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For Immediate Release

Roberts Foundation Awards Grant For Hip Hop Nation 2016

Hartford, June 30, 2016 — The Edward C. and Ann T. Roberts Foundation has awarded a \$6,000 grant to Hartford Public Library to support Hip Hop Nation 2016. This month-long program will have its kickoff with an Envisionfest performance on Sept. 17 from 11 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., on the terrace of the Downtown Library's on Main Street. Hartford-based performers Brittney Crush, Orice Jenkins, Self Suffice, Tang Sauce and Kyle Young, will be joined by Team 860 from Studio 860's youth and young adult dance company, and members of HPL's YOUmedia center.

Hip Hop Nation 2016 has its roots in a 1991 exhibition at Real Art Ways, an alternative multidisciplinary arts organization in Hartford. The RAW archive is a recent acquisition of the Library's Hartford History Center. Material in the archival collection served as the inspiration for the Library's current Hip Hop event.

Hip Hop was started by Black and Latino youth in 1973 in the South Bronx as a creative community response to the criminalization of youth, the lack of quality educational and economic supports, and the burning down of dilapidated homes by neglectful landlords.

Hip Hop Nation 2016 will feature workshops, performances, community conversations and dance inspired by the five elements of Hip Hop culture: emceeing, DJ-ing, breakdancing, graffiti, and knowledge (history, literature, sociology, philosophy).

Local partners for this program include Real Art Ways, Temple of Hip Hop at Trinity College, Zulu Nation 860, Iron Poets, Studio 860, Young! Records, Royce Music Group, and ScriptFlip!.

Envisionfest started in 2012 and highlights the cultural attractions of Hartford in a day-long celebration. It is a program of the iQuilt Partnership, which includes the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts, the Greater Hartford Arts Council, MetroHartford Alliance, Metropolitan District Commission, Hartford Business Improvement District, Riverfront Recapture, Capital Region Development Authority, the City of Hartford, and the State of Connecticut.

ABOUT HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Hartford Public Library is a national leader in redefining the urban public library in the 21st century. The Library provides free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. It also provides access to computers, job counseling and assists in exploring pathways to citizenship. It has free art events, music concerts and classes for all ages

and interests. In 2015 the 10 locations of the Hartford Public Library counted 722,047 visits from adults, children and families seeking early literacy opportunities, work skills training, civic engagement, arts enrichment, and so much more. Please visit www.hplct.org.

