

Director's Report for Academic Year 2022-2023 Prepared by Dr. Jeffrey Partridge

"Hartford for me used to be a space. I only came here for class and then left. Besides a few friends I've made along the way, that was the only connection that I had. For me it used to just be two buildings and a short walk. Now it has become a place that I know and want to continue to find out more about. I no longer just come and go like I used to; I take the time to appreciate what's around me. Going around Harford and learning about what is quite literally minutes away from my school has been so enjoyable. At the beginning of this class, I didn't know about places like the Hartford Library, and now I know that and so much more."

--Estrella Gomez, Liberal Arts Major

This quote says it all. This is why the <u>Hartford Heritage Project</u> (HHP) exists -- to engage students in their courses, to build community with classmates and a sense of belonging to the college, to explore opportunities and perspectives students might not encounter on their own, and to foster civic attachment and pride of place. In short, the HHP seeks to open up worlds to students that they may not have perceived as welcoming or interesting to them.

The engagement with arts and cultural institutions in downtown Hartford would not be possible without the dedication of faculty to place-based teaching methods, support from CCC administration, CCC Foundation, and agencies such as the National Endowment for the Humanities and CT Humanities, and, significantly, the partnerships we have formed with arts and cultural institutions in Hartford who welcome our classes, our students, staff, and faculty, and make these opportunities affordable and easily accessible.

The 2022-2023 academic year was a strong rebound year for the HHP coming out of the pandemic. With museums and theaters fully operational and students back on campus, the HHP has recorded engagement at levels comparable to pre-pandemic levels.

This report details the various activities conducted through the HHP this year, with specific information about...

- HHP Partner interactions
- Attendance figures
- Survey results on the Black Heritage Project
- The launch of Herencias Latinas, our new Latine heritage project

What is the Hartford Heritage Project?



Art students visit exhibit at TheaterWorks Hartford.

The HHP is a place-based education initiative at Capital Community College whose mission is to encourage and support faculty in the process of incorporating local resources like museums and theaters into their courses. By developing courses, programs, and course materials with arts, cultural, and other institutions in Hartford, the HHP facilitates in-place and hands-on learning opportunities that increase student engagement in course materials, with each other, and with their instructors. Ultimately, students begin to appreciate Hartford as a place of rich cultural importance and to embrace the city as their own heritage.

Post-Pandemic Rebound

Our enrollment as of Fall 2022 was 2,400, and attendance by members of Capital Community College for the academic year at Hartford museums and performance art venues stands at 1,615. In pre-pandemic years, with a population of 3,000-3,500, the HHP typically recorded 2,100-2,500 individual visits annually. These numbers indicate a strong rebound in academic year 2022-2023, with the ratio of attendance numbers to student population reaching the levels achieved prior to the pandemic.

Engagement at these levels does not happen on its own. Credit must go to the faculty of Capital Community College who adopt place-based teaching methods and put in the extra effort needed to make these kinds of experiences a part of their classes; to the staff, administration, and CCC Foundation who support HHP programs and attend events; and to the HHP's partner institutions who open their doors to our classes and make our students feel welcome and included. We also credit grant funding from the NEH and CT Humanities as keys to our success.

Enrollment Snapshot of CCC (as of Fall 2022)

- The headcount credit enrollment for Fall 2022 is **2,402**.
- Approximately, 74 percent of the total enrollment comes from the primary service area of Hartford, Bloomfield, East Hartford, New Britain, Newington, Manchester, West Hartford, Wethersfield, and Windsor.
- Capital is one of the most ethnically diverse campuses in New England; the student body includes 37% Black or African American, 33% Hispanic, and 20% Caucasian, 5% Asian and 5% others. Capital is a federally designated Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI).
- The average age for all students is 28; the average age for full-time students is 23 years and for part-time students is 29 years.

ENGAGEMENT - ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023

1,615 individual visits over 14 partner institutions

Amistad Center for Art & Culture – 27

Includes two group visits to the Merik Goma, 11 and 16 students. One was with Merik Goma himself in May.

