of the event.
- » Albany has been jam-packed with collaborative programs that display the community's diversity. Mindful ARTS programming was in full swing, funded by a grant from Nellie Mae. This included an Art journaling course, multiple jewelry-making courses, Rope Flow, a unique course by world-renowned artist Joe Young, a paint pouring class, and more. All the courses focused on helping youth to learn how to practice mindfulness as part of their daily life and were well-attended with 12-50 participants. Mindfulness practices were taught, and youth were observed using some learned techniques to resolve an issue at the library. One of the program's youth ambassadors shared, "Mindful Arts has been a greater learning experience than most classes have been in school. Rope Flow taught me how to use my body in ways that dispel pent-up anger or anguish; dance taught me how to move my body in a way that suits me, and so did Step/Drill. This program was a fun one, and I'd love to see it more in schools where programs like it aren't usually readily available or accessible." Shammia, age 16
- » The number of Municipal ID applications completed in June (14) was the highest monthly total ever recorded for Camp Field! A total of 8 Muni IDs were processed in Jan-Dec 2022; during the period Jan-June 2023, the total was 47. The support of Downtown staff, walk-in availability, and larger number of Muni ID agents have contributed positively to this trend. The demand for notarizations has also been steady.



YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

- » 3-2-1 Hartford Blast Off Summer Kickoff 2023--HPL hosted six Summer Learning kickoff events across the system. This year's program was designed in collaboration with Hartford Public Schools and numerous community partners. The theme celebrates the NASA exhibits all branches are showcasing this summer. At each kickoff, families enjoyed a wide variety of fun activities including West Hartford/Niantic Children's Muse-

PUBLIC SERVICES

(continued)

um Star Labs, canvas painting, henna, yoga, face painting, balloon twisting, drag queen story time and pride cafe, Virtual Reality experiences from YOUmedia, pizza, tons of free books and other giveaways, and special performances from local musical groups.

» In honor of Juneteenth, Barbour Library hosted a family fun day that featured a puppet show, Juneteenth story times, free giveaways (books, Juneteenth pins, bookmarks and more) African drumming and dancing, jewelry making for adults with Jackie Bright, t-shirt tie-dying, face painting, beef/chicken patties from Scott's Bakery and an ice cream social. Children and families had a great time learning about the significance of Juneteenth.

» The Downtown Children's Room Book Bag Delivery service was created for Downtown families whose access to reading and learning materials has been impacted by the Downtown Library closure. Each week, families fill out a Google form to request books. Staff help to fill the bags with requested materials that include specific titles or topics, and once a week deliveries are made to Main Street Apartments and Bushnell Tower Apartments. Last quarter, 135 children received books through this service.

» The Boundless Library @ Rawson partnered with KPMG to hold a book fair event for six classrooms (approximately 100 students). Each student in 2nd–5th grades picked out two books to take home and keep and they were also able to create their own bookmarks.

» The Leap into Learning Home Daycare Program hosted its end of year celebration at the Story Barn. Families explored the grounds during a Scavenger Hunt and enjoyed music, movement, and story time presented by author Renta Bowers. Program completion certificates and incentive packages were given to the family childcare providers. Children received dinosaur-themed gift bags and parents/caregivers received grab bags filled with early literacy resources. The Read to Grow Bookmobile was in attendance and gave away free quality, age-appropriate books.



PUBLIC SERVICES

(continued)

- » Ropkins' Youth Services Assistant Librarian Linda Montanez was invited to be the keynote speaker for The Village SAND School Family Gala. Approximately 104 adults attended the event with 56 students from the school. Ropkins and the Village's after school program at SAND School have worked in partnership for over a decade. It was the first time The Village planned this formal event for families.
- » Manchester's Lutz Children's Museum is partnering with HPL this summer to provide a special program—Reaching Beyond the Neighborhood: Helping Urban Families Explore a Suburban Children's Museum. Downtown families visited the museum early this summer on Monday June 12. Twenty-five children and their parents explored the play area, visited the animal room, took part in an engaging science program—Fur, Feathers or Scales and afterwards had a snack. Upcoming Hartford visits will include Albany families on July 17 and Park on August 7.

TEEN SERVICES



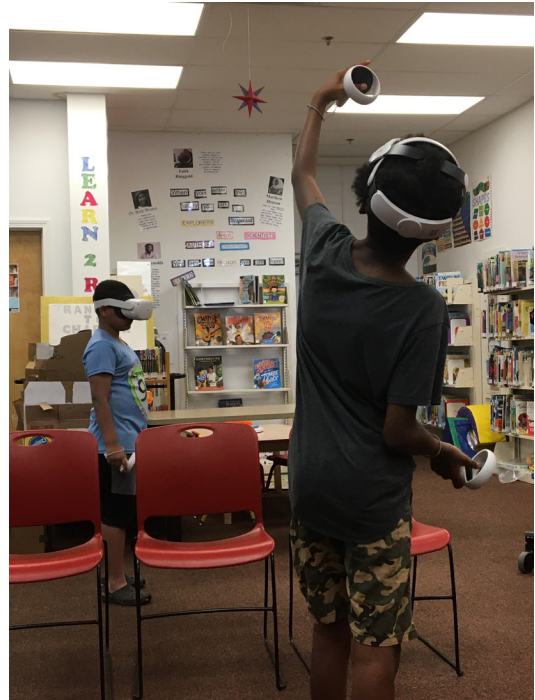
- » From April to May, YOUmedia hosted three interns from CT River Academy who participated in the CAPstone project. The interns were actively involved in various activities, contributing their skills and knowledge to the YOUmedia community. One intern helped create a virtual reality experience featuring artwork from the YOUmedia students and scenes of Hartford. Another intern was trained to use Kingspray, a virtual reality graffiti application and created a timelapse of his art that was projected onto a large building during the Art MainFESTation event in May. This was a huge success because he got to see his art come to life on a large scale and network with professionals at the festival.
- » On May 13th, YOUmedia organized a virtual reality demo of art created by students at the Art ManiFESTation festival. The festival was an outdoor event in the Parkville area of Hartford. This was a great opportunity to showcase what YOUmedia and the Hartford Public Library

PUBLIC SERVICES

(continued)

are about. We talked to several students and parents that were interested in visiting the library and exploring what we have to offer. Our mentors also went out and engaged with local artists for possible collaborations in the upcoming year.

- » Cyrus Steadman, new YOUmedia mentor at the Albany Library, plans to create a standard weekly program list and establish a regular music program for the teens. Cyrus also aims to improve the organization and appeal of the Albany space for both parents and teens.
- » VR programming is now being offered in more locations. YOUmedia mentors brought VR headsets to Barbour and Park this past quarter, allowing young individuals to explore the immersive world of VR and learn from experienced mentors.



PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

The Public Programming Department offered a total of 23 in-person programs with over 800 attendees and 11 virtual programs.

BABY GRAND JAZZ

- » The 2023 Baby Grand Jazz series continued at Center Church with the final jazz “Double Header” at the Artists Collective 1200 Albany Ave Hartford, CT.
- » The “Double Header” featuring, The AA Team & Matt Dwonszyk and the Dwonztet, brought new and familiar faces to the Artists Collective. Over 180 people attended this amazing concert.
- » Matt Chasen, board member of Hartford Jazz Society, who is well known throughout the state, continued to serve as the emcee.



JAZZ ACTIVATION SUMMER '23 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GREATER HARTFORD ARTS COUNCIL

- » Hartford Public Library supported jazz events and activities that led up to the Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz and the Paul Brown Monday Night Jazz series. Events included panel discussions, education, jam sessions, and performances. A photography exhibition by Maurice Robertson celebrating jazz was displayed for the summer at Albany and Park Libraries. Albany hosted a reception for the exhibition with a live performance by Sarah Uyar in June.
- » A 6 week “Jazz 101” series taught by Haneef Nelson, Matt DeChamplain and Dr. Emmett Goods was held at the Artists Collective discussing the roots and history of jazz. Some of the topics covered in this discussion and demonstration series were, Stride Piano to Be-Bop, Hard Bop to Modern Jazz



HARTFORD'S L.I.T.

