



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022



# STATE OF THE LIBRARY

For Hartford Public Library, 2022 represented a year of important transitions.

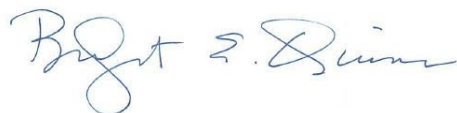
After a year-plus of virtual storytimes, lectures and concerts, Hartford Public Library in 2022 resumed a robust schedule of in-person programming.

For the Frog Hollow neighborhood, library services transitioned from a small storefront to a state-of-the-art, 13,000-square-foot facility. We resumed five-day-a-week service across all of our branches to better meet the needs of the community.

None of this would have been possible without the dedicated staff at Hartford Public Library. Their commitment to meeting the needs of the Hartford community is laudable, whether connecting customers with educational resources, job opportunities or simply a book they might enjoy.

We are in a strong position as we emerge from COVID-19 and follow a new strategic plan that will guide us through 2025. This includes doubling down on the services that have positioned us as a leading 21st-century urban library while exploring opportunities for growth. Exciting capital projects are in the works that will bring state-of-the-art libraries to additional Hartford neighborhoods.

Hartford Public Library is a place like no other, a vital civic anchor in the City of Hartford, and we look forward to continuing to work to meet our mission to inspire reading, guide learning and encourage individual exploration.



*Bridget E. Quinn, President and CEO*  
*David Barrett, Chair, Board of Directors*





**“We really see Hartford Public Library as one of the most important institutions and one of the most important resources in our community. We want to make sure we are creating world-class library spaces in our neighborhoods.”**

***Mayor Luke A. Bronin***

2021-22  
AT A GLANCE

**TOTAL CIRCULATION (INCLUDING EBOOKS)**

138,917

**TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS**

254,232

**TOTAL PROGRAMS (LIVE & VIRTUAL)**

3,455

**REFERENCE QUESTIONS ANSWERED**

33,263

**TOTAL PROGRAM ATTENDANCE**

42,466





## Top Titles for 2021-22

### ADULT EBOOK

*The Lincoln Highway*

by Amor Towles

### ADULT FICTION

*The Vanishing Half*

by Brit Bennett

### ADULT NONFICTION

*The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*

by Heather McGhee

### AUDIOBOOKS

*The Conservative Tradition*

by Patrick Allitt

### YOUTH FICTION

*Deep End*

by Jeff Kinney

### YOUTH NONFICTION

*A Kids Book About Mindfulness*

by Caverly Morgan

### YOUTH EBOOK

*The Day You Begin*

by Jacqueline Woodson

### LIBRARY OF THINGS

Nature Explorer Kits

### ADULT DVD

*Game of Thrones*

by David Benioff

### NEW BOOK

*Dark Hours*

by Michael Connelly

### YOUTH DVD

*Paw Patrol*

by Chapman, Keith

### YA FICTION

*Concrete Rose*

by Angie Thomas

### YA NONFICTION

*The 57 Bus*

by Dasjka Slater

### YA EBOOK

*Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*

by JK Rowling

# WHERE WE WORK

## DOWNTOWN

500 Main Street, Hartford,  
CT 06103  
860-695-6300

## ALBANY

1250 Albany Avenue,  
Hartford, CT 06112  
860-695-7380

## BARBOUR

261 Barbour Street,  
Hartford, CT 06120  
860-695-7400

## CAMP FIELD

30 Campfield Avenue,  
Hartford, CT 06114  
860-695-7440

## DWIGHT

7 New Park Avenue,  
Hartford, CT 06106  
860-695-7460

## PARK STREET LIBRARY @ THE LYRIC

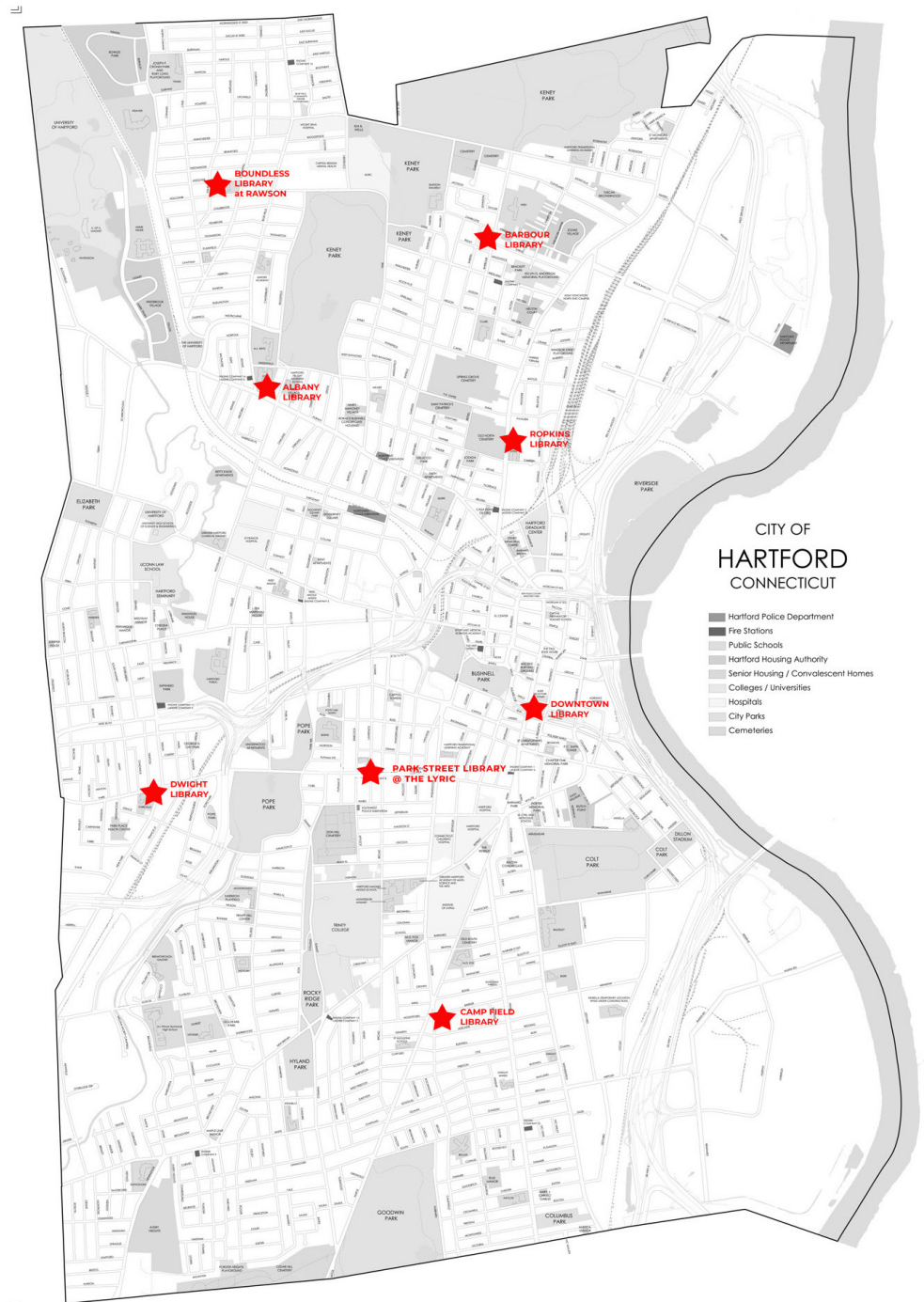
603 Park Street, Hartford,  
CT 06106  
860-695-7500