The Amistad Center is a partner in planning and implementing the Pennington Lecture.

Auerbach Library (at the Wadsworth) -- 33

The Auerbach Art Library hosted 3 research visits by Capital Community College professors;

3 classes (2 Art classes and one English class);

CCC student Andy Droney became a weekly volunteer helping merge and organize the Auerbach Art Library year files with year files from the Museum Archives.

Connecticut Historical Society – 6

The CHS hosted a visit by the Liberal Arts Capstone class for a visit to the Bicycle Exhibition.

The CHS also participated in the Liberal Arts Action Lab by submitting a proposal to help them define and plan for a more inclusive museum. Students worked with members of CHS throughout the fall 2022 semester to complete the project.

Connecticut Science Center – 8

Art class visits the Science Center. In the next

academic year, faculty will have the opportunity to bring students to the Science Center with tickets they can reserve from the campus library.



CT Landmarks (Isham Terry House and Butler McCook House) - 103

After a three-year hiatus, we re-introduced workshops at the Isham-Terry House for first-year

nursing students. Students rotate through four stations, each designed to introduce them to Dr. Isham's practice as a doctor in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and healthcare history in Hartford. The program served 79 students and ten faculty. The evaluations were very positive. The Liberal Arts Capstone class toured both houses in the spring semester.



Harriet Beecher Stowe Center - 6

The HBSC hosted a three-hour visit by the Liberal Arts Capstone class for tours of the Day House, Stowe House, and Nook Farm neighborhood.



Our deep engagement typically happens with our onsite English class each fall, but the class was cancelled due to low enrollment. We are hopeful to restart this experience in fall 2023. Former CCC student Nachum Levitan continues to work there as a museum interpreter.

Hartbeat Ensemble – 53

The cast and director of Hartbeat Ensemble's production of *My Children, My Africa* by Athol Fugard performed

scenes at Capital and engaged students in recommending direction choices. Attended by 45 students, including some faculty. A number of students, staff, and faculty attended the play at the Carriage House Theater (approximately 8).

Hartford History Center (Hartford Public Library)

The Hartford History Center has been an important partner of the HHP since the program began in 2011. We have held class sessions there, workshops for faculty, and student research sessions. The HHC was our partner in proposing and conducting the Black Heritage Project at the Liberal Arts Action Lab. Unfortunately, due to severe water damage that has closed the downtown library site this year, we have had no specific interactions this year. We anticipate growing our engagement when the center returns to the downtown location in the coming Academic year, particularly with our new Herencias Latinas project.

Hartford Stage - 440 total visits (69% increase)

One Play for fall 2022: The Mousetrap – 172 attendees

One Play for spring 2023: The Winter's Tale – 159 attendees

It's A Wonderful Life (40), Espejos: Clean (66), Art of Burning (3) = 109

Total = 331, a 27% increase over last year's 260 attendees



One Play also includes campus visits by actors from each production for Meet the Actors session on campus. Approximately 60 students attended these sessions. With *The Winter's Tale*, we invited Hartford Stage Teaching Artists to come to classes for one-hour workshops. Five classes – approximately 100 students – benefitted from these workshops. Our first launch event for Herencias Latinas was a reduce-priced performance of *Espejos: Clean*, attended by about 40 students, staff, faculty, and Foundation members, which included a preplay reception at Capital.

Hartford Symphony Orchestra – 46 visits

This program with the HSO is modelled after One Play, with a particular program chosen each semester as our musical focal point. The total of 46 is comparable to pre-pandemic levels. Many of our students have not experienced an orchestral concert and are glad for the opportunity, as noted by a student who attended for extra credit in an English class: "It was a pleasure going to the orchestra for the first time and I am very grateful for this experience."

Mark Twain House & Museum – 38The MTHM hosted several class visits in support of literature instruction. Our deep engagement typically happens with our onsite English class each fall, but the class was cancelled due to low enrollment. We are hopeful to restart this experience in fall 2023.



