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Hartford's L.I.T. Announces 2nd Annual Hartford Book Festival

(HARTFORD, CT, March 2, 2020) Hartford Public Library (HPL) is partnering with Hartford's L.I.T. (Literary Integrated Trailblazers) to co-host the 2nd Annual Hartford Book Festival as a three day event from Friday May 29th-Sunday May 31st 2020 at The FREE CENTER at 460 New Britain Avenue and the Downtown Library at 500 Main Street, Hartford.

Hartford's L.I.T. (H.L.I.T.), is a group of local authors, artists, and entrepreneurs. Their mission is to establish presence and awareness of Greater Hartford's local authors, diverse artists and entrepreneurs to revitalize literary arts and communication. H.L.I.T. focuses on literacy, literary productions, entrepreneurial building and networking within Hartford communities, including the underserved and non-traditional communities.

H.L.I.T., along with local artists, business owners and Hartford residents came together last year to host the first Hartford Book Festival at Hartford Public Library with the theme "How are the Children?" The theme for the Second Annual Hartford Book Festival is "2020 Visions & Reflections." This three-day event will take place in two locations. In addition, Hartford's L.I.T. and Elm City Lit Festival, will be collaborating. Elm City Lit. Festival is April 25th in New Haven, CT.

Day One: The Writer's Conference

May 29, 2020, 10:00am – 2:00pm

The FREE CENTER, 460 New Britain Avenue, Hartford, CT

The Writers Conference gives participants an opportunity to focus on the creativity of writing books, finding support and networking with local literary vendors, organizations and more. The day will feature Amazon bestselling author Dr. Jackie Evans-Phillips as she discusses her Writing Institute and newest book, *I Am My Story* with several of the co-authors. Prof.

Marilyn Turner will lead a discussion on Black Literature. There will be a roundtable discussion facilitated by Nzima Hutchings, CEO of the Every Kinda Lady Co., with contributors of the Every Kinda Lady and Her Sister's Pages 2020 Anthology. The Every Kinda Lady Co. offers free writing to heal workshops and other writing and readings for women in the Hartford area; helping women to leave a written legacy. The day will also include a "Literary Hour" that will explore the beauty of words and genre forms.

This day will include vendors, prompts and an artistic display on the history of writing, as well as celebrating the importance of literary organizations within the community.

Day Two: The Second Annual Hartford Book Festival

May 30, 2020, 10:00am – 4:00pm

Hartford Public Library, 500 Main Street, Hartford, CT

The Hartford Book Festival on May 30th will be a celebration of reading and writing. Poet Laureate Frederick Douglass Knowles will facilitate a poetry writing workshop. There will be panel discussions, storytelling, local authors, live performances, open Mic, artists, book vendors, bookstores, food trucks, free book giveaways. Sharmont 'Influence' Little,

owner of Influence-A-Life will conduct a workshop with the youth on poetry as conflict resolution. There will be a storytime and other activities for children and teens throughout the Downtown Library. Hartford's L.I.T. literary events will stretch from the front patio, to the Atrium, to the Center for Contemporary Culture, which will become Author's Central for the day, and all the way to the and youth program room on the 3rd floor.

Opening up the event will be Hartford's Proud Drill Drum and Dance (HPDDD) under the leadership of Duffy and Terry Starks. HPDDD aims to integrate sound, movement and artistry in the overall development of youth and expose youth to bigger and greater opportunities so that they excel academically, socially, and artistically throughout life. H.L.I.T. have been supporting hundreds of youth per year in Hartford through our after-school music programming. HPDDD has won numerous competitions and perform at many events nationwide including; March for Our Lives, Climate Change March, Hartford Athletic Soccer games, Yard Goats Baseball games and more. The festival will also have outstanding moves of the Jus Move Squad of Jus Move Studios under the direction of owner Jus Hues. His dance studio located on Main Street in Hartford provides dance classes, workshops and vocal instruction. Face painting will be offered by Joy Life Art Creation (JOLAC).

People Get Ready Bookstore of New Haven and The Key Bookstore will be on hand with rare selections and collections from African American Authors. Riverbend Bookstore will also be available with children's books and a host of other genres.

