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Hartford Public Library received grant from Nutmeg Foundation for Arts and Archives: Master Classes in the Arts and Humanities for Older Adults

Hartford, Connecticut (September 5, 2013) — Hartford Public Library is pleased to announce that it was awarded a \$20,000 grant from The Nutmeg Foundation in support of *Arts and Archives: Master Classes in the Arts and Humanities for Older Adults*. This novel program was first offered in 2010 and recognized for its “Best Practices for Older Adults” by the Connecticut State Library.

Arts and Archives: Master Classes in the Arts and Humanities for Older Adults will, once again, engage participants in creative expression and thinking, develop artistic and critical thinking skills, and help them discover their potential and productivity as they age. It will be another avenue by which the Library delivers equal opportunity, high quality, and lifelong education to Hartford's older adults.

Hartford Public Library's Hartford History Center will provide enhanced education and lifelong learning opportunities through hands-on fine arts and humanities workshops taught by professional artists, "masters" in their fields and Hartford scholars as needed.

Arts and Archives: Master Classes in the Arts and Humanities for Older Adults will consist of five arts and humanities modules, with classes that provide hands-on instruction in mixed media, storytelling, memoir writing, digital photography integrated with poetry and pen & ink drawing. Each module will also include a heritage-based seminar which incorporates artifacts, images, and personal narratives from the archives and special collections of the Hartford History Center. The hands-on instruction will be enriched as participants think about an art or literary form in the context of Hartford's history. All classes will be free and open to the public and specifically targeted to the Hartford community over the age of 55.

“By mining the special collections for similar art and literary forms, workshop discussions can bridge past to present and offer participants an informed experience to both inspire them in the development of their own creative voice as well as connect them to Hartford’s rich multi-cultural heritage,” said Brenda J. Miller, the Library’s Chief Cultural Affairs and Public Programming Officer. “In the 2010 program, many of the participants, the majority of which were over 55 years of age, had no previous formal training in the medium taught. The progress made over a limited period was, in many cases, astonishing and spoke to the power of the

creative spirit within each of us as we mature. We are so delighted to bring this popular program back.”

About [Hartford Public Library](#)

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations and a Library-on-Wheels in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 833,500 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Programs provide education, information and enrichment to the people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of Hartford Public Library is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Visit hplct.org and the library’s new blog at blogs.hplct.org

About [Hartford History Center](#)

Hartford History Center at Hartford Public Library, collects, preserves, and makes available three centuries of materials and information relating to the history, literature, and culture of Hartford. Located on the third floor of the Downtown Library, 500 Main Street, the Hartford History Center is open 1:00 – 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, please call the History Center at 860-695-6297 or visit online at <http://hhc.hplct.org>.

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