## SAND/ROPKINS

1750 Main Street,  
Hartford, CT 06120  
860-695-7520

## BOUNDLESS AT RAWSON SCHOOL

260 Holcomb Street,  
Hartford, CT 06112  
860-695-7481





## LEADERSHIP

Bridget E. Quinn  
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Leticia Cotto  
CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE OFFICER

Marie Jarry  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICES

Brenda Miller  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CULTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS

Homa Naficy  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE AMERICAN PLACE

Gilda Roncari  
DIRECTOR OF DONOR RELATIONS

Diana Smith  
DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Mary T. Tzambazakis  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

## HPL BOARD MEMBERS

2021-2022

David Barrett, *Chair*  
Phyllis Shikora, *Vice Chair*  
Ana Alfaro, *Secretary*  
Rick Costello, *Treasurer*  
Arunan D. Arulampalam  
Melvyn Colón  
Andréa Comer  
Gregory C. Davis  
Andrew B. Diaz-Matos  
Carlos Galdamez  
Floyd W. Green, III  
Steven M. Harris  
Suzanne M. Hopgood  
Sara Lashetski  
Antonio J. Matta  
Sarah G. Needham  
Daniel P. O'Shea, Jr.  
Mark Overmyer-Velázquez  
Karen T. Taylor

Bridget E. Quinn, *President & CEO*  
Hon. Luke A. Bronin, *Mayor, Ex-Officio*  
Geraldine P. Sullivan, *Director Emeritus*

The health of our civilization, the depth of our awareness about the underpinnings of our culture and our concern for the future can all be tested by how well we support our libraries.

—Carl Sagan







## Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Hartford Public Library continued its journey to become a more diverse, equitable and inclusive workplace, working with an outside consultant, Leading Culture Solutions, to survey staff and conduct a series of interviews, focus groups and training sessions designed to incorporate employee feedback in creating a positive and safe environment within our organization and for those we serve.

The process kicked off with an all-staff meeting in the fall and was led by a DE&I Steering Committee and a DE&I Council that has played a vital role in providing input on new ways to incorporate DE&I into the fabric of HPL's culture.

An initial employee survey led to the organization of five focus groups of underrepresented communities among Hartford Public Library's staff. Virtual trainings covered issues such as the power of language, the history of underrepresented communities, the business case for change and unconscious bias. Throughout the year there were ample opportunities for staff feedback via anonymous surveys, with results informing and guiding the DE&I process.

The journey has offered an opportunity for HPL staff to learn more about each other's lived experiences and the possibilities for our organization and will continue into the next year. Inequities in our society exist – many of us experience them through personal experience, historic or recent events. Hartford Public Library can only fulfill its mission if we are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all.

# STRATEGIC PLAN

Hartford Public Library began a new strategic planning process in the winter of 2021 to articulate a vision for the coming years. Central to this planning process was engaging the voices and feedback of the community, to ensure that the resulting plan and programmatic strategy is reflective of community need and priority.

A task force of board members, senior staff and corporators worked with the nonprofit management consultant TDC to develop the final plan. The process included interviews with both staff and community members, as well as a thorough assessment of existing library programming and services looking at strengths and opportunities for growth.

The new, three-year strategic plan was approved by the HPL Board of Directors in February and includes four strategic goals:

**Goal 1:** Continue providing a wide variety of high-quality services and carefully assess priorities, including opportunities for expansion

**Goal 2:** Prioritize community engagement

**Goal 3:** Expand physical and virtual access to HPL programs and services throughout Hartford

**Goal 4:** Continue to prioritize employee development and internal communication

Hartford Public Library is a vital civic anchor in the City of Hartford and the plan will help guide the organization as it continues to work with customers, staff and the community to increase access to programs and services and identify strategic opportunities for expansion.









