

A Celebration to Benefit the New Haven Free Public Library

