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For Immediate Release

Jamal Joseph Leads Discussion of Ava Duvernay's Documentary "13th"

Feb. 27, 2017 — Ava Duvernay's Oscar-nominated documentary "13th," is will be screened Wednesday, March 1, 5:30 pm, in the Center for Contemporary Culture, on the main floor of the Hartford Public Library, 500 Main St.

Jamal Joseph, a filmmaker ("Chapter & Verse"), and author of "Panther Baby," his memoir about his time as a young member of the Black Panthers in New York City, will lead a post-film discussion. Joseph has spent time in jail and is now a film professor at Columbia University.

Duvernay, director of "Selma," made the Netflix original documentary, which builds on the work of author Michelle Alexander's book. "The New Jim Crow."

The 13th amendment abolished slavery, except for criminals. Director Duvernay shows us how that exception has shaped the criminal justice system in the United States.

The film is part of the Library's Butch Lewis Community Conversation series. Lewis led the Hartford branch of the Black Panther Party and was a long-time community organizer in Hartford. The Hartford History Center holds his excellent collection of videos, shot in 1969, following three summers of riots in Hartford. This collection can be viewed online through the history center's digital repository.

Partners in the Lewis series include; the Butch Lewis family, Hartford Community Loan Fund, Voices of Women of Color LLC, Community Partners in Action, Keney

Park Sustainability Project, Community Capacity Builders, and Cencap Federal Credit Union

Speaker will include the Library's CEO Bridget Quinn-Carey and Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin. The film runs for 100 minutes. Discussion follows. The event is free and open to the public.

ABOUT HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

As a finalist for the 2013 and 2014 National Medal from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, Hartford Public Library has been recognized as national leader in redefining the urban public library in the 21st century as an innovative and stimulating place that provides free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. In 2015-16, the 10 locations of the Hartford Public Library counted 850,000 visits, circulated 408,972 items and had 71,059 registered borrowers. We serve adults, children and families seeking early literacy opportunities, work skills training, civic engagement, arts enrichment, and so much more. Please visit www.hplct.org.