## PUBLIC SERVICES

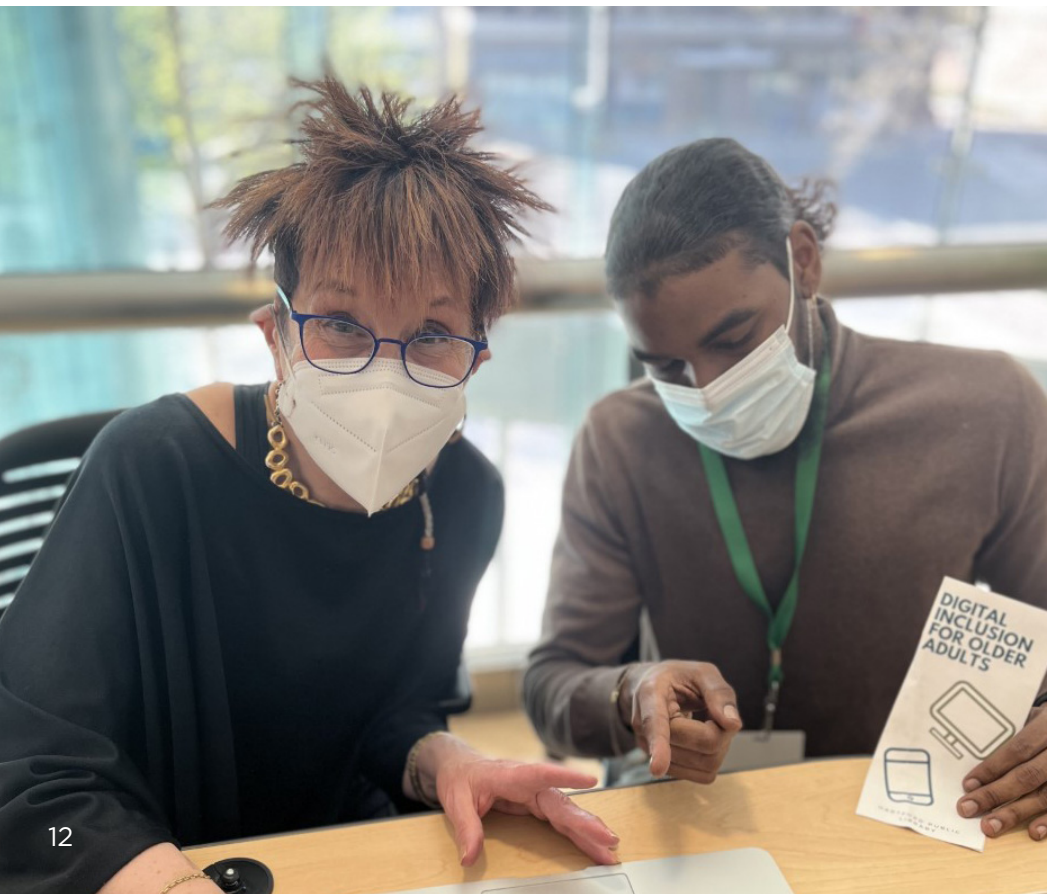
Whether opening a new library, providing critical services to Hartford residents or expanding programming, the Public Services team was plenty busy in FY22.

The long-awaited Park Street Library @ the Lyric opened to a well-attended celebration in October, drawing hundreds from the neighborhood eager to enjoy the resources and opportunities provided by the state-of-the-art facility. A parade was held from a community open space known as the Artbox to the location of the new library where there was a block party with food, music and book giveaways.

Throughout the fall and winter, a partnership with CVS Health and Bank of America allowed HPL to provide no-cost flu shot vouchers at all library locations.

In January, Hartford Public Library launched a new Digital Navigators program designed to help connect older adults in Hartford with the technology and one-one-one training needed to improve their tech skills and digital literacy. Participants learned how to use email, apply for jobs, submit government forms and more. The program, which continued through the summer, was funded through a \$100,000 grant from the Connecticut State Library.

After reopening two days a week in May and June of 2021, the Albany, Barbour, Camp Field, Dwight and Park libraries expanded to five-day-a-week service in June 2022, providing enhanced opportunities for programming





## SPOTLIGHT

# COVID-19 Test Kits & Masks

The arrival of the BA.2 subvariant of COVID-19 in the spring caused an uptick in cases in Hartford, but HPL stepped up to the plate to help reduce the spread of the virus.

In partnership with the City of Hartford, six HPL branches distributed at-home COVID-19 test kits and N-95 masks to Hartford residents. Hartford Public Library supplied 12,000 kits throughout the week of April 11.

This was not the first time HPL participated in COVID-19 mitigation efforts. In late December, when the arrival of the Omicron variant caused a scarcity of protective equipment, the City of Hartford distributed more than 8,000 testing kits at HPL branches.

“It was a surprisingly nice way to spend the morning, because everybody was really nice in line and the library is doing a great job,” said Shane Chase, who waited two hours in line with his wife, Isabel, to collect the tests.

Hartford Public Library also regularly held COVID-19 vaccine clinics at its branches throughout the year in partnership with Griffin Health and the State of Connecticut, offering pediatric vaccinations soon after they were authorized.







## YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

The Youth and Family Services Department at the Downtown Library reopened to a fresh look in July with new flooring, paint and furniture funded from a generous legacy donation as well as support from the Mortensen Foundation.

A partnership between Hartford Public Library and Hartford Public Schools helped boost participation in Summer Learning by nearly 300% in FY 22. Expanding upon the Boundless program that seamlessly provides access to HPL materials for Hartford students without a library card, summer readers were able to access a wide variety of ebooks suitable for all grade levels.

The summer featured robust outreach to camps with 19 outreach visits to school-based summer camps serving 512 students. More than 2,000 books were distributed to campers to help stem summer slide and build at-home libraries.

Fall and winter saw the return of the Big Read as well as popular cultural programs to celebrate the holidays of Diwali and Kwanzaa. After-school programming at the Albany Library focused on origami, crochet, and knitting, drawing 273 children from October-December.

Youth librarians supported Hartford Public Schools' Saturday Academy, providing STEM Lab on the Go kits for teachers to use during the weekly academic and enrichment programs.

*Hartford Public Library President & CEO Bridget E. Quinn, center, stands in the newly renovated Youth and Family Services Department with family representing the Grace D. Cassell Trust, which funded the upgrades.*





## SPOTLIGHT

# Vision to Learn

Dozens of children in Hartford started the school year with new eyeglasses thanks to a partnership between Hartford Public Library and the nonprofit Vision to Learn.

The organization began bringing its mobile van to HPL branches in June, providing on-site eye examinations right in the library parking lot. Students who needed eyeglasses returned to the library several weeks later to pick up their new pair. During the first two visits, 27 children were screened and 24 needed glasses and received a free pair.

Branch Services Coordinator Bonnie Solberg said some Hartford families don't have the money to spend on proper vision care or they aren't sure if their child needs glasses. "They need a little help," she said. "But there's other priorities when money is tight."

Syeita Rhey-Fisher's daughter Nyemia had glasses but an exam from Vision to Learn showed she needed a new prescription to be able to see more clearly. Exams also showed Nyeima's siblings NyAsia and Devon, who had not worn glasses before, were both farsighted. All three children received their new glasses in time for the start of the school year.







## YOUMEDIA & TEEN SERVICES

The YOUmedia team welcomed a new manager and three new mentors in FY22, as well as a new coordinator of the Boundless Opportunities program that provides after-school enrichment for Hartford Public High School students, including helping to build critical English language skills.

Over the course of the year, 269 Boundless Opportunities programs were held, drawing a combined total student attendance of 1,864. This included an English Club, Soccer Study Hall, Anime Club and the ReadyCT internship program that offered teens valuable workforce skills. “This job is so fun compared to my past jobs,” said high school intern Omar Batista. “It allows me to fuel my creativity while getting to learn other valuable information from all types of people.”

A partnership with Connecticut Foodshare has enabled YOUmedia to stock a small pantry with snacks for teens as well as food items they can take home.

