

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 184

Is your organization a 501(c)3 nonprofit?

Yes

According to your 501(c)3 letter, in what town is your official office located?

Hartford

Where will your project be performed or exhibited?

Hartford

Will this activity occur after August 1, 2023?

Yes

Are you a recent grantee?

Yes

Enter your Report Code

Roberts2020

Organization Name

Hartford Public Library

Organization's IRS Tax ID #

066026029

Principal Contact Name

Daniel Alexandre

Title

Grants Manager

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<https://hplct.org>

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Amount requested this application

\$14,000.00

What is the organization's mission/vision statement?

Founded in 1893, Hartford Public Library's mission is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration.

The Library aims to ensure that all Hartford residents have the multiple literacy skills to make informed choices that improve their lives and communities. Its role is focused on being an active catalyst for learning, connectivity, creativity, and literacy for all ages.

Provide a brief history of your organization and its activities.

Hartford Public Library aims to ensure that all Hartford residents have the multiple literacy skills to make informed choices that improve their lives and communities. It also makes the city and the community stronger by providing free and vital access to information and opportunity. Its physical presence provides an anchor for economic development and neighborhood revitalization, and helps to strengthen social bonds and community identity. Its role is focused on being an active catalyst for learning, connectivity, creativity, and literacy for all ages.

In FY 2021, Library usage statistics were impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Library received 110,603 visits, answered 22,438 reference questions, and circulated 90,941 items to 89,069 library cardholders. Over 27,758 individuals attended 2,640 educational and recreational programs. The Library's 300+ public computers logged over 26,528 sessions.

The Hartford History Center (HHC) is an archive and museum featuring objects, books, artworks and digital repositories covering three centuries of Hartford history, functioning as Hartford's unique historical society. These extraordinary collections are not only available to the public, they serve as the source for a broad and multicultural spectrum of programs related to heritage, the arts, culture, self-identity, and human knowledge.

ArtWalk, a premier public gallery space, features local artists and showcases HHC collections and offers engaging programming to connect our community with arts, culture and history in new and ever-evolving ways.

Describe the demographics of your audience/people served by your activities.

Hartford is a majority-minority city (population 121,054), 80% of all residents are non-Caucasian, with a low percentage of owner-occupied units, and a low median income. Additionally, Hartford is a resource-constrained city with 64% of families designated under the ALICE Threshold.

Racial composition: Hispanic (44%); African American (38%); White alone (15%); Asian alone (3%); 22% are foreign born, 14% are not citizens; 21% are non-English speakers; and 85 languages are spoken.

Describe your organization's governance.

Founded in 1893, Hartford Public Library is the largest public library system in Connecticut. It is incorporated as a nonprofit under section 501(c) 3 of the IRS code (EIN: 06-6026029) and governed by up to a 21-member Board of Directors, four of whom are appointed and the remaining elected by the Board of Corporators.

The Board meets 6 times a year, with a 90-95% attendance rate. All Board members make personal financial contributions. Bridget E. Quinn is CEO for over 5 years now.

Describe the diversity of your board.

The diversity of the Hartford Public Library staff and board mirror the demographic composition of the community it serves.

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Library board members (11 males and 7 females): Black 5; Asian 1; White 7; and Hispanic 5.

The 2021 EEO report represents 117 library employees: White (non-Hispanic) 9 male and 33 female; Black 12 male and 17 female; Hispanic 7 male and 31 female; Asian 2 male and 4 female; American Indian 0 male and 2 female.

What percentage of your board makes personal financial contributions to your organization?

All Hartford Public Library Board members make personal financial contributions. The participation rate is 100%.

Project Name

ArtWalk 2022-23

Is this project related to the Visual Arts?

Yes

Will the artists associated with this project be financially compensated?

Yes

Project Description

Four ArtWalk shows: Wethersfield artist Brigid Kennedy's paintings will focus on contemporary themes in the time of COVID. Brigid has exhibited her work nationally and internationally. Hartford studio artist Barbara Hocker, trained as a fiber artist, uses photography, watercolors and rice paper, woven together, to explore the essence of water. She received numerous awards including the Creation of New Work Award through The Roberts Foundation. Windsor artist Traé Brooks explores loss, longing and closure by exploring family history, race, social issues and his own sense of identity through mediums like painting, sculpture, and metal fabrication. Trae has received numerous awards including UoH's Artistic Merit Award. The last show is a group show with seasoned artists and museum professionals Jon Eastman, Christopher Schroeder, Joe Bun Keo, David Borawski and Rick Bogdan. Utilizing a variety of mediums, they artistically explore the statement "Art is work and work is art."