Old State House – 72 visits (700% increase)

Through May 9, there were 25 walk-in students, 1 walk-in staff, plus 42 students and 4 staff from group tours, totaling 72 visits.

Total 72, a 700% increase over last year's 9 visits

CCC students Michael Sawyer and Joy Lee have been working with at the OSH since November 2022 and January 2023, respectively, as Museum Interpreters. They also do school programs for

elementary students on field trips focused on civic education (3 branches of government and voting rights in Connecticut). They were key in planning the Beyond Black History Month event held back in February. It was all Michael's idea. They've also been helping conduct research for the CT Freedom Trail with Tammy Denease.

Hartford History Lecture Series at the OSH

Three lectures in the 7-part Hartford History Lecture series were hosted by the OSH. To date, a total of **862 people** have accessed these lectures. Here's the breakdown:



• Bill Hosley on Evangelical Empire: 429 Total

[15 (in person) + 20 (online) + 65 YouTube viewings and 3 likes and 329 Facebook viewings as of May 2023]

• Stacey Close on Rev. James Pennington: 180 Total

[28 (in person) + 30 (online) + 122 YouTube viewings and 6 likes and 61 Facebook viewings as of May 2023]

• Antoinette Brim-Bell on Ann Plato: 253 Total

[7 (in person) + 20 (online) = 174 YouTube viewings and 4 likes and 52 Facebook viewings as of May 2023]

SeaTea Improv -- 75

Sea Tea hired a CCC student from last year's improv class to work in the box office (the student is doing "fantastic" and was promoted to house manager).

TheaterWorks Hartford – 180 play attendance (386% increase), 26 tour

180 CCC people went to plays at TheaterWorks this year. TheaterWorks hosted two CCC@TWH events, including one of the launch events for Herencias Latinas under the HHP. This includes Zoey's Perfect Wedding, Fun Home, Queen of Basel. Total 180, a **386% increase** over last year's 37 visits

On the final day of class, design, students and painting students took two separate trips to TheatreWorks Hartford, and



viewed the gallery exhibit rift on Rembrandt, a show in conjunction with the play The Rembrandt at TheatreWorks, and the larger exhibition, finding Rembrandt at the Wadsworth. 25 students and one faculty.

Wadsworth Atheneum – 502 visits (123% increase)

438 CCC students & faculty visiting for tours and professor-guided visits.

64 people from CCC visit as individuals for general admission over the course of the year.



Total = 502 individuals, a **123% increase** over last year's 225 visits

CCC Museum-Embedded course: Art 100 Art Appreciation taught by Liz Calvi with 11 students

CCC's nursing program's Critical Observation workshops for 130 senior nursing students has been implemented every spring semester for the past nine years and is the only place-based program in the HHP that continued through the pandemic. This remarkable program engages nursing students in critical observation exercises with art

that is translatable to their experience with patients.

The Wadsworth is a partner in planning, implementing, and hosting the Pennington Lecture.

NEW INITIATIVES

Black Heritage Project

As reported last year, during the pandemic, the HHP did not sit idle. With the help of grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (\$150,000) and CT Humanities (\$5,000, and \$2,800), we started the Black Heritage Project, which includes curriculum development around the first Black church in Hartford, an exhibit on Hartford's Black Community Formation, and the Pennington Lecture, an annual lecture by a prominent speaker on race and the arts and humanities named after the Reverend Dr. James W. C. Pennington, a nineteenth century Black abolitionist, pastor of Talcott Street Church, writer, and educator.