YOUmedia’s lineup of programs for the year included drone photography, arts and crafts and game design, among other disciplines. Two teens who worked with audio production mentor Eli Williams completed independent singles they released on their social media platforms.



## SPOTLIGHT

# Virtual Reality

The YOUMedia team continued to enhance its virtual reality programming in FY22, with YOUMedia Manager Marc Pettersen hosting numerous workshops, including at the Albany Library, where teens were introduced to character creation and game design, learning how to create a concept and characters for their own unique video game.

In anticipation of the launch event for the new North End Library at the Swift Factory in March, Marc made a 3D scan of the historic building and allowed teens to populate the future library space with computers, books and furniture to design their own library.

YOUMedia recently received a donation of 13 virtual reality headsets from San Francisco-based Unity Technologies that will allow HPL to bring virtual reality to Hartford classrooms as a means of instruction in numerous subject areas.







## ADULT PROGRAMMING

The year kicked off with the completion of the second annual Hartford Changemakers summer program series. Mural workshop artists partnered with The Phoenix Society, an organization of retired and active Black firefighters in Hartford, to research and paint an homage to William Henry Jacklyn, Hartford's first Black firefighter.

Hartford Public Library was once again a recipient of the Big Read grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and a series of programs were hosted throughout the fall inspired by Sandra Cisneros' novel "The House on Mango Street."

Another fall highlight was the first-ever Hartford Harvest Festival which was hosted in Keney Park in October to celebrate indigenous life and culture. HPL partnered with Ebony Horsewomen on the event.

The 19th season of Baby Grand Jazz kicked off in January and saw the return of an in-person audience at the Downtown Library. After beginning with limited seating for 25 audience members, the final concert of the season in April welcomed a crowd of 100. Due to popular demand HPL continued online livestreams of the concerts, reaching viewers in 97 countries.

In June, HPL welcomed author R. Eric Thomas for a Pride month book release party for "Kings of B'More," a young adult book that tells the story of two Black queer best friends.





## SPOTLIGHT: ADULT PROGRAMMING

# Mujeres Emprendedoras

A group of talented women from Hartford are learning valuable entrepreneurial skills thanks to a new library initiative launched this year.

HPL partnered with Arte Popular Hartford, a collective of local female artisans, on the Mujeres Emprendedoras (entrepreneurial women) program that aims to remove common obstacles, like lack of access to resources and capital, that prevent immigrant women from pursuing small business ventures by providing them with space, child care and Spanish language financial education.

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving committed a grant of nearly \$25,000 to the project through its Latino Endowment Fund. Mujeres Emprendedoras “supports and enhances work that is inherent to Hartford Public Library’s mission around economic and workforce development, community collaboration and engagement and the creation of avenues for social and economic mobility,” said HPL Customer Experience Officer Leticia Cotto.

Participants in the program, which has been hosted at the Park Street Library @ the Lyric, have had the opportunity to take classes on a wide variety of technical and creative skills, ranging from how to deliver presentations, how to decorate cakes, how to crochet and how to use Google Docs.



## TECHNICAL SERVICES

The Technical Services team worked to add more than 18,000 items to Hartford Public Library's collection in FY22, including laptops to support the Crossroads to Connectivity Program, Wi-Fi hotspots and Launchpads preloaded with audio books, educational apps and more to help promote literacy, increase access to lifelong learning and bridge the digital divide.

Additionally, the team managed more than 30 database contracts to support the research and electric resource needs of the Greater Hartford community.

Electronic resources available to HPL cardholders include:

**BookFlix:** A fun reading program designed for children in preK through third grade which pairs classic video storybooks with read along nonfiction ebooks

**BrainFuse HelpNow:** Personalized assistance covering academic subjects from kindergarten to college

**ComicsPlus:** Access to thousands of digital comics, graphic novels and manga

**Creativebug:** Learn a variety of crafts with step-by-step videos, patterns, templates and recipes

**Freegal:** A music service offering limited downloads and unlimited streaming

**Hartford Courant archives**

**Kanopy:** A streaming video service offering critically acclaimed movies, documentaries and foreign films

**Qwest TV:** A collection of concerts and documentary films in jazz, soul, funk classical and global music co-founded and curated by Quincy Jones



## LIBRARY ON WHEELS

Throughout the past year, the Library on Wheels has focused on engaging audiences of all ages. The LOW regularly completes book circulation delivery routes around Hartford Early Childhood Centers, resulting in a total circulation of 5,077 books for the year.

The LOW's services expanded to serve older, intergenerational audiences as well, and the Youth Services Department took on some of the LOW's previous youth outreach duties. The LOW has visited local senior centers to provide older adults with books and other programs and services.

Last fall, the Library on Wheels was present at many weekly farmers markets and various other community events, including the Urban League Community Halloween party and some senior center holiday parties. The LOW also restarted its regular visits to FoodShare mobile sites, where free books and other HPL resources were distributed.

In FY22, the LOW had a 63% increase in weekly hours compared to the prior year, and the number of items borrowed was up 256%.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resources team maintained a high volume of hiring in FY22, with 54 new employees joining Hartford Public Library during that time in key positions across the organization.

HR also led HPL's diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) efforts, organizing focus groups, surveys and a total of 11 staff trainings facilitated by the consultant Leading Culture Solutions on topics including unconscious bias, the history of underrepresented communities and the power of language.







## THE AMERICAN PLACE (TAP)

The American Place was once again the recipient of a Citizenship and Integration Grant from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to continue its important work helping immigrants and refugees on their path to citizenship. Hartford Public Library was the only library in the country to receive the two-year, \$250,000 grant.

Over the course of FY22, The American Place prepared and submitted 220 citizenship applications and saw 211 citizenship applicants naturalized as U.S. citizens. ESL classes had a total attendance of 4,451 at the Downtown Library and 386 at the new Park Street Library at the Lyric after beginning there in November. Digital literacy classes drew a total of 870 participants.

One participant in TAP's Opportunity Youth program, which provides young adults with valuable job skills, said of his time "I got to make more progress in every aspect of life than at any other time during my stay in the U.S., and this progress would have not happened if not for your helpful, careful, and personable approach."

In the spring, The American Place received a \$14,000 grant from The Aurora Foundation to launch the Barriers Can't Stop Us program that will help immigrant women complete their college degrees by reducing various academic, financial and social obstacles.