- » Hartford's L.I.T. (Literary Integrated Trailblazers) (HLIT), in partnership with HPL continued to hold a series of writing workshops at Park and Albany: Women's Writing Workshop and Girls Chat.
- » These workshops focused on the basics of writing and with question-and-answer periods to allow for providing adequate resources and takeaways for attendants. As with most HLIT



PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

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programming there will also be an opportunity for the writers to showcase their talent in a virtual/in-person reading.

EMPANADAS AND MINDFULNESS

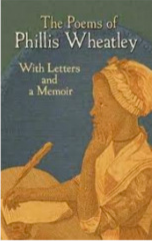
- » The “Empanada Assassin” invited community members to experience the joys of empanada making and mindfulness practices in this unique one-hour workshop. Her goal is to create a unique and immersive experience that not only introduces participants to the joy of baking empanadas but also explores the therapeutic benefits of mindfulness and its positive impact on overall well-being.
- » Each participant made about 7-10 empanadas to eat and take home.



HARTFORD READS IN COLOR

- » The book club Hartford Reads in Color led by Hartford’s L.I.T. continued to meet virtually on a monthly basis. Their book selections were: *The Poems of Phillis Wheatley: With Letters and a Memoir* by Phillis Wheatley, *Don’t Bite The Apple Eve* by Kimolee Eryn, *Women Who Run With Wolves* by Clarissa Pinkola Estés.

HARTFORD'S L.I.T. & HPL PRESENT
HARTFORD READS IN COLOR
Join our virtual book club for new and exciting reads

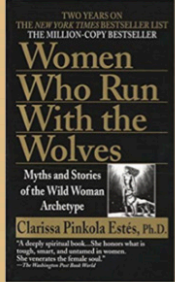


**SUNDAY
APRIL 30
2PM - ZOOM**

Hartford Reads In Color Book Club invites you to participate in a book discussion about "The Poems of Phillis Wheatley: With Letters and a Memoir" by Phillis Wheatley

Registration is required. Register here: <https://programs.hplct.org/event/8314300>

HARTFORD'S L.I.T. & HPL PRESENT
HARTFORD READS IN COLOR
Join our virtual book club for new and exciting reads




**SUNDAY
JUNE 25
2PM - ZOOM**

Hartford Reads In Color Book Club invites you to participate in a book discussion about "Women Who Run With Wolves" by Clarissa Pinkola Estés, Ph.D.

Registration is required. Register here: <https://programs.hplct.org/event/8661246>

HARTFORD'S L.I.T. & HPL PRESENT
HARTFORD READS IN COLOR
Join our virtual book club for new and exciting reads



**SUNDAY
MAY 28
2PM - ZOOM**

Hartford Reads In Color Book Club invites you to participate in a book discussion about "Don't Bite The Apple Eve" by Kimolee Eryn

The author will be joining this month's chat.

Registration is required. Register here: <https://programs.hplct.org/event/8524026>

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

(continued)

STEPPING INTO THE SHADE

- » HPL, in partnership with June Archer, Brian Day and Kristin Morgan, held a documentary screening of their soon to be released film: *Stepping Into The Shade*. *Stepping Into The Shade* is a dynamic story about the people who worked in the tobacco fields in Connecticut. The docuseries explores the history of Connecticut Tobacco Farming and how the people, through farming, changed the culture and impacted Civil Rights.
- » The first screening focused on the West Indian community, and it took place at the Albany Library. The next screening will be held in the fall, focusing on the Hispanic community and will be shown at the Park Street Library at the Lyric.

LIBRARY ON WHEELS COMMUNITY OUTREACH

During this quarter, LOW visited 16 FoodShare stops and handed out free books to children and adults, the monthly Library calendar of events, flyers with information about library branch resources and services available to the community at large, and answered questions. One of the most frequently asked questions is “when is the main library going to be open”?



SENIOR CENTERS

- » LOW team met with the residents at Immanuel House, South end Senior center, North End Senior center, Retreat Assisted Housing and Capital Tower. Books are brought to them that they had previously requested from the library’s collection. New requests are made for the next visit; they receive free DVDs and books of interest while interacting with them. These services are provided in conjunction with colleagues from Camp Field and Barbour Libraries.
- » At Maple Leaf and Fernwood Inc, HPL partnered with colleagues from the Park and Dwight Libraries to help the residents apply for the Municipal ID’s from the city of Hartford.



COMMUNITY COLLECTION PARTNERS

- » The community collection partners are organizations where deliveries of books and DVD’s are made monthly or quarterly. Free books, DVD’s and other services are also made to different locations.

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

(continued)

LITTLE COMMUNITY FREE LIBRARIES

» In partnership with community organizations, they created a circuit of 21 “Little Community Free Libraries” around the city of Hartford. These are small boxes strategically located within the city that are filled once a month with free books for the neighbors. In June, we spotted a lady with four children near the box on Zion Street. The family was very thankful and happy. Making the difference is a very joyful feeling!



COMMUNITY EVENTS

- » Samba Festival
- » Wellness Fair by Greater Hartford Urban League

» Open Choice Family Carousel at Bushnell Park In the Presence of Trees



» Greater Hartford of the Arts Peace Festival

» Book Club at Semilla

» Hartford Day at the State Capital

» Community Health Fair by New Antioch Missionary Baptist Church



» Juneteenth Celebration

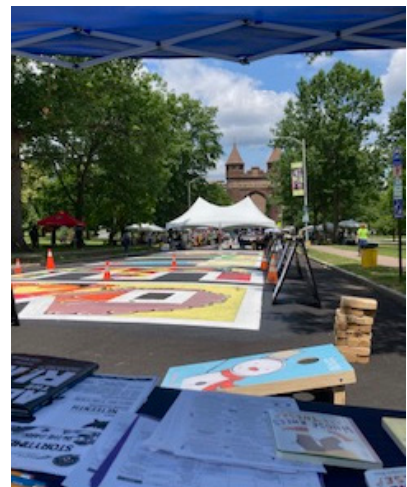
» CAP Fest

» Domingo in the North End

» Picnic 2000 at the Charter Oak Landing.

» West End Farmer Market

» This quarter LOW partnered with Know Thy Neighbor, and as part of the committee, we organized and participated in the Mental Health Conference.



» The LOW team along with outreach colleagues continue to bring the resources to the diverse neighborhoods of Hartford.

Our direct interaction with them makes us an integral part of the community experience.

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

(continued)

HPL STUDIOS

» HPL Production Manager’s proposal “Film Production and storytelling as a form of Community Dialogue, Engagement and Advocacy” for a program designed to show how the development of a short film can create new opportunities for libraries to connect with the communities they serve was accepted by the New England Library Association. Thoughts Are Things, produced by Hartford Public Library, is an example of how storytelling has the power to promote values, foster new partnerships, influence people, and create change. The Production Manager will discuss how this film has evolved into a resource that creates discussion around access, equity, the power, and impact of librarians in people’s lives, and education as a means to social mobility.



PUBLIC, EDUCATIONAL AND GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMMING AND EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT ACCOUNT (PEGPETIA) GRANT PROGRAM.

» HPL Studios was awarded \$91,000 through the PEGPETIA Grant for equipment and educational programming and training around content creation that can be aired on HPATV.