The National Humanities Alliance (NHA), an organization that advocates for the funding of the humanities on a national level, was impressed with our Black Heritage Project (BHP) grant award from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and offered to assess the effectiveness and the impact of the project through a professional evaluation. The results were



released recently and will be made public through a website that showcases exemplary NEH-funded projects, NEHforAll.org. We were told the BHP was one of the most successful projects they have assessed over the past five years. Here is the overall description of findings in the 15-page report: "The results of the surveys demonstrate that the Black Heritage Project was successful in its goal of bringing untold histories

to the forefront and centering the voices of Black people in the community. Through a variety of events, some aimed specifically at students, some at faculty, and some at the general public, the Hartford Heritage Project provided opportunities for people to engage with Black history and learn about the importance of Pennington and Talcott Street Church to the abolition movement, how these events fit into broader national movements, and also the global impact of their work. Responses indicate that people not only learned about the history of the Black community in Hartford, but that this knowledge gave them an enhanced sense of pride and connection to their history and community. Finally, some respondents expressed deep appreciation that this project focused on Black voices and brought them to the forefront. "

Selected Quotations from the Report's Qualitative Data

Pennington Lecture

- Learning about Pennington's history as a prominent abolitionist was interesting and inspiring. Inspiring because I think that Hartford is a city that is often down on itself. I think that if more people could learn about its important history it could change how some people view their place in this world.
- I learned from this event that history hits differently when it's connected to my home city and I am committed to learning more about this history.

Curriculum Development (Faculty Feedback)

 I appreciated the on-site workshops and final day share out on lessons and planned teaching activities. Sharing space and thoughts with faculty from other disciplines has been invaluable and unmatched by any other professional development activity I've



experienced. I learned a lot about other disciplines and about the depth of knowledge of my colleagues.

- Hartford's history, especially it's less unexplored history of ethnic communities such as the African American and Latinx communities, will impact my classes in various ways. Students of color need to be connected to the efforts of important figures in the city's story and understand the obstacles faced by those of color over the last century or more.
- This was an amazing opportunity for me as an educator. Not only as a scholar but as an individual to see aspects of my history treated with dignity and respect. I think the students will feel the same.

Curriculum (Student Feedback)

 My experience of learning this history gave me more understanding and appreciation of Hartford and this school because there are a lot of things that I didn't know that I learned. And being an African American female myself I am happy to know that the school put so much effort into learning my history/background even though all of the professors who participated aren't African American. So very much appreciation there from me. It shows that you care and that we matter so thank you.

Learning the • stories of individuals can help people relate and empathize more. Learning about people of Talcott St. Church and what they've been through has helped me understand just some of what these people endured. What Capital is doing will hopefully better educate people about our history.



• It made me realize that Black people made Downtown Hartford what it is and not many people know that.

Nutmeg Pulpit Exhibition

- The initiative of the Black people who worked for their community at the church school stood out for me.
- Black voices illustrated in graphic text form in large colorful panels really let the author's intentions speak for themselves.
- The powerful quotes—they are timeless.
 The quotes selected were thoughtfully laid out and powerful



Herencias Latinas – Launch of a New Project on Latino Hartford

Capital's student population is 33% Latino and the college is designated federally as a Hispanic Serving Institution. A group of faculty and staff met in fall 2022 to envision a new project under the Hartford Heritage Project to explore and engage our students and the stories and experiences of Hartford's Latino communities. Herencias Latinas will grow over the next few years to include a major lecture event, workshops, a symposium or conference, and cultural events.

Herencias Latinas launched in the spring 2023 with two events with our theater partners, Hartford Stage and TheaterWorks Hartford...



PLACE-BASED COURSES

- Art 100 Art Appreciation taught at the Wadsworth Atheneum fall 2022 and spring 2023
- **MUS 225 Arts and Entertainment Management**, taught at the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts by Bushnell staff.
- IDS 250 Liberal Arts Capstone seminar on "The Power of Place"

This seminar looked at the topic of place from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, revealing that place is an essential element in our sense of belonging and our sense of self, and much more. Covering topics like Inclusive, Healthy Places, Place and Memory, Art and Place, the Philosophy of Place, Architecture, and Preservation, the students in this course experienced programming at the Old State House, the Nutmeg Pulpit Exhibit, iQuilt, Faith Congregational Church, Connecticut Historical Society, Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, Trinity College, the Auerbach Library, Wadsworth Atheneum, Isham Terry House, and Butler McCook House.