## SPOTLIGHT

# Cisco Academy Graduates

Cisco Networking Academy for Youth teaches information technology skills to young immigrants or migrants who have recently graduated high school. Upon completion of eight months of coursework, students are placed in a paid internship position in the technology field.

Ten students at The American Place graduated from Cisco Networking Academy in June. Not only did these students demonstrate their dedication within the classroom, they also had the opportunity to intern in information technology at Metro Hartford Innovation Services and Hartford Public Library. Two students have already secured full-time jobs at Infosys, a multinational information technology company with an office in Hartford.

To celebrate their impressive accomplishments, the development office helped secure the 20 students tickets to the musical Hamilton, thanks to the Bushnell Education Foundation.

Diamond, a graduate of the program, said she “jumped for joy” when she learned that she had tickets to Hamilton. She felt excited to share the news with her friends and family, who are big fans of the show: “When they asked how I was able to go, it opened up the conversation that allowed me to share my IT pursuits through explaining all that the program has done for me.”







## Hartford History Center (HHC)

It was a busy year for the Hartford History Center with the return of class trips that brought students from Trinity, UConn and Hartford Public Schools to access a wide range of archival materials.

The Hartford History Center was selected as one of four sites in the country to participate in development of the Sourcery app, a research tool being developed by UConn that will allow students and scholars to access collection materials remotely. The project has received a \$805,000 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant.

“In Hartford Public Library’s Hartford History Center, we work to democratize the research process,” said Brenda Miller, Hartford Public Library executive director of culture and communications. “We are excited to be included in the Sourcery project, as one of four institutions in the country chosen and the only public library to be participating.”

In April, the history center hosted an exhibit and program highlighting Hartford’s parks as part of the national celebration of landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted’s 200th birthday. Olmsted was born in Hartford and his firm’s credits include work on Goodwin Park, Keney Park, Pope Park and Riverside Park.

In the fall, the history center exhibited art that was part of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving’s Art in Action: Young Artists’ Vision of 2020 project. Student artists were called upon to create work that captured their thoughts and emotions in a time of pandemic and protest. Several of the artists attended a reception at the Downtown Library where they shared the inspiration for their works.

With the 250th anniversary of Hartford Public Library’s founding as the Hartford Library Company approaching in 2024, the HHC has formed a committee to begin planning how to mark this important milestone.

The Reverend Horace Bushnell believed Prosperity [was] Our Duty and that civic improvement was critical to a prosperous Hartford. Concerned by Hartford’s economic decline, Bushnell recognized Hartford’s long want of ‘spacious ornamental ground’ and the opportunity for civic improvement. After months of planning, Bushnell presented his proposal for the park on October 5, 1853 to Hartford’s City Council. The Council passed a resolution a public ballot on December 22, 1853 and on January 5, 1854 the public approved the park—establishing America’s first publicly funded park. After many years and design efforts, Jacob Weidenmann, was hired in 1860 to finalize the park’s design. Originally named City Park, on February 14, 1876 the Council renamed the park, Bushnell Park, just three days before Horace Bushnell’s death.



Hartford suffered great floods in 1936 and 1938. The Army Corps of Engineers created the Park River relocation plan in 1941, placing the river in a concrete tunnel under the Bushnell Park. As part of this plan, the firm of Olmsted & Olmsted was hired to redesign the Park and added the pond to emulate the prior location of the river. It was Bushnell’s theory of Unconscious Influence (1842) that inspired F.L. Olmsted’s beliefs that parks were a source social, spiritual, and moral reform.



For more information on Bushnell Park visit: [bushnellpark.org](http://bushnellpark.org)

### Bushnell Park: America’s First





## SPOTLIGHT

# Suffragist Sculpture

Friends and supporters of the Hartford History Center gathered in March during Women's History Month to celebrate the completion of a suffragist sculpture honoring the first women who registered to vote in Hartford after the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment.

“The Art of Perseverance” by artist Marilyn Parkinson Thrall is a dress-shaped sculpture that pays homage to Connecticut suffragists in numerous ways. The sash adorning the piece, which includes a City of Hartford seal, is purple and green – colors unique to the Connecticut suffrage movement. The dress is printed with voter registration cards of Hartford's first female voters.

The sculpture, which will become part of the Hartford History Center's permanent collection, was funded by a Creation of New Work award from the Edward C. and Ann T. Roberts Foundation that Hartford Public Library received in 2020. It was displayed alongside pieces of the HHC's “October 1920” exhibit celebrating the centennial of women's suffrage.

“This sculpture is an inspiration for people of all backgrounds, races, creeds, countries of origin, gender identities and abilities,” Hartford Public Library President and CEO Bridget E. Quinn said at the March event. “It's such a testament to what power we have when we come together to do something right.”







FACEBOOK

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**508**  
P O S T S

---

**16,000**  
R E A C T I O N S

---

**605**  
N E W F A N S



INSTAGRAM

---

**421**  
P H O T O S

---

**20,000**  
E N G A G E M E N T S

---

**1,000**  
N E W F O L L O W E R S



TWITTER

---

**867**  
T W E E T S

---

**3,700**  
E N G A G E M E N T S

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**217**  
N E W F O L L O W E R S



## DIGITAL LIBRARY LAB

Brad Overturf was hired as the new manager of the Digital Library Lab in June after a 30-plus year career with the state Department of Transportation working on and supervising engineering, research and planning.

One major project completed in FY22 was the digitization of hundreds of Hartford Public High School yearbooks dating back to the late 1800s. The yearbooks were scanned page-by-page using the DLL's high-tech equipment and will be uploaded to the Connecticut Digital Archive ([ctdigitalarchive.org](http://ctdigitalarchive.org)).

The Digital Library Lab was also contracted to digitize nine pieces of art from local artists that will soon adorn utility boxes and bus shelters across the city. The project, titled "hARTford Love," will feature a total of 33 artists that will have their work displayed along Albany Avenue, one of the city's busiest thoroughfares. The works were brought to the DLL where they were photographed on an X-Y table with a 100 megapixel camera so they could be digitally reproduced to "wrap" the utility boxes and bus shelters without any pixelation.

Ongoing projects in the DLL include the continued digitization of the Hartford History Center's collection of Hartford Times photographs and future work may include jobs with the City of Hartford.







## THE ARTWALK

The ArtWalk returned in November after a lengthy hiatus to welcome Wladyslaw Prosol and his exhibit “Portrait of a Picture,” a series of abstracts and nontraditional landscapes including stunning views of Downtown Hartford.

