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Hartford Public Library to be Honored by Library of Congress for Promoting Literacy

(HARTFORD, CT: August 29, 2019) The Library of Congress has announced that Hartford Public Library (HPL) is among the winners of its prestigious 2019 Literacy Awards. HPL will be recognized for “Best Practices in Promoting Literacy” at the National Book Festival Gala in Washington, D.C. on Friday, August 30.

The Library of Congress Literacy Awards are presented to nonprofit organizations that have made “outstanding contributions to increasing literacy in the United States or abroad.” HPL was nominated for the award by U.S. Senator Chris Murphy.

“We are thrilled to have been recognized by the Library of Congress, one of the most influential institutions in our country,” said HPL CEO Bridget Quinn-Carey. “The success of The American Place and its programs, such as the LLBC after-school program, are clear proof that urban libraries in the 21st century provide vital service to our communities when they respond to change in a robust and dynamic manner. Assisting and welcoming immigrants and refugees has now become as integral a part of our library as the books on the shelves. Through these efforts, we create a positive impact on the overall health and productivity of our community.”

HPL was specifically recognized for Linking Learning, Belonging and Community (LLBC), an after-school program of The American Place (TAP) at HPL. TAP was originally formed in 2000 as a program dedicated to welcoming and assisting a large influx of refugees into the Greater Hartford area. The popularity and success of the program led to it being made a permanent division of the library in 2005. Since then, TAP has initiated numerous programs design to improve the lives of immigrants and refugees, and has been recognized nationally for its achievements.

The LLBC after-school program is a partnership between HPL, the Hartford Public School system and other community partners. It was created to assist refugee and immigrant high school students who have arrived in the United States with minimal English language skills. The LLBC program improves the academic achievements and accelerates the social integration of immigrant and refugee high school students by offering the inclusive, neutral and welcoming environment provided by a library setting. The success of the program can be gauged by the fact that many students who have passed through it have graduated at the top of their class and returned to share their success stories with current students.

“The continued success of The American Place is emblematic of all that we do here at Hartford Public Library,” said Quinn-Carey. “Inclusivity defines us. It inspires everything from our choice of resources and programs to the layout of our buildings. Being a place that welcomes all means reaching out to everyone and reaching in to everywhere, because that’s the only way to serve the people who need us most.”

ABOUT HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Now celebrating its 125th 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.