Capstone seminar at Connecticut Historical Society

"After months of researching and scrubbing away the proverbial fog that surrounds the city I thought I knew, I believe that the world we live in is far more vast and intricate than we are led to believe at first glance. There are secrets to be uncovered, stories to be told, connections to be made, and I want this to be your call to action."

--Osiris, Liberal Arts Major

Courses will be offered fall 2023 at...

- The Wadsworth Atheneum
- Harriet Beecher Stowe Center and Mark Twain House & Museum
- The Amos Bull House (CT Landmarks)
- The Old State House
- Hartbeat Ensemble, Hartford Stage, SeaTea Improv, TheaterWorks Hartford, and more

(see poster on next page)



Liberal Arts Action Lab

The Action Lab is a partnership between Trinity College and Capital Community College to promote research that benefits community organizations in Hartford. Capital students take a research methods class together with their Trinity peers and small groups comprised of students from both institutions spend the semester completing a research project for their community organization and present their findings and recommendations in a public digital poster fair.

The following projects were completed this year:

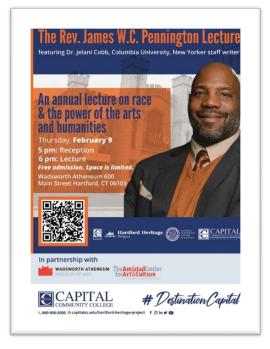
- Disability Employment Project with HARC CT
- High School Absenteeism Project with Hartford Public Schools
- Immigrant Welcoming Project with CT's Working Families Party
- Youth Diversity & Equity Project with Southwest Boys and Girls Club
- Inclusive Museums Project with Connecticut Historical Society
- Hartford Small Businesses Project with Hartford Next

In June, 2023, HHP project director Jeff Partridge and several faculty from Trinity College will present on the Liberal Arts Action Lab model at a symposium at Duke University.



The Black Heritage Project began as a Liberal Arts Action Lab Student Project in Spring 2020

SPECIAL EVENTS



The Pennington Lecture

In partnership with the Amistad Center for Art and Culture and the Wadsworth Atheneum, and in consultation with Faith Congregational Church, the HHP presented the second annual iteration of the Pennington Lecture with renowned journalist and social critic, Dr. Jelani Cobb. The event was funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the CCC Foundation, with food and music and venue supplied by the Wadsworth and Amistad Center.

Encounters

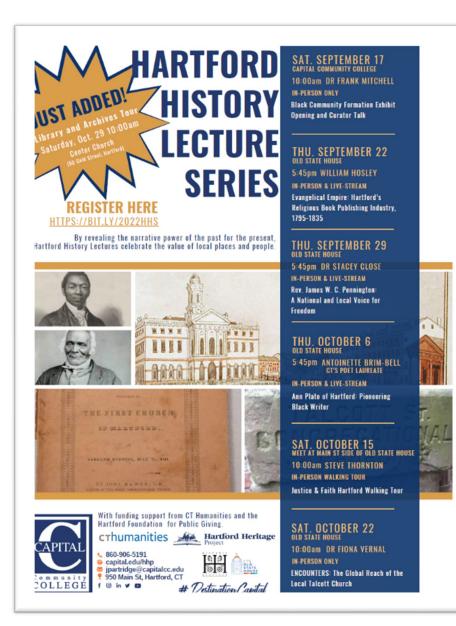
The lecture was accompanied by a Campus Read based on a number of Jelani Cobb articles and curated by the faculty who make up the Pennington Lecture Task Force. A CT Humanities grant paid for an Encounters community conversation on Historic Black Journalism and its Legacy, led by Dr. Fiona Vernal.