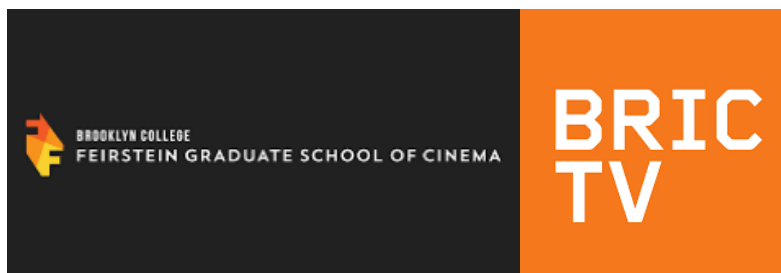
THOUGHTS ARE THINGS COMMUNITY SCREENINGS

» Cinestudio’s Executive Director collaborated with the Manager of Production to offer two student groups from Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy Summer Writing Institute (40 students in total) a community screening of Thoughts Are Things at Cinestudio on June 29th and 30th, 2023.



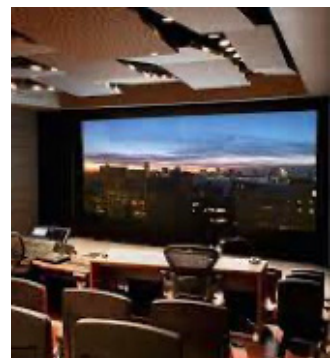
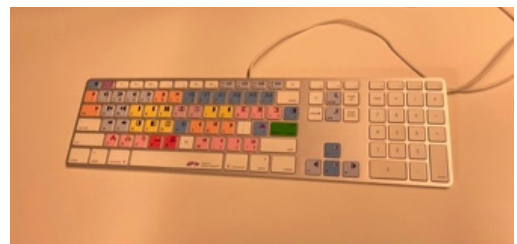
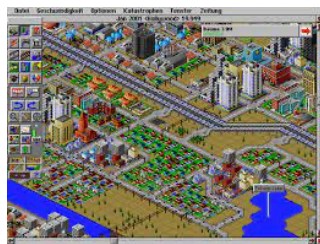
BRIC ARTS MEDIA HOUSE

» Production Manager visited Bric Arts Media, Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema, and MoMa as inspiration for the design of HPL Studios.



PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

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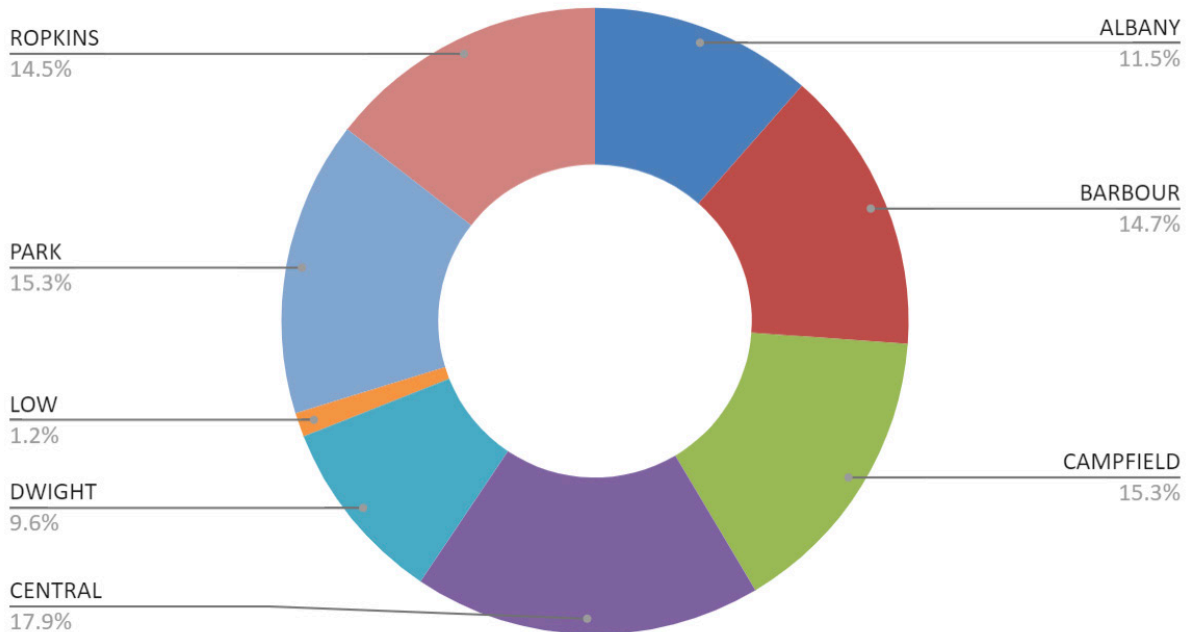
PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

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TECHNICAL SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS:

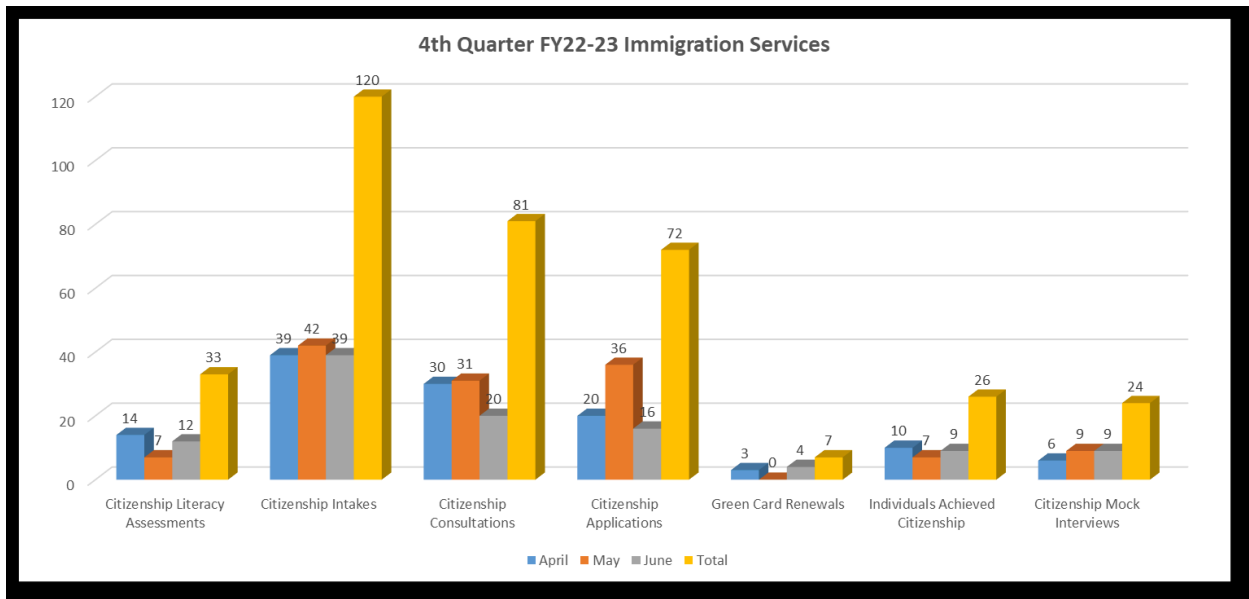
- » Library staff was trained on the Libby app, including its new Notify Me feature.
- » Ordered and processed nearly 1,300 books for HPS Summer Reading
 - This included more than 80 titles, with Spanish and Portuguese options for all age groups
- » Revamped the online catalog to include new additions lists for adults, teens, and children
- » Digital media highlight: e-book and e-audiobook circulation broke a new record this quarter with over 4,000 digital checkouts.
- » Database highlight: World Book usage this quarter saw a more than a 500% increase compared to the rest of the year's average
- » Overall, 4,203 items were added to the physical collection this quarter.
 - 186 of these were books in other languages, including Spanish, Portuguese, Hindi, Vietnamese, and Somali

Physical Items Added: FY23 Q4



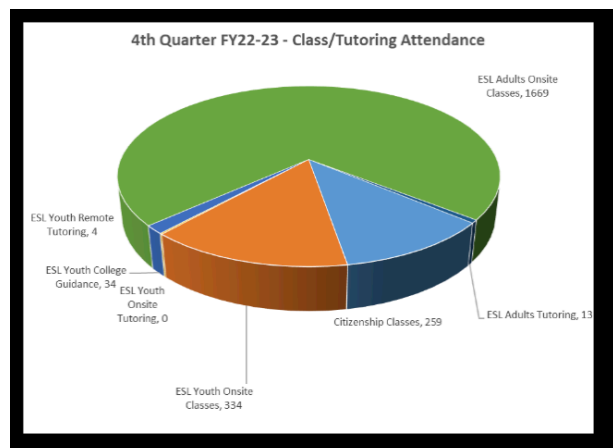
CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION SERVICES

The American Place staff responded to 106 immigration reference questions during this quarter. One-hundred and twenty (120) immigrants were screened for Citizenship eligibility, including 33 reading/writing literacy assessments. Immigration counselors conducted 81 legal consultations. Immigration counselors also prepared and submitted 72 citizenship applications. Adult education staff and volunteers conducted 24 citizenship mock naturalization interviews. Twenty-six (26) clients were naturalized, achieving U.S. Citizenship. Seven green card renewal applications were prepared and submitted.