Four more exhibitions over the course of the season explored Black ancestry, poetry, the unseen connections and meanings in common household objects and gender and religion. A total of 4,213 visitors were recorded over the entirety of the season.

Next season’s ArtWalk lineup will feature:

**Brigid Kennedy:** “Visual Narratives” focuses on issues of social justice – immigration, education, mental health, race, class – during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Her works will be displayed from September 16 to November 13, 2022.

**Barbara Hocker:** “Ebb & Flow” depicts the importance of the many forms of water in nature. The exhibition is composed of digital photography, printmaking, water media, and encaustic on paper. Her works will be displayed from December 2, 2022 to January 22, 2023.

**Traé Brooks:** “In Living Memory” is a tribute to Brooks’ grandmother, Linna A. Brooks, whom he describes as his “foundation growing up.” The exhibit consists of portraits, domestic installation, reading material, music and scent to commemorate her legacy and explore Brooks’ own family history. His works will be displayed from February 10 to April 2, 2023.

**Joe Bun Keo, Rick Bogdan, David Borawski, Jon Eastman, and Christopher Schroeder:** “Art is Work; Work is Art” illustrates each artist’s unique experience working as a museum professional assembling exhibits or private collections. This mixed media exhibit examines the intersection of art and labor, and how labor is itself art. Their works will be displayed from April 21 to June 10, 2023.







## 2021–22 AWARDS

2022: NATIONAL LEADERSHIP GRANT FOR “BUILDING SOCIAL CAPITAL: AN INCLUSIVE APPROACH TO IMMIGRANT FINANCIAL INTEGRATION,” INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

*The American Place, Hartford Public Library*

2022: SELECTED AS ONE OF 20 “GAMECHANGERS: INNOVATORS IN CONNECTICUT HISTORY,” CT EXPLORED

*Hartford History Center*

2022: SULLIVAN AWARD FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY ADMINISTRATORS SUPPORTING SERVICES TO CHILDREN, AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

*Marie Jarry*

2022: FAITH HEKTOEN AWARD, CONNECTICUT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

*Lina Osbo-Williams*

2022: GOLD AWARD, CORPORATE/INSTITUTIONAL/PUBLIC SERVICE VIDEO FOR “SWIFT FACTORY,” CONNECTICUT ART DIRECTORS CLUB

*Hartford Public Library*

2022: OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY ADVOCATE AWARD, CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF LATINO ADMINISTRATORS AND SUPERINTENDENTS

*Michele Brophy*

2022: PRESERVATION GRANT FOR “HIRAM PERCY MAXIM COLLECTION,” NATIONAL FILM PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

*Hartford History Center*

2022: SELECTION, PAN AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL; REMI AWARD, WORLDFEST-HOUSTON INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL; SELECTION, MARCH ON WASHINGTON FILM FESTIVAL, “THOUGHTS ARE THINGS”

*Christopher Brown, HPL Studios*

### **EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION PROGRAM:**

JULY 2021 — 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

*Michelle McFarland*

OCTOBER 2021 — ANNUAL AWARD

*Carol Pugh*

OCTOBER 2021 — IN APPRECIATION FOR DEMONSTRATING A POSITIVE ATTITUDE

*Katryna Pierce*

OCTOBER 2021 — IN APPRECIATION FOR DEMONSTRATING A POSITIVE ATTITUDE

*Michele Brophy*

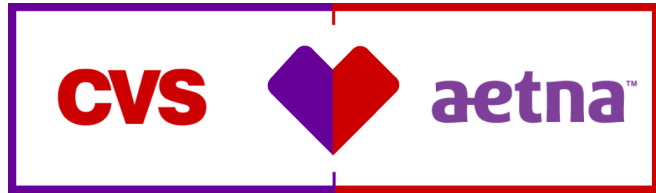
JANUARY 2022 — IN RECOGNITION OF INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY

*Krista Chandler*

JANUARY 2022 — IN RECOGNITION OF INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY

*Juanita Montalvo*





*Many thanks to CVS/  
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*Thank you to Margaret and Bob Patricelli for opening their home for the fifth annual Connecticut Women's Art Show that served as a fundraiser for HPL. Jewelry designer Jessica Dickens and abstract painter Sandy Welch generously agreed to donate a portion of their sales to the library.*

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LEFT: Ana Alfaro and Marilda Gándara, legacy campaign co-chairs. RIGHT: Jill Hutensky, senior vice president, Hartford Market, Bank of America.



Thanks to the Zachs Family Fund and other investors, Hartford Public Library's Endow Hartford 21 Fund raised \$55,000 with gifts and matching funds.

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 Mary LaPorte  
 Courtney Larkin  
 Barry Lastra  
 Cynthia Laurencin  
 Rick P. Lawrence  
 Joseph F. Lea  
 Trudi Lebron  
 Lois F. Lewis  
 Virginia Lewis  
 Nancy Macy  
 Jane Macy-Painter  
 Joyce Mandell  
 Nelba Márquez-Greene  
 Gilberto Martinez  
 Duby McDowell  
 Yvette Meléndez  
 Bernie Michel  
 Thea Montanez  
 Christopher Montross

Jody Morneault  
 Marge E. Morrissey  
 Brenda Mulero  
 Shannon Mumley  
 Leah T. Murchie  
 Stewart Murchie  
 Nina A. Musumeci  
 John R. Nealon  
 Emily Noel  
 Jeanna Grimes Ogbar  
 Cheryl Ann O'Meara  
 Daniel I. Papermaster Esq.  
 Margaret Patricelli  
 Brewster Perkins  
 Jenny Minton Quigley  
 Jamil Ragland  
 Cynthia W. Reik  
 Enid M. Rey  
 Belle K. Ribicoff  
 Cynthia Rider  
 Jason Rojas  
 Nellie Uccello Romaine  
 Janice Rossetti

Marilyn E. Rossetti  
 Jesus F. Samboy  
 Constanza Segovia  
 Marc Shafer  
 John Simoneau  
 Robert H. Smith Jr.  
 Sharon W. Smith  
 Mark Socha  
 Tara Spain  
 Michael Stotts  
 Donna M. Stout  
 Gerri P. Sullivan  
 Timothy J. Sullivan Jr.  
 Deidre M. Tavera  
 Charles A. Teale Sr.  
 Josye Utick  
 Robyne Watkin-Anson  
 Damaris Whittaker  
 Shawn T. Wooden  
 Andrew Woods  
 Lyle D. Wray  
 Hyacinth M. Yennie