Hartford History Lecture Series

The HHP and Bill Hosley's Historic Hartford group have teamed up to run a series of lectures on Hartford History each fall for the past five years, a partnership that now includes the Old State House and UConn history professor Dr. Fiona Vernal. The fall 2022 series featured seven events, with Hartford's Black community formation and the role of religious communities as the central theme.

The fall 2022 series was supported by a grant from CT Humanities. Please see the Hartford Heritage Project website page on <u>Hartford</u> <u>History Lectures</u> for details.



One Play with Hartford Stage

Each year since the HHP started in 2011, we have offered a fall and a spring One Play program in partnership the Hartford Stage to create discussion and learning opportunities around a play.





CCC@TWH

CCC@TheaterWor ks Hartford is the name for our special programming with TWH. Through the years this has included special performances for Capital, fundraisers, and workshops. In fall 2022 and spring 2023, CCC@TWH included free tickets for members of Capital and a preplay reception.





One Note with HSO

Modeled after One Play, this event is offered each semester through our HHP partnership with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra.



Events at the Bushnell

Our liaison with the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts works with Bushnell staff to create lowerpriced opportunities for students to experience traveling shows like Broadway musicals.



GRANTS

CT Humanities awarded the CCC Foundation a \$2,800 grant for the HHP to pay panelists for a public Encounters program. The BHP continues in its second year via funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Hartford History Lecture series is supported by a grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. The CCC Foundation is also an important funder of HHP events.

RECOGNITION

CT Explored magazine selected the HHP as one of <u>Connecticut's 20 History Game Changers</u>. The HHP and the nineteen other honorees were featured in the magazine's 20th anniversary issue in fall 2022.



CONCLUSION

Thanks to the hard work of CCC faculty and staff and the welcome embrace of our community partners, the Hartford Heritage Project is regaining its stride post pandemic. We are grateful to our sponsors, the National Endowment for the Humanities, CT Humanities, and the CCC Foundation for making this important work possible. We look forward to continuing this work in the coming academic year as we strive to impact our students and our community. Hartford is our campus and we are proud to be here.

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Black Heritage Project

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Pennington Lecture Faculty

<u>Task Force</u>

Antoinette Brim-Bell John Christie Shyla Saltzman Jeff Partridge Cleo Rolle Adolfo Sanchez-Blanco Josiah Ricardo Gerry Murphy **Special thanks** to Library Staff Karen Deloatch, Dan Lewis, and Tabbi Heavner

Pennington Lecture

Karen Gilbert G. Duncan Harris Vivian Nabeta Jeff Partridge Wadsworth Atheneum Staff Amistad Center for Art & Culture Staff **Special thanks** to Faith Congregational Church Pastor and History Committee

Nutmeg Pulpit Exhibit

Pedro Bermudez Mike Bies John Boudreau Gregg Chin Valerie Cicero Frank Mitchell Tim Spratin **Special thanks** to CCC Public Safety for opening and closing the exhibit each day!

Hartford History Lecture Series

Marian Garcia Bill Hosley Old State House Staff Fiona Vernal

Herencias Latinas

Marie Basche John Christie Adolfo Sanchez-Blanco Ariel Robinson Julia Rosenblatt **Special thanks** to Jose Colon, Helena Carrasquillo, Carl Guerriere, G. Duncan Harris, Josiah Ricardo

Liberal Arts Action Lab

Ozlem Atalay Laura Minor Jeff Partridge Lori Reynolds Abigail Fisher Williamson

Place-Based Courses

Liz Calvi Valerie Cicero Joshua Hummel Hamish Lutris Jeff Partridge Nina Pinchin Jennifer Roberts

Special thanks to Lisa Braverman, Ron Glaz, Kathy Herron, Nancy LaGuardia, Kevin Lamkins, Merja Lehtinen, Rosemary Lombard, Gerry Murphy, Daniela Ragusa, John Thomas, Randall Ward, Carmen Yiamouyiannis for event support.

Partner Institution Liaisons

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