ESL & CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

- » ESL classes continued to be offered at the Center Church location. One-hundred and sixty-six (166) adult ESL classes were held at Center Church on weekday mornings, evenings, and Saturday morning serving beginning literacy, level 1, and level 2 ESL students.
- » A total of twenty-seven (27) citizenship classes were held on weekdays at Albany and Center Church and on Saturdays at the Old State House.
- » The English Learner Success afterschool program, which supports migrant and immigrant high school youth, continued its momentum and finished with strong program attendance on June 1st. The students were rewarded with certificates and gift cards. The



THE AMERICAN PLACE

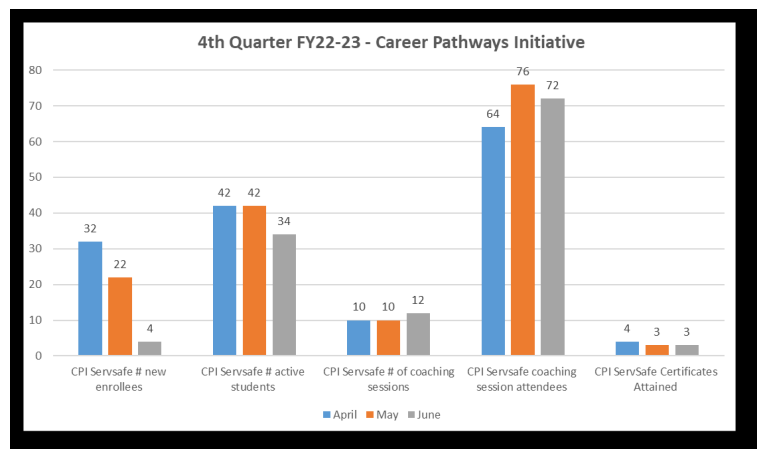
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program offered several enrichment opportunities this past quarter for program participants and past program graduates, including:

- > Field Trip to the CT Science Center
- > Field Trip to the Wadsworth Atheneum
- > Field Trip to Riverfront Recapture for outdoor adventure education
- > Field Trip to a Hartford Athletics Soccer game which included refreshments and bus transportation back home.
- > Participation in World Refugee Day activities at the Old State House. Student posters of their native countries and a video of their puppet show were on exhibit for viewing by event guests.
- > Participation in the Latinas & Power Symposium by two of our “Barriers Can’t Stop Us” students
- > SINA Scholarship Awards Dinner - One of our “Barriers Can’t Stop US” college students received a scholarship from SINA (Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance) towards tuition.
- > Bulkeley High School Graduation – Several of our students graduated from Bulkeley High School!

CAREER PATHWAYS INITIATIVE: SERVSAFE COURSES

TAP is currently offering four strands of Servsafe courses, Food Handler, Food Manager, Alcohol Server, and Allergens. Instructional sessions are offered in a hybrid environment – onsite, remotely, and online. Students also receive 1:1 and small group coaching, digital literacy, and employment counseling. The quarter ended with 34 active students and 10 students completing a course, earning Servsafe certificates. Many students continue onto the next ServSafe course they are eligible for, increasing their opportunities for upward mobility and growth. Partner organizations this past quarter included Hartford Public Schools and Knox Hartford Urban Farmers program.



CROSSROADS TO CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

The Crossroads to Connectivity program continues to support adults in their journey to education and training attainment. While program funding ended last fiscal year we continue to lend devices to students participating in TAPs various education and workforce programs. During this quarter, 20 digital devices and hot-spots were loaned through Crossroads to Connectivity.

GED AND CASAS TESTING

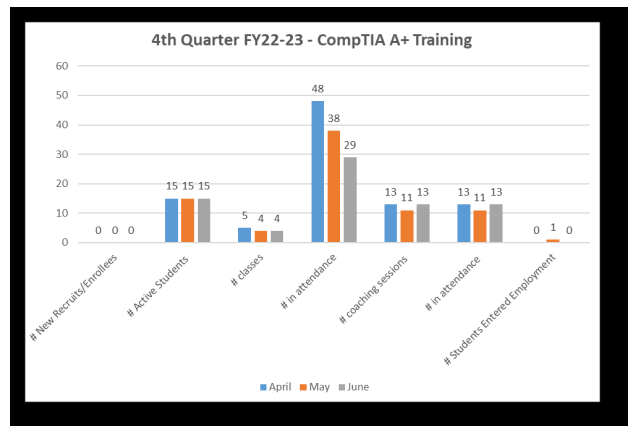
GED testing services have been paused due to the closure of the Downtown Library. Approval to open a testing site at our West Middle School was finally approved in June. Testing is scheduled to begin at the end of July. 165 CASAS reading and math assessments were administered this past quarter.

MATH TUTORING

Math tutoring was offered in small groups to youth and adults, onsite and remotely. A total of 98 small group sessions were held supporting 106 students.

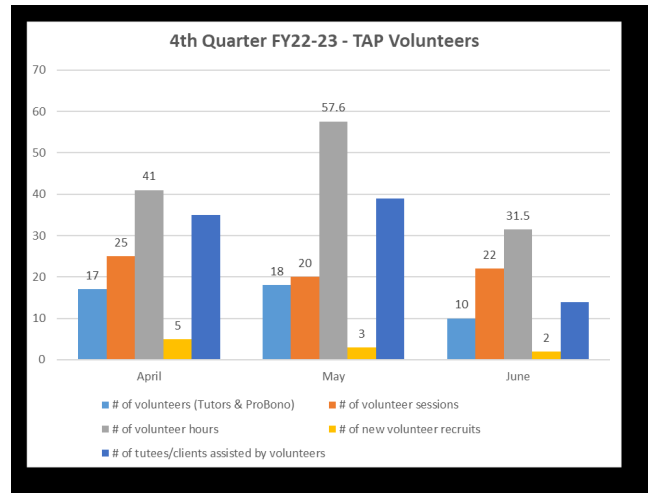
COMPTIA A+ NETWORKING ACADEMY FOR YOUTH (18 TO 24 YEARS OLD)

The program offers computer networking certificate training, job-shadowing experience, and a paid internship opportunity. Classes are held on Saturdays at West Middle School. The quarter ended with 15 youth actively participating in the program. Thirteen classes were held this past quarter averaging 9 students per session. Additionally, 37 coaching sessions were held supporting student learning. Most students continued to be fully engaged in internship opportunities at Metro Hartford Innovation Services, East Hartford Public Library, and the West Indian Social Club, completing 1,461 paid internship hours this quarter. They provided valuable support to our community, including teaching and supporting small business owners with using marketing tools and facilitating a podcast about the impact of Covid 19 on youth. In addition to the great work being done at internship sites, students continue to attend training classes and prepare for sitting for the certification exam. Three students earned their A+ certification by passing both core one and core two exams. Three additional students passed the core one exam and are preparing for the core 2 exam. One student was admitted to CCSU and will pursue cybersecurity in the fall and another student entered employment in IT with the company Accenture.



VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

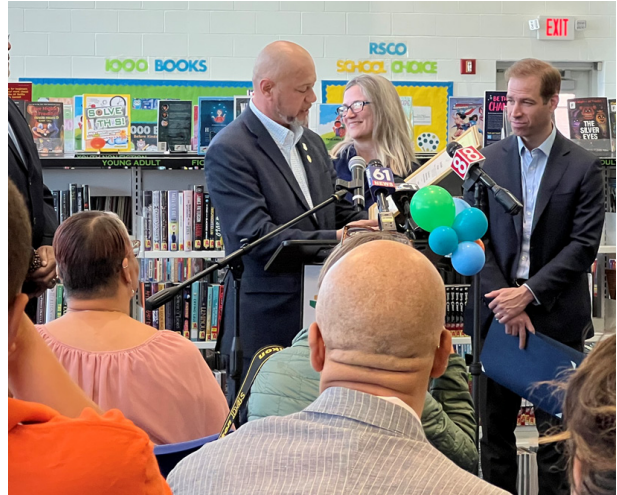
TAP has received continuous support from volunteers. During this quarter, 45 volunteers contributed 130 hours of volunteer support, including pro-bono attorneys. Volunteer citizenship coaches provided 42 hours of small group/individual tutoring in 34 sessions supporting 14 students. The pro-bono attorneys provided 27 hours over 17 sessions supporting TAP clients with application preparation, mock interviews or application review. Volunteer tutors provided 54 hours of support to both ESL Youth and Adults, onsite and remotely.



HARTFORD HISTORY CENTER & ARTWALK

NEWS

» More than 100 people came to the Ropkins Library April 12 to celebrate the re-opening of the Ropkins Library after its recent renovations. The re-opening also celebrated the new Hartford History Center Annex. Joining Library staff to mark this occasion were Mayor Luke Bronin, HPL CEO & President Bridget E. Quinn, State Representative James Sánchez and special guest Clyde Mark Billington III, who gifted his father's photographic mid-20th century Hartford streetscapes to the Library's Hartford History Center.



INCREASED ENGAGEMENT WITH THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES THROUGH ACCESS AND EXPOSURE

» On Saturday, April 15, the Hartford History Center hosted an Encounters program, in partnership with UConn Humanities faculty, at the Albany Library on reparations. Community members, community organizers, students, and professors from UConn dived into learning about the history, concept, and challenges of it as a policy. Over 25 folks joined in small group discussion. This UConn civic engagement program partnership has continued since 2017.



» The HHC team supported the programming department in the install of Maurice Robertson's Expressions in Sound and Motion jazz photo exhibition at the Park and Albany branches, which had a reception on June 8 at the Albany Library. The exhibition includes over 50 photos of Jazz musicians and artists who have performed in Hartford, in the state, and beyond, including those artists performing in HPL's Baby Grand Jazz series.



CULTURE & COMMUNICATIONS

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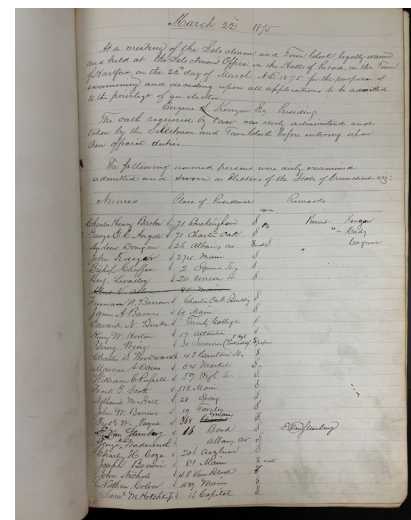
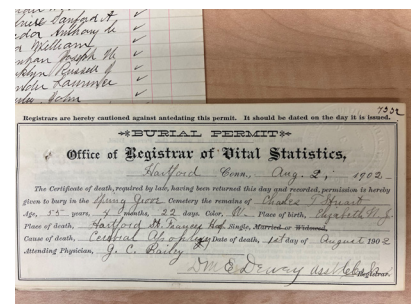
- » On June 24, the HHC supported the programming department with the film screening of “Stepping into the Shade” at the Albany Library, a documentary project led by entertainment leader June Archer on the dynamic history of tobacco farms in the area and on the people who came to work on the farms, including waves of Jamaicans and Puerto Ricans.

DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SELF AND CONNECTION TO COMMUNITY BY LEARNING HARTFORD HISTORY

- » Throughout April, HHC staff held Ancestry.com sessions for the public at the Albany and Camp Field libraries. Additionally, HHC staff led collection and services overviews for HPL employees at the Barbour, Albany and Park libraries. These sessions were well attended and built a stronger connection between branch staffs and HHC staff.
- » On April 27, HHC’s Historical Research Specialist gave a presentation on the women of Hartford and the Suffrage fight at the Town and County Club with Marilyn Parkinson Thrall. This joint presentation was very well received. A film clip of Josephine and Hiram Percy Maxim, from the newly restored and digitized Hiram Percy Maxim Film Collection, was a strong attraction.
- » The 4th quarter has seen a real uptick in research visits as well as visitors to the HHC Annex at Ropkins. The formal opening of Ropkins on April 12th contributed to the increased number of visitors. Many visitors have come in specifically to see the enlarged panoramic photos of Albany Avenue which are a part of the recently acquired Clyde Billington Collection.
- » In June, there have been several days where there have been 4 or 5 researchers here all at the same time. The smaller space and the way the Annex is open to the rest of the library, fosters a more informal and relaxed atmosphere which has allowed for a collegial and collaborative environment. Researchers are very grateful to have access to collection materials and have been very understanding of the need for appointments and/or slight delays in access.

PRESERVING HARTFORD’S HISTORY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

- » In May, the HHC Archivist transferred more of the Town and City Clerk records from City Hall to the History Center’s Downtown stacks. Containing a variety of information, including Selectmen’s records, burial records, and cemetery deeds, these records have already been used to answer several reference questions. HHC staff were able to find burial



CULTURE & COMMUNICATIONS

(continued)

information for Charles T. Stuart and James H. Ralston. Records from a Selectmen's meeting in 1875 indicated when Yung Wing, known for his role in the Chinese Educational Mission, was admitted as a voter. Ongoing projects include transferring items from ready reference to historical collections and creating a guide for the latest Town and City Clerk material.

WORK COMPLETED BY HHC'S METADATA SPECIALIST:

» Hartford Times Project:

- Created metadata for 140 Hartford Times photographs, and uploaded 420 metadata records and 280 image files to the Connecticut Digital Archive (CTDA) to enable the photographs to be accessed as compound objects; used CTDA tools to establish the parent-child relationships so that users are able to view the front and back images within the context of each photograph's description.
- While CTDA upgrade is in process and ingests frozen, drafted 243 records for Hartford Times photographs in the new spreadsheet template for upload to the CTDA once the new management platform is available (now projected for July).

