

## Community Collections

By Michelle McFarland

Hartford Public Library is hosting Community Collections in the city's North End neighborhoods. The purpose of this initiative is to place books in strategic places and to get them into the hands of people of all ages.

HPL's tagline "A Place Like No Other" is expanding from traditional libraries into public spaces in the North End to begin with. Books can be found in barber shops, laundromats, daycares and community centers.

According to the 2012 American Community Survey, 10% of Connecticut residents over the age of 25 do not possess a high school diploma or equivalent certification. Additionally, 20% of Connecticut's population does not have the literacy skills necessary to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce. Most impacted by this epidemic are the urban areas of Connecticut. The city of Hartford, for example maintains a 65 to 70% illiteracy rate among its population.

Reading is a really important skill. Your support will be part of a citywide effort to build literacy and a deep love of learning.

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