The live stage will be filled with the amazing talent of NBS Malay, Sa'id Abdush-Shukur, Oktober Brown, John "Tangsauce" Manselle, Ishine D'Poet and others.

Workshops available on Saturday at the 2nd Annual Hartford Book Festival:

- Cartooning Workshop by Joe Young Studios,
- Poetry Writing with Hartford Poet Laureate Fredrick Douglass Knowles
- The Art of Storytelling & Storytelling with the Children by Andre Keitt
- On Page & Stage; Character Theatrics by T'challa Williams
- Conscious Conversations Cards; Male & Female Relationships with Alphonso McGriff, III
- Writing Out 2020 Reflections: to Heal & Own Your Story Boldly with Nzima S. Hutchings and guest from the Every Kinda Lady and Her Sister's Pages Cafe Spiels group and anthology contributors, (mature audience for women).
- The Art of Journal Making (for children and tweens) with Rare Womack
- Freedom Dreaming: From Reflection to Vision to Literary Fruition by Lauren Simone Publishing House with presenters: Ryan Parker (Poet) and Melissa-Sue John (Publisher)
- Black Lit; An Exploration with Professor, Marilyn S. Turner and others.
- Sharmon Influence Little: Youth workshop on using poetry as a conflict resolution. Influencepoems.com

The Author's Panel discussion will include young authors, Muslim women authors, local authors and more. There will be a reading from Hartford's L.I.T. annual poetry anthology by HLIT members and contributors. For information to purchase copies of Hartford's L.I.T. 2019 anthology email us at Hartfordslit@gmail.com. Hartford's L.I.T. 2020 Anthology Titled *2020 Visions and Reflections* will be available to purchase at the festival.

Day Three: Poetical Musings

May 31, 2020, 4:00pm – 8:00pm

The FREE CENTER, 460 New Britain Avenue, Hartford, CT

Finally, an evening of Poetical Musings on May 31st from 4-8pm featuring Living Legend, Poet, Artist and member of The Last Poets, Abiodun Oyewole. Along with the outstanding poetry of the Hartford Poet Laureate Fedrick Douglass

Knowles, Award-Winning Slam poet, Tarishi "Midnight" Shuler, Tracy "Mind.Evolution" Caldwell and the Erotic Poetess Hillary Brown, Darlene Brandon owner of MaPeach Productions, and indigenous and Slam Poet Bobby Sanchez. Darryl Moss, organizer of the Indie Soul Festival in Springfield Massachusetts, will once again emcee the live stage and more.

Hartford's L.I.T.; The Team

Nzima Sherylle Hutchings: H.L.I.T. visionary and CEO, Owner and founder of Every Kinda Lady Co., Literary Wellness and Expressive Writing Coach, Author, Poet, Custom Journal Designer, Community Advocate for the Greater Hartford Advocacy Center, and 100 Women of Color Honoree.

T'challa Williams: H.L.I.T Executive Co-Founder, Spokeswomen, Chief Adviser and CEO of Wright Ink Productions, Author, Actress, Poet. In addition, a Community Activist, Chairperson of the School Governance Council for HPHS.

Alphonso McGriff, III: H.L.I.T Executive Co-Founder, Spokesman, Liaison, as well as, Author, Public, Intellectual Speaker, Inventor and creator of Conscious Conversations and Alphonso Speaks and a Cosmetologist.

Rare Womack: H.L.I.T Executive Co-Founder, Youth Outreach Coordinator, as well as, owner of Rare Jewels, Care B.A.G.S., Author, Actress and Poet.

Lashawn Henderson: Middleton: Founding member and Commemorative Arts Award Official, as well as owner of Lashawn Bakes, Author and Poet.

Naomi Williams, HLIT Member and Collegiate Liaison, and Poetess.

H.L.I.T. have "made it our mission to commit to the awareness and production of literary events within our community. Our stories are being told and we need to ensure that they are heard, discussed, and learned from."

Hartford's L.I.T. would like to thank all volunteers, supporters, and contributors.

For inquiry about Hartford's L.I.T.:

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ABOUT HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Now celebrating its 126th year, Hartford Public Library remains at the forefront of redefining the urban library experience in the 21st 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.