» Digital Library Lab:

- Hartford Public High School Museum & Archive Yearbooks Project: Compiled and provided information regarding thumbnail image display issue for HPHSMA archivist and as well as updates regarding timeline for CTDA upgrade

» Other:

- Attended CTH Creative Commons workshops on copyright/intellectual property for cultural heritage organizations (4/11, 5/16, 6/13)
- Attended 5/25 CTH Oral History Collaborative meeting and submitted report
- Participated in CTDA spreadsheet ingest training sessions (4/3, 5/31) in use of the new system to be rolled out in 2023
- Attended 6/16 CTDA Open Meeting at Avon Free Public Library
- Did multiple uploads in test CTDA environment using spreadsheet ingest process

CULTURE & COMMUNICATIONS

(continued)

DIGITAL LIBRARY LAB

Client	Project Description	Start Date	Completion Date	Invoice Date	Paid	Project Amount	Amount Paid	Note
Hartford Public High School Museum	HPHS Yearbooks and Supplementals	5/1/2021	Ongoing	5/14/2021	Y, partial	\$7,510.00	\$3705 paid in 2021	50% paid. Awaiting Connecticut Digital Archives (CTDA) upgrade to be completed, which will fix thumbnail presentation problem. DLL scheduled to return yearbooks to HPHS on April 20, 2023. Estimated date for the CTDA upgrade completion is July 1, 2023
Hartford History Center (HHC)	Added Housing Authority Documents to the HHC collection on the CTDA	2/16/2023	3/9/2023	3/20/2023	Y	\$2,412.00	Paid last quarter	Scanning complete. Digital documents were picked up by HACH on 4/5/2023; Original documents have been added to HHC permanent collections and ingested into CTDA for public distribution.
Housatonic Region High School Alumni Association	High School Yearbook digitization (84 books) for the Housatonic Region HS Alumni	3/24/2023	Ongoing	Ongoing	Y, partial 50%	\$4,350.00	\$2,175.00 paid last quarter	All the yearbooks delivered to DLL have been scanned and reviewed. Received request for edits. DLL invoiced. Per HVRHS, final payment has been ordered. Still awaiting replacement yearbooks from HVRHS Alumni for page replacement.
Hartford Assessors Office	Quote for digitizing 400,000 city property cards		Bid but was not awarded the job	n/a	n/a	Est. \$143,000		Bid on but was not awarded the project.
Hartford Development Office	Digitize 7.25 linear feet of documents	4/20/2023	5/18/2023	6/5/2023	N	\$20,875.00	\$20,000.00	Completed and delivered digitized documents to DDS. Awaiting final payment.
Hartford History Center	Hartford Times Digitization of photographs	6/1/2023	Ongoing	n/a	n/a	\$28,000.00	\$28,000.00	Assisted with Pomeroy-Brace Fund c/o Hartford Foundation grant Hartford Times scanning estimates
Phil Trager	Photographer Phil Trager Collection Tests	11/10/2022	Ongoing	n/a	n/a	Est. \$5,150.00		The Hartford Public Library Digital Library Lab (DLL) will digitize the photograph collections of Phil Trager. 50% payment is scheduled for early July. The anticipated work start date is July 30, 2023.
Hartford History Center	Digitization of the HHC Vertical Files Collection	6/12/2023	Ongoing	n/a	n/a	\$38,000.00	\$38,000.00	The Vertical Files are being organized for scanning by HPL's Archivist.
Harriet Beecher Stowe Center	Quote for Digitizing Collections	6/14/2023	Ongoing	n/a	n/a	Est. \$962,500.00		Provided a quote for digitizing rare books and other collections for a grant proposal.

CULTURE & COMMUNICATIONS

(continued)

HPL's Digital Library Lab welcomed summer intern Elviana Guterres from Trinity College, fulfilling a goal of the DLL to provide training opportunities to the community and local educational institutions. Elviana is working on the Hartford Times and Vertical Files digitization projects, both donor-funded. A native of Timor-Leste, Elviana is a student in Trinity's Tech Edge program. This internship marks the beginning of a new collaboration with Trinity's Career and Life Design Center.



ANTICIPATED WORK FOR NEXT QUARTER

- » Deliver final product to Housatonic Region HS Alumni Association High School Yearbook digitization. Advise them on options for distribution via the CTDA.
- » Monitor CTDA upgrade to complete Hartford High School yearbook project. Expected to be completed this summer.
- » Digitize Hartford Times collection photos as part of the Pomeroy-Brace Fund c/o Hartford Foundation.
- » Begin digitizing the Vertical Files documents, donor-funded.
- » Digitize Phil Trager's collection of photographs.
- » Digitize ad hoc for HPL/HHC.
- » Continue to monitor potential work with the City Department of Development Services.
- » Continue to grow the DLL and its revenue generating capability, continue marketing planning activities and identify applicable bids for digitization services. This will include introducing DLL to the CT library community via the CSL-CONNTECH Listserv.

CULTURE & COMMUNICATIONS

(continued)

COMMUNICATIONS

- » April 12: the 3rd quarter began with the reopening of the Ropkins Library and the formal opening of the Hartford History Center Annex. The program, which included speakers at the podium, was covered extensively by multiple media outlets.
- » Launched across HPL's communication channels in the 3rd Q (in addition to miscellaneous smaller programs - arts, crafts, etc):
 - opening of passport services;
 - The Beat seeking new album submissions;
 - Baby Grand Jazz seeking artists for the 2023-2024 concert year;
 - Jazz 101 partnership with the Greater Hartford Arts Council;
 - Maurice D. Robertson's exhibition titled "Expressions in Sound and Motion" at Albany Library and Park Street Library @ the Lyric;
 - HPL's Partnership with Vision To Learn;
 - TAP's and World Refugee Day at the CT Old State House;
 - Summer Learn (working in collaboration with HPS);
 - Hartford Reads In Color book club series;
 - the NASA exhibit;
 - HPL Downtown Library update; and
 - state funding for the Downtown Library (in collaboration with the City of Hartford.)
- » Collaborating with the Development team, Communications updates the www.hplstoreand-renew.com website.
- » Communications continues to work on the HPL logo redesign with Miranda Creative. An interdepartmental team was identified and has been working with Miranda Creative on logo design. Three designs will be presented this summer for larger consideration, and there will be open invites to staff, the board and other stakeholders to attend a meeting with Miranda Creative to discuss those three design options.
- » We continue to work with local newspapers; this quarter we created ads for the following publications: Northend Agents, Summer-Fall 2023 Greater Hartford Visitor & New Resident Guide
- » New standardized signage was created to advertise updated branch hours.

CULTURE & COMMUNICATIONS

(continued)

» On June 5, Hartford Public Library welcomed Jessica Emonds as the new Communications and Marketing Director on the Culture and Communications team. Jessica holds a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Art from the University of Hartford, Hartford Art School. Most recently, Jessica served as the Director for Market Events for a local community venture building studio, Breakfast Lunch & Dinner in Hartford. In her spare time, she manages the West End Farmers' Market in Hartford. Jessica is passionate about her community and is excited for her new role with Hartford Public Library.

SOCIAL MEDIA



FACEBOOK

11K
FANS

131
POSTS



TWITTER

5.3K
FOLLOWERS

144
TWEETS



INSTAGRAM


4K
FOLLOWERS

143
POSTS

HARTFORD

Passport services to re-open at Hartford Public Library Monday

by: Meka Wilson
 Posted: May 15, 2023 / 10:31 AM EDT
 Updated: May 15, 2023 / 10:31 AM EDT



(File: Getty)

HARTFORD

Hartford Library's Downtown branch remains closed for the summer

A pipe burst on Christmas Eve, and the construction and repairs from the damage are expected to continue into the summer.



Author: POW9 Staff
 Published: 9:36 AM EDT May 4, 2023
 Updated: 9:16 AM EDT May 4, 2023



HARTFORD, Conn. — The Hartford Public Library's main branch, the Downtown Library, will stay closed for the summer as repairs from pipe damage continue.

Hartford Courant

Connecticut News | Hartford Downtown Library to remain closed...

NEWS > CONNECTICUT NEWS

Hartford Downtown Library to remain closed through summer during renovations



Edget E. Quinn - Freedom to Read

The Brainwaves Video Anthology
 34.2K subscribers

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6



HARTFORD

Hartford Public Library gets \$1.7M to reopen downtown branch

by: Brian Dodson
 Posted: Jun 29, 2023 / 06:16 PM EDT
 Updated: Jun 29, 2023 / 06:17 PM EDT



NEWS & INFO
 STATE LEADERS ANNOUNCE REPAIR FUNDING FOR LIBRARY
 HARTFORD - DOWNTOWN LOCATION

News

How a bilingual librarian meets multicultural needs for her Hartford neighborhood

Connecticut Public Radio | By Maricarmen Cahajuaranga
 Published May 17, 2023 at 12:40 PM EDT



State funding to help cover repair costs at the Hartford Public Library's Main Street branch



FUNDING FOR DAMAGED HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

State funding to help cover repair costs at the Hartford Public Library

By Ayah Galal

Published: Jun. 29, 2023 at 7:13 PM EDT



HARTFORD, CT (WFSB) - Help is on the way for the Hartford Public Library.