† Deceased



*2021 HPL Corporator of Distinction  
 Cate D'Italia with HPL President  
 & CEO Bridget E. Quinn and  
 HPL Corporator John Alves.*



*In memory of HPL Corporator Sherry  
 Brown-Marfuggi who passed in the last year.*



# FINANCIALS

# REVENUE

EARNED/MISC  
812,792

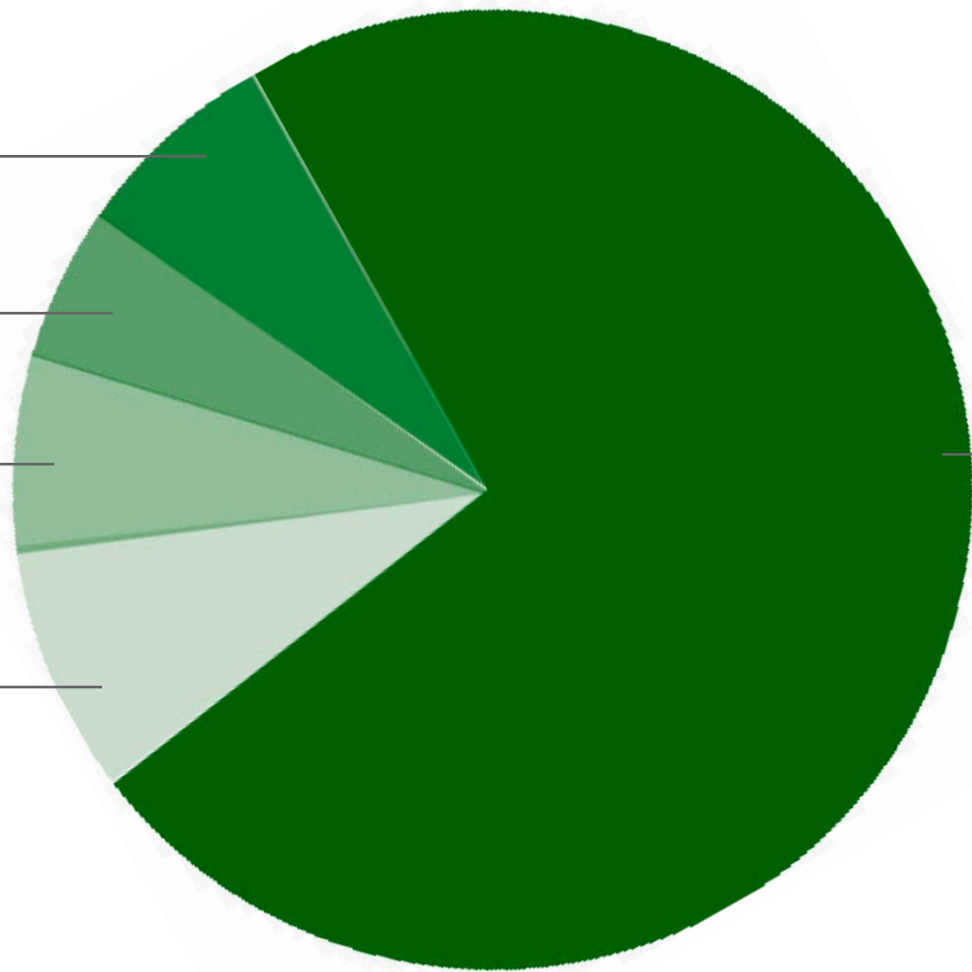
GIFTS  
600,000

ENDOWMENT  
753,818

GRANTS  
1,000,000

CITY CONTRIBUTION  
8,460,590

TOTAL REVENUE 11,627,200





EXPENSE

PLANT OPERATIONS  
AND MAINTENANCE

526,480

LIBRARY MATERIALS

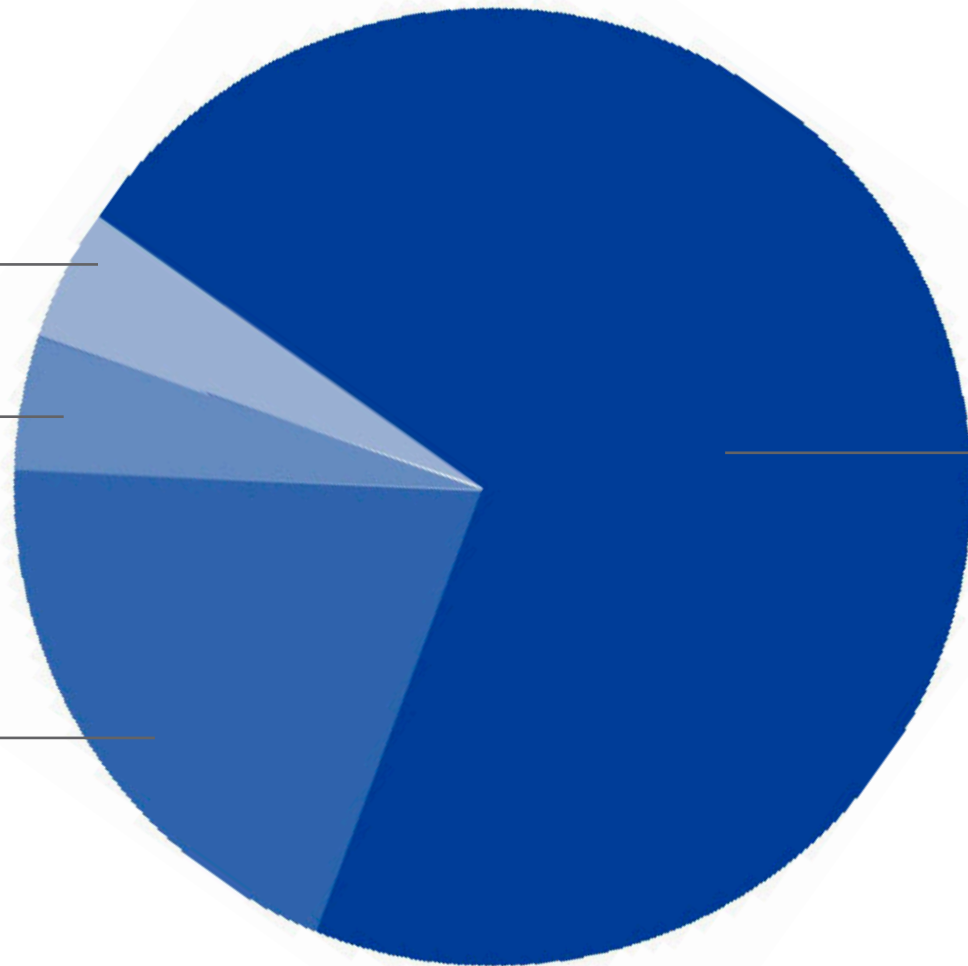
536,282

OTHER OPERATING  
EXPENSES

2,315,506

PERSONNEL COSTS

8,248,932



TOTAL EXPENSE

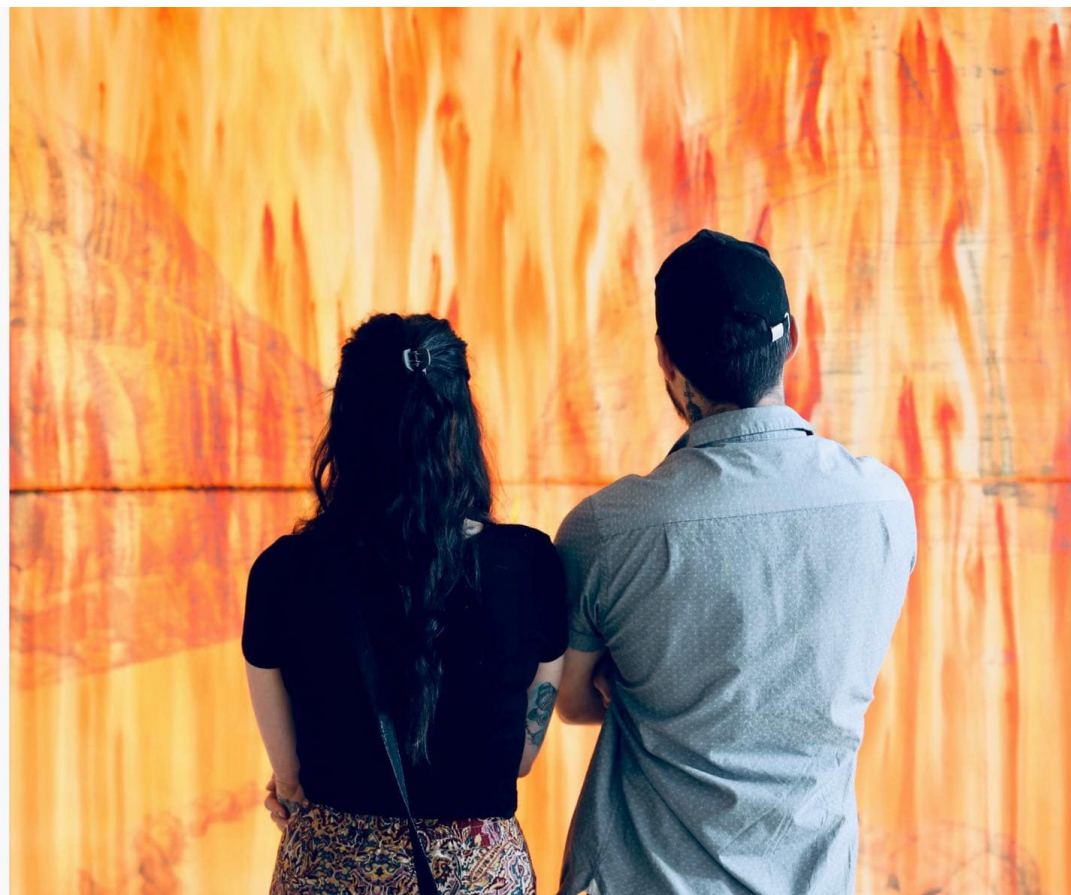
11,627,200

## FY22—STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	FY22*	FY21
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash	857,453	1,067,648
Investments	26,058,174	23,122,649
Accounts Receivable	89,677	442,632
Contributions Receivable	3,532,526	495,723
Prepaid Expenses	86,795	103,282
Property and Equipment, net	8,128,540	8,471,464
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>38,753,165</b>	<b>33,703,398</b>
 <b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSET</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	386,802	68,681
Deferred Revenue	22,403	36,697
Refundable Advance	0	87,595
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>409,205</b>	<b>192,973</b>
 <b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Without Donor Restrictions	34,162,639	27,711,943
With Donor Restrictions	4,181,321	5,798,482
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>38,343,960</b>	<b>33,510,425</b>
 <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	 <b>38,753,165</b>	 <b>33,703,398</b>

*\*FY22 is unaudited as of the printing of the Annual Report*











## Looking to the Future

Hartford Public Library has a busy lineup of capital projects in the near future, including the relocation of the Barbour Library into the Swift Factory, the expansion of the Albany Library and renovations to the Ropkins Library.

