


Capitol Workforce Partners and Hartford Public Library
A 21st century partnership for good

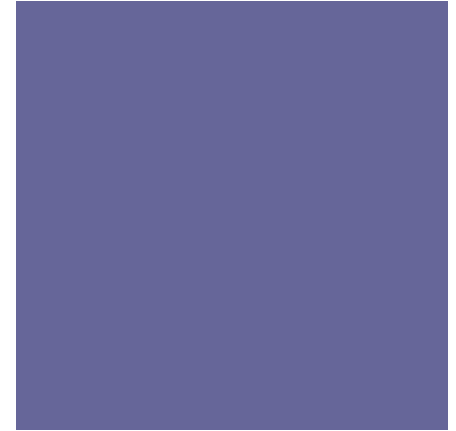
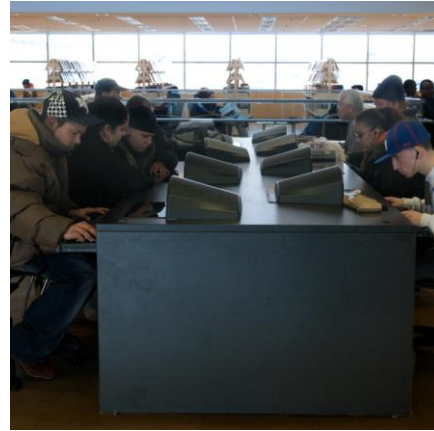


+ Local governments are missing an incredibly valuable resource if they aren't working directly and regularly with the public library regardless of the official structure.

Don Marr, Chief of Staff, Fayetteville , Arkansas



An intentional focus on 21st century skills





Every community will benefit from an intentional focus on 21st century skills.



- Community institutions can partner with libraries and others to strengthen overall basic literacy, civic awareness, environmental literacy, and health literacy throughout the community.
- Cultural institutions including libraries can join together to encourage greater global awareness and visual literacy.
- Formal education institutions (e.g., pre-school programs, schools, universities, colleges) can partner with libraries to enhance 21st century skills across their campuses, with a particular focus on cross-disciplinary thinking.
- Businesses can collaborate with libraries that encourage 21st century skills like creativity, innovation, communication, collaboration, and financial literacy to strengthen the workforce as well as the economic health of the community.



Policymakers play a key role in moving communities towards a compelling vision of 21st century skills.



- Create policies that embrace a 21st century vision.
- Include libraries in all policies addressing learning and education.
- Create incentives for nonprofits, funding entities and others to invest in this vision.
- Appropriate funds consistent with the vision.
- Encourage research at the federal level that seeks to define the impact(s) of libraries in developing 21st century skills among individuals in self-directed learning environments.



Public libraries must re-imagine their future roles as teaching and learning institutions.



- Evaluate how the current mission aligns with the goal of helping the institution and community respond to the challenges of the 21st century;
- Assess where the institution sits today on the continuum of supporting the development of its audiences' 21st century skills;
- Become increasingly embedded in the community in order to create lasting partnerships that address 21st century audiences' needs; and
- Design new programs and strategies to help individuals meet the new and more demanding challenges of 21st century life.



Why are public libraries natural partners to maximize the services of their local workforce development boards.



- Public libraries play key roles in addressing employment related services to job seekers, unemployed workers and employers.
- Public libraries experience high demand for these services already.
- Public access computers available for online job applications and to develop/refresh resumes.
- Career research materials.
- Libraries accessible to job seekers throughout local neighborhoods.



Public libraries are natural partners to maximize services of their local workforce development boards.

- Study and conference rooms where individuals and groups can meet.
- Staff at libraries make referrals.
- Online resources available 24/7 through the library.



+ So let's get local....



- Hartford is a city of stark contrasts within Connecticut:
 - Unemployment.
 - Poverty
 - Achievement Gap
 - Literacy
 - Graduation rates
 - Digital Divide

- Hartford is a city of great opportunity



Hartford Public Library and Capitol Workforce Partners knew they were on to something good for Hartford and the region.

- Leveraged the stature of each organization to join forces on 21st century skills
- Develop cross-training in available resources for staff from both HPL and CWP.
- Offer an institutional library card to CWP.
- Add CWP resources to HPL's collection and vice versa. Residents will find it less stressful to use common tools.
- Post materials at CWP about library resources and make HPL card applications available to CWP customers.
- Provide the list of top job search internet sites from CWP in the library and on HPL's website.





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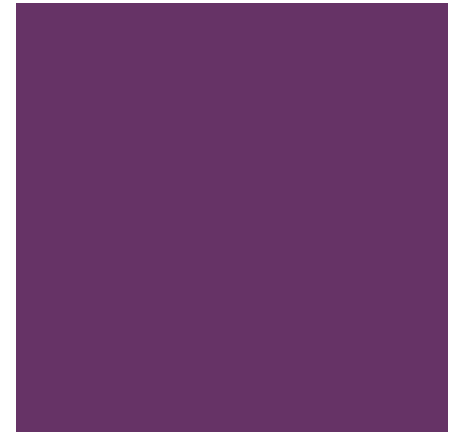
- Explore joint applications for grants.
- Collaborate with other libraries in the region to expand the reach of CWP services.
- Cross-consulting opportunities to gain advice on improvements to our services.
- Mutual advocacy.
- Cross-referrals.
- Coordinate delivery of online math, reading and literacy services.




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- Partner on Future Workforce Initiatives (HPL's YouMedia Project and Teen Leaders)
- Leadership partners on the region's Adult Literacy Plan.





+ A partnership between public libraries and government leaders makes sense.



+ Brainpower is the currency of success in the 21st century. And libraries are often cities' best assets in building up the brainpower of the community so that we have folks who can handle the most technical jobs all over the globe.

Julian Castro, Mayor, San Antonio, Texas



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