CT INSIDER

SAL

Hotels.com
 Book on the app

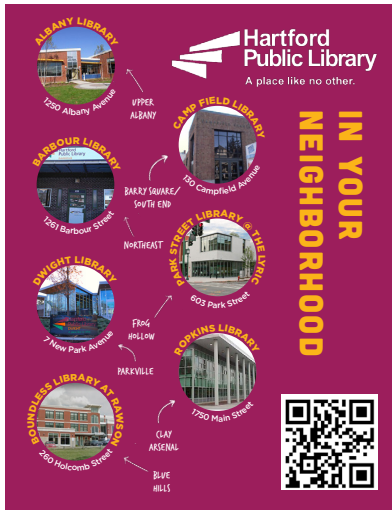
Book Now

CAPITAL REGION

Hartford Public Library main branch will not reopen this summer following water damage

Jonah Dylan, Staff writer
 May 9, 2023





Hartford Public Library celebrates National Library Week



Marie Jarry from Hartford Public Library says "There's more to the story" when it comes to celebrating national library week.

JUNE EVENTS

HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
ALBANY BRANCH
1250 ALBANY AVENUE

SAURDAY
JUNE 3
11AM-1 PM

All the Shades of Black: An Exploration of Race, Gender, and History

Description: An open discussion between artists and authors, Ayoja D. Jenkins and Shanta Lee, digging into the many questions their works pose including whether history and damage are able to be corrected? And if so, how?

MONDAYS
JUNE 5 & 12
4-6 PM

Mindfulness Workshop: Step and Dance—with Loren Milledge

Description: In this class, use the unity of stepping to learn about building and being a support system.

SAURDAY
JUNE 17
12-3 PM

Summer Kick-Off Paint Party!

Description: Visit Albany Library for a family-friendly paint party in a finale celebration of the Nellie-Mae Mindfulness Art workshop series and the start of Summer Reading! This event is sure to have something for everyone including:

- A story time featuring THREE therapy dogs, including longline favorite, Gizmo, and a couple new furry friends!
- A visit from the West Hartford Children's Museum with an interactive STARLAB planetarium & a lesson on different constellations and folklore from Greece, Africa, Native American tribes, and other cultures (separate registration required)
- An opportunity to register to vote in the upcoming mayoral election

Music, food, and more!
WEATHER PERMITTING, THIS EVENT WILL HAVE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

This series is made possible through the support of the Nellie Mae Education Foundation.

Hartford Public Library
A place like no other.

If you require special accommodations to take part in these programs, please call (860)955-7580 at least two weeks in advance.

CONNECTICUT IN COLOR

Connecticut in Color: Hartford Reads in Color

By Leslie Mayes • Published June 7, 2023 • Updated on June 7, 2023 at 6:23 pm



In Hartford, there's a literary group working to bring people together in discussion and understanding through books by and about people of color.

VIDEO: Hartford downtown library repairs update

Updated: May 10, 2023 at 4:55 PM EDT



Hartford downtown library repairs update

NEWS - CONNECTICUT NEWS

Hartford's Ropkins Library branch reopens with history center



State Rep. Jimmy Sanchez (left) watches as Hilda Ortiz takes a photo of Sanchez's father's name that they found in a directory at the new Hartford History Center Annex at the grand reopening of the Hartford Public Library's Ropkins Library branch in 5402 Central, Westford, Conn., Wednesday, April 12, 2023. Sanchez and Ortiz grew up in the Clay Arsenal neighborhood where the library is located. Ortiz worked with Sanchez on the library project when Sanchez was a member of the Hartford City Council. Ortiz works for a senior foundation. Photo by Chris Pizzocardi for the Courant.

By KATLIN MCCALLUM | kmccallum@courant.com | Hartford Courant
E-MAIL: kmccallum@courant.com | 312.324.4141 | 10/24/2022 | April 12, 2023 at 4:49pm

FISCAL YEAR 2023 - GRANT BUDGET SUMMARY

As of June 30, 2023 - 100% through Fiscal Year

In Q4, the Library received \$1,098,756 in Awarded Grants (consisting of Foundation, Corporate, Federal, State, and City Grants). We have \$863,037 in Pending Grants (as of 06/31/2023).

PENDING GRANTS

Here is a list of pending grants:

- » Comcast NBC Universal Local Impact grant: Park programming (\$19,140)
- » National Center for Families Learning: Family Read and Learn Together (\$28,745)
- » Amazon: 2023 AWS Imagine grant (\$150,000)
- » Library Journal: Defying the Odds (\$10,000)
- » Kaman Foundation: Baby Grand Jazz 3-year sponsorship (\$129,150)
- » Connecticut Department of Education Program Enhancement Project For Adult Education WIOA Funding for 3 projects: Family Literacy, Workforce Development and Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education (\$162,455)
- » Gerald M. Kline Family Foundation / Library Journal: Jerry Kline Community Impact Prize (\$250,000)
- » Bank of America: Beyond Words and operating support (\$20,000)
- » National Libraries of Medicine: All of Us Virtual Library Centers (\$93,547)

AWARDED GRANTS

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

- » National Endowment for the Arts: The Big Read (\$18,750). The selected book is Homegoing (novel) by Yaa Gyasi. Programming offered 09/23/2023 - 10/23/2023.
- » City of Hartford UNITY: Leap into Learning – Home Daycare Program (\$84,160)
- » Connecticut State Library: Creative Aging (\$2,500)
- » Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority PEGPETIA grants for education technology initiatives (\$91,000)

DEVELOPMENT

(continued)

» U.S. Department of Education: Opportunity for All (\$305,000). This program offers an evidence-based, high-dosage tutoring program and an intensive English as Second Language summer bridge model to accelerate learning and transition to college for late arrival high school senior English Learners

FOUNDATION GRANTS:

- » HFPG - Pomeroy -Brace Fund: All History Is Local: Maximizing Access to Hartford Times Photographic Print Collection (\$28,000)
- » Evelyn Preston Memorial Fund: Move Together Hartford / Summer concert series (\$8,400)
- » Hartford Foundation: 2023 Summer Learning (\$25,000)
- » Fisher Fund: 2023 Summer Learning supplement (\$5,000)
- » Aurora Foundation: 2023 Barriers Can't Stop Us (\$19,000)
- » Capital Workforce Partners: Summer Youth Employment & Learning Program (\$39,120)
- » Capital Workforce Partners: WIOA Youth Employment 2023-24 Recertification (\$278,870)
- » Gawlicki Family Foundation: Leap into Learning Year 2 (\$88,956).

