



For Immediate Release
Contact: [Russell Blair](#)
(860) 559-4873
December 27, 2022

HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY PROVIDES UPDATE ON DOWNTOWN LIBRARY OPERATIONS

Collections largely unharmed but public areas impacted by water damage

(Hartford, CT) – Hartford Public Library is continuing to assess extensive water damage that occurred at its Downtown Library at 500 Main St. after a pipe burst over the holiday weekend.

At this time there is no estimate for how long the Downtown Library will be closed, or if the building can be reopened in portions. It is expected that many areas will be closed for several months. More information will be provided in the coming days and weeks when a full assessment has been completed. All programs, classes and events at the Downtown Library are currently postponed until further notice.

The damage was discovered on Saturday, December 24th. The library was closed for the Christmas Eve holiday and no staff were on site when the incident occurred and no injuries were reported. Library staff and contracted crews have been at the library since working to mitigate the situation and determine the full extent of the damage.

Library collections, for the most part, were unharmed, however much of the computer equipment and furniture on the first, second and a portion of the third-floor public areas were impacted. We expect to be able to lend out materials from the Downtown Library throughout branches once a safe workflow process is created.

The Hartford History Center public room on the third floor suffered severe damage to technology and fixtures but thankfully its historical collections were unharmed. Most of the Hartford History Center's extensive collection is stored on the ground floor in compact shelving and did not suffer any harm. Materials in the Hartford History Center reading room were protected in glass cases or in file cabinets that were not breached by water. Exhibits on display in the library, including on the ArtWalk, were also unharmed and are being taken down and/or moved.

We are also thankful to report that the library's two Romare Bearden murals were unharmed. An art professional is determining how they can best be protected while the library undergoes repairs.

"While this situation is serious, we are thankful the damage is not more extensive," said Hartford Public Library President and CEO Bridget E. Quinn. "The Hartford Fire Department was incredible in their response, as well as library staff who assisted."

Hartford Public Library's other branches are currently open and operating according to the following schedule:

Albany Library

1250 Albany Ave.

Monday through Thursday: 10:00-6:00

Fridays: 10:00-5:00

860-695-7380

Barbour Library

261 Barbour St.

Monday through Thursday: 10:00-6:00

Fridays: 10:00-5:00

860-695-7400

Camp Field Library

30 Campfield Ave.

Monday through Thursday: 10:00-6:00

Fridays: 10:00-5:00

860-695-7440

Dwight Library

7 New Park Ave.

Monday through Thursday: 10:00-6:00

Fridays: 10:00-5:00

860-695-7460

Park Street Library @ the Lyric

603 Park St.

Monday through Thursday: 10:00-6:00

Fridays: 10:00-5:00

860-695-7500

We are exploring the possibility of expanding hours of services at our branches. We are also working to move programming, classes and events to alternate locations across the HPL system or in other area locations for the month of January, including for our popular Baby Grand Jazz series, which begins Jan. 8th.

Visit www.hplct.org for the latest information on rescheduled programs, classes and other events.

About Hartford Public Library

With roots dating to 1774, 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. www.hplct.org.