A community kickoff for the Swift Factory project was held in March and included the screening of an award-winning video that featured interviews from area residents about how the new library will inspire, celebrate and support North Hartford. The project is expected to be completed in FY24.

The Albany Library project will consist of two phases, the first will include the stabilization and remediation of the former North-West School building. The former school will then be connected to the existing Albany Library by a covered walkway. Work on the remediation is expected to begin in FY 23.

The renovations to the Ropkins Library include a redesign to create space to house the Hartford History Center's Hartford Courant archives collection. Additionally, the technology space and collections of the library for customers have been redesigned, providing a new fresh look and improved space utilization. The work will include movable shelving, new carpeting, furniture and new technology and public seating spaces. The project will be completed in the spring of 2023.

In addition to these physical projects, Hartford Public Library is in the early stages of creating HPL Studios, an in-house production company that will create films, documentaries, podcasts, photography and more. The initiative was announced in June at a screening of the short film "Thoughts Are Things" at Cinestudio at Trinity College. The film's director, HPL's Christopher Brown, will serve as production manager for HPL Studios.



Hartford Public Library is now providing an exclusive collection of diverse, local music with the launch of The Beat, a streaming service featuring Hartford-area artists.

The new collection of music is curated by Hartford Public Library and a group of community curators from Hartford's music scene and launched in June. Songs can be played online 24/7 through a user-friendly digital music platform by all users and downloaded to be played later by Hartford Public Library cardholders. The Beat is accessible at [www.thebeathartford.co](http://www.thebeathartford.co).

The Beat's first group of artists included Jonathan Barber, Lee Mixashawn Rozie, Ghazi Omair, The Lost Tribe and Black Phonze.