CORPORATE GRANTS:

- » Travelers: General Operating Support for Teen Services including Drivers Education programs (\$100,000)
- » PeoplesBank: Community Pantry at Barbour Branch (\$5,000)

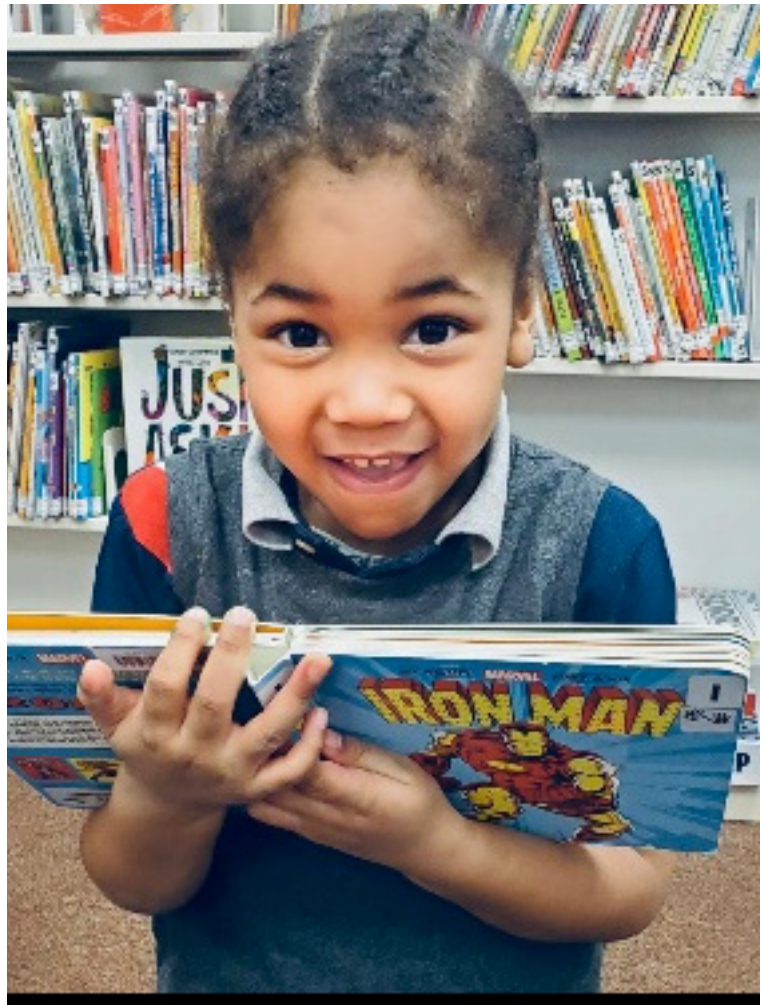
PERIOD: QUARTER 4, FISCAL YEAR 2023					PERIOD: FISCAL YEAR 2023		
SOURCE	#	AWARDED	#	PENDING	SOURCE	#	AWARDED
Government	5	\$501,410	2	\$256,002	Government	17	\$2,013,110
Foundation	8	\$492,346	4	\$417,895	Foundation	23	\$1,285,564
Corporation	2	\$105,000	3	\$189,140	Corporation	5	\$195,000
TOTAL	15	\$1,098,756	9	\$863,037	TOTAL	45	\$3,493,674

ANNUAL FUND 2023

- » An Annual Fund Appeal letter was mailed in June of 2023. Year-end totals as of July 11, 2023 equal \$109,234.
- » Your gift empowers individuals, strengthens families, and makes our community a better place.

RESTORE & RENEW

- » HPL held a Restore & Renew Art Show on June 21, 2023, which included the unveiling of Howard Fromson's sculpture, n'pirouette. During the ceremony in the Fromson Courtyard at the Park Street Library @ the Lyric, the Hartford Garden Club announced their project to plant sustainable gardens in the courtyard.
- » Restore & Renew Campaign has raised \$336,633 as of July 11, 2023.



DOWNTOWN LIBRARY

The fourth quarter activity consisted of various inspections including fireproofing, lighting, the main elevator, and HVAC control systems. Reports were documented detailing the damage. In addition, the Library prepared detailed damage reports on technology and furniture. Insurance consultants reviewed the various reports and conducted their own inspections to validate the damage reports. Work continued and completed the removal of drywall and the removal of glass along the second-floor area to prepare the area for restoration of the space.

ALBANY LIBRARY

The City of Hartford executed a memorandum of understanding for the Albany Library construction project. The City will be managing the remediation and stabilization of the Northwest School. Upon completion, the Library will take over the project for the renovation and construction work for the next phase of the project. The architectural firm Silver Petrucelli & Associates, Inc., working with Margaret Sullivan Studios will work with HPL on the design for the Albany Library project.

HUMAN RESOURCES

During FY23, 4th QT, 21 vacancies were filled for the following service area/business units:

Public Service	The American Place	Customer Experience	Infrastructure Support Services	Development	Culture and Communications	Administration
9	0	6	3	1	1	1
Asst. Dir. Branch Serv. Public Services Coord. Branch Manager Teen Services Lib Librarian Profess. IMLS Library Asst. GIII Library Asst. GIII Library Asst. GIII Library Asst. GIII	N/A	Security Manager YOU Media Ment. Security Guard Security Guard Programming Asst. Passport Coord.	Maintainer I Maintainer I Maintainer I	Development Assistant	Director, Communications & Marketing	Director, Human Resources
FY 22 Same Period= 5	*FY 22 Same Period= 10	FY 22 Same Period= 6	FY 22 Same Period= 1	FY 22 Same Period= 1	FY 22 Same Period= 2	FY 22 Same Period= 0

FY22, 4th quarter, 25 vacancies were filled which represents a 16% increase over FY23, 4th quarter. Overall, staffing remained relatively flat from period to period considering unusual hiring activity-TAP temporary hires in FY22.

*All hires were temporary, interns assigned to a 1-time, grant funded program.

The following highlights key hires or internal movement, during the FY23, 4th quarter period:

PUBLIC SERVICES:

- » Bonnie Solberg, Assistant Director of Branch Services – internal fill
- » Samantha Bailey, Public Services Coordinator – new hire
- » Shannon Strickland, Branch Manager Ropkins – internal fill
- » Mario Roman, transition from Security Guard to Library Assistant – internal

CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE:

- » Christopher Jones, Security Manager – new hire

DEVELOPMENT:

- » Nancy Honore, Development Assistant – new hire

HUMAN RESOURCES

(continued)

CULTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS:

» Jessica Emonds, Director of Communications & Marketing – new hire

ADMINISTRATION:

» Gwen Cannon, Director of Human Resources – new hire

» The Human Resources team began and/or completed work on three major projects during this period:

- Review and update of the employee handbook. Due to be released in August, 2023.
- Upon successful conclusion of contract negotiations with Local 1716, retro-active payments were approved, calculated, and processed. Processing required a three-year period look back for every current, union employee, along with all employees transferring in or out of a union role during the three-year time period.
- The HR team launched a 18-month project, conducting a full review and update of all human resources staff or public-facing, functions, including recruitment, onboarding, benefits and leaves of absence. The goal of this review is to ensure policy and process equity, inclusion and access for internal staff, potential applicants, and HPL new hires.

Downtown	FY 2021-2022			FY 2022-2023		
	Programs	Attendance	Views	Programs	Attendance	Views
American Place	385	2,961	0	296	3,197	0
Finance	5	178	0	4	145	0
Hartford History Center	11	341	0	1	27	0
Programming	35	969	1,072	32	1,307	1,788
YOUmedia	28	92	0	0	0	0
Youth Department	97	2,230	149	88	2,299	115
Totals	561	6,771	1,221	421	6,975	1,903

Branches	Programs	Attendance	Views	Programs	Attendance	Views
Albany Adult	11	87	0	33	489	0
Albany Youth/Teens	75	1,411	0	113	887	0
Barbour Adult	4	77	0	4	135	0
Barbour Youth	44	600	78	29	544	0
Camp Field Adult	7	36	0	5	98	0
Camp Field Youth	22	130	0	26	600	0
Dwight Adult	17	275	0	24	139	0
Dwight Youth	69	1,104	0	123	2,184	0
Park Adult	14	526	0	19	397	0
Park Youth	38	721	506	35	1,265	0
Ropkins Adult	4	11	18	7	149	0
Ropkins Youth	31	639	1,824	35	882	0
Library on Wheels	1	21	0	0	0	0
Totals	337	5,638	2,426	453	7,769	0

Pilot & Other Programs	Programs	Attendance	Views	Programs	Attendance	Views
Rawson - Pilot Program	14	405	0	57	1,160	0
Boundless @ HPHS*	72	429	0	32	98	0
Totals	86	834	0	89	1,258	0

HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY 4th Quarter Programming Totals

	FY 2021-2022	FY 2022-2023
Virtual + Onsite Programs	984	963
Live Virtual + Onsite Attendance	13,243	16,002
Recorded Program Views	3,647	1,903

*Hartford Public High School