



**Hartford Foundation**  
FOR PUBLIC GIVING

*Newsletter*



*White Oak Leaf Throne by Tao LaBossiere*

## **A Tribute to Tao LaBossiere**

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving was saddened to learn of the passing of **Tao LaBossiere**, a visionary artist who was beloved in the local art community. He is responsible for some of Hartford's most notable artwork, including the Bee the Change mural at 224 EcoSpace, The Oneness of Being Still Waters (turtle mural) on Asylum Street, and his final work, the White Oak Leaf Throne in Bushnell Park.

The **Tao LaBossiere Artist Fund** was established at the Hartford Foundation by his wife Amy following Tao's passing in August. This fund will support causes closest to Tao's heart, primarily the support of visual artists to help them pursue their creative passions.

“Establishing the Tao LaBossiere Artist Fund means ensuring Tao’s vision for supporting emerging and established visual artists lives on,” said Amy LaBossiere. "Tao believed deeply in the power of art to inspire, heal, and connect people, and I am honored to continue his legacy through this fund. My hope is that it will provide the kind of opportunities and encouragement that Tao always sought to give others, and help foster a vibrant, thriving arts community.”



### **Blue Hills Civic Association Receives \$450,000 Hartford Foundation Grant**

For 62 years, **Blue Hills Civic Association** (BHCA) has worked with residents of Hartford's North End on a variety of efforts including economic and community development, workforce development, community organizing, youth employment, and more.

**A two-year, \$450,000 grant from the Hartford Foundation** will allow BHCA to sustain and build on this important work.

“Blue Hills Civic Association’s hyperlocal focus on the North Hartford neighborhoods allows them to serve as connectors and advocates for residents, while maintaining a history of trust with the community,” said Foundation Community Impact Officer Johana Rendon Ledesma. “The Hartford Foundation is pleased to support BHCA whose work reflects the expertise of the residents of North Hartford.”

[\*\*Learn more about this grant.\*\*](#)

This summer, Hartford Foundation intern Bobbi Brown, a former BHCA participant, produced a video on the BHCA Summer Youth Employment Program. **Watch the video below** to see how this program improves the lives of Hartford youth and their communities.



## Hartford Foundation Welcomes Two New Board Members

Our Board of Directors is pleased to welcome two new members, **Gillian Howell** and **Reverend Darrell Goodwin**.

Howell is a 25-year Hartford resident and currently serves as the head of client advisory solutions at Foundation Source.

Rev. Goodwin lives in Hartford and is the Executive Conference Minister of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Both bring valuable professional expertise and lived experience to our board. We're excited to have them join us. [Learn more](#).





## Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

The Hartford Foundation is proud to celebrate **Hispanic Heritage Month** and honor the rich cultural contributions and achievements of Greater Hartford's Hispanic and Latine communities. This month, we reflect on trailblazers like **Maria Borrero**, a Connecticut resident and former Hartford Foundation board member whose tireless efforts to break down barriers in healthcare paved the way for greater equity and justice.

### Her Career

Throughout her career, Borrero was a relentless advocate for healthcare justice in communities of color. She published a study in the 1970s that exposed the wrongful sterilization of Latina women without their consent. As founding Executive Director of the Hispanic Health Council, with seed funding from the Hartford Foundation, she led efforts to research community health issues and collaborated with hospitals to develop solutions. In 1991, her supporters established a Scholarship Fund at the Foundation to recognize her tremendous contribution to Greater Hartford's Latine community.

## Latino Endowment Fund Celebrates Voices of Afro Latine Heritage

As part of Hispanic Heritage Month, The Hartford Foundation's **Latino Endowment Fund** held an event last Thursday evening to celebrate the talents and strengths of the Afro Latine community. The event featured a poetry performance as well as a panel with three amazing authors: **Shakira Perez**, **Dahlma Llanos-Figueroa** and **Dr. Noel Casiano**.

Interested in making a difference in Greater Hartford's Latine community? [Learn more about the Latino Endowment Fund.](#)



## Grant Opportunities for Nonprofits

We currently have the following grant opportunities available:

- Latino Endowment Fund Annual Grantmaking
- Norma and Natalie Sestero Fund, for organizations serving the town of Glastonbury
- Small Nonprofit Grants

[Visit our Grant Opportunities web page](#) to learn more.

You can also [sign up to be notified when new grant opportunities are announced.](#)



### Reel: Ann Stanback

In honor of Hartford Pride Week, we're celebrating Greater Hartford resident **Ann Stanback** for advocating for same-sex adoption and fighting to ensure that everyone can marry the person they love. [Watch our Reel to learn more about Ann's life and achievements](#), and follow us on social for more stories of Connecticut residents who make our region better.

The Foundation recently partnered with DataHaven on a new report highlighting the opportunities and challenges facing Greater Hartford's LGBTQIA+ community, [which you can read about here.](#)

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