Total estimated project budget

\$56,500.00

Project start/opening

09/16/2022

Project end/closing

06/10/2023

Project venue

The ArtWalk, Hartford Public Library

Project town

Hartford, CT

Admission fees, attendance, and activity details

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Hartford Public Library's ArtWalk is free and open to the public during all hours the Downtown Library is open. Currently, the Downtown Library is open Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday-Saturday, 9am-5pm and Sunday hours 1-5 p.m. in November-April. Each show will offer an opening reception and artist lead program or workshop. At least 60% of the art shown will be for sale, with 20% of the purchase price donated to the Library.

How do you intend to promote/market this project?

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Discord (YOUmedia) and e-news with board, corporators and HPL card holders; press releases, postcard mailings, banners, fliers and calendar announcements in local and regional media; we contact producers and assignment reporters in local and national media markets; and, work with radio, TV and public access stations. Invitation lists include public officials, executive directors of cultural organizations, community members, patrons, residents, donors, and press.

How is your organization going to use Roberts funding?

The Library is asking The Roberts Foundation to support four (4) 2022-23 ArtWalk exhibitions. Specifically, The Roberts Foundation funding will go towards artist compensation, offsetting artists' exhibition preparation costs (printing, framing, packaging and transportation of materials), and printing and marketing support for ArtWalk shows.

How will Roberts support be recognized?

The Roberts Foundation will be recognized in all promotional materials as well as in the welcoming remarks for every opening exhibit it funds, and all auxiliary programming connected to the ArtWalk exhibit.

What is your organization's definition of artistic excellence?

To be excellent, arts must be relevant. In order to be relevant, it must be experienced. The Library is uniquely positioned as a gathering place for people of all cultures and backgrounds and has substantial experience in providing programs and opportunities that will allow people to experience a range of new cultural experiences.

How does this project align with that definition, and how does it advance your mission?

Building on its legacy, the Library has focused on its role as an active catalyst for learning, connectivity, creativity, and literacy for all ages. The ArtWalk gallery space has brought in tens of thousands of visitors over the last 11 years. In a city where art education and appreciation are no longer part of the public school curriculum, and in which unemployment and poverty tend to short-circuit the development of such learning, the opportunity to explore and talk about art in a free and familiar public setting is essential and at the heart of the Library's mission. Serving a large multicultural population, HPL provides resources in more than 70 languages for a population that is 21% non-English speaking and 18% foreign born. Part of the Library's extraordinary array of programming concerns contemporary art.

How will your audience and the community benefit from this project?

The Library is a frequented destination and contributes to the stability, safety and quality of life in Hartford. Its ability to attract tremendous foot traffic, particularly the Downtown Library, complements neighboring retail and cultural destinations. The ArtWalk exhibitions attract visitors of all ages in a welcoming and freely accessible manner. The Downtown Library with its vast resources and cultural offerings enhances the ArtWalk experience. This experience is made all the richer by connecting ArtWalk programming with the Children's, Teen Services and Adult Education departments here at Library, including The American Place, which supports our immigrant and new refugee community. Additionally, our community has expanded to

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include the University of Connecticut – the downtown campus library. Classrooms and study areas opened within HPL's walls in the fall of 2017, enabling the Library to provide students with additional cultural opportunities outside the academic range.

How will this project be evaluated?

Visitors to the Downtown Library and ArtWalk are tracked through sensors installed at major entrances and comment sheets are used at the opening reception and throughout the exhibition. Additionally, survey forms will be used for ArtWalk auxiliary programming to collect visitor demographics and to gather feedback on the meaning and relevancy of the exhibition to the individual. We will also explore with the individual artists how this experience impacted them.

Cover letter

- [Hartford-Public-Library-Cover-Letter.pdf](#)

Board list

- [Hartford-Public-Library-Board-of-Directors-2022.pdf](#)

IRS 501(c)3 determination letter

- [Hartford-Public-Library-nonprofit-letter.pdf](#)

Financial statement

- [Hartford-Public-Library-2021-audited-financial-statement.pdf](#)

Last year operational budget

- [Hartford-Public-Library-FY22_FY21-Operating-Budget.pdf](#)

Current year operational budget

- [Hartford-Public-Library-FY22_FY21-Operating-Budget1.pdf](#)

Balance sheet

- [Hartford-Public-Library-Balance-Sheet-3-31-22.pdf](#)

Project budget

- [Hartford-Public-Library-Project-Budget.pdf](#)

Does your organization produce an annual report?

No

Has your organization adopted a strategic plan?

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Yes

Strategic plan

- [Hartford-Public-Library-Strategic-Plan.pdf](#)

Does your organization have a formal policy or organizational commitment to ensure that visual artists are financially compensated?

No

Grant Report

- [Hartford-Public-Library-Grantee-Reporting-Form.pdf](#)

Have you contacted the Executive Director by email or phone to discuss this proposal?

Yes

Is your cover letter signed by your senior executive? on your letterhead? with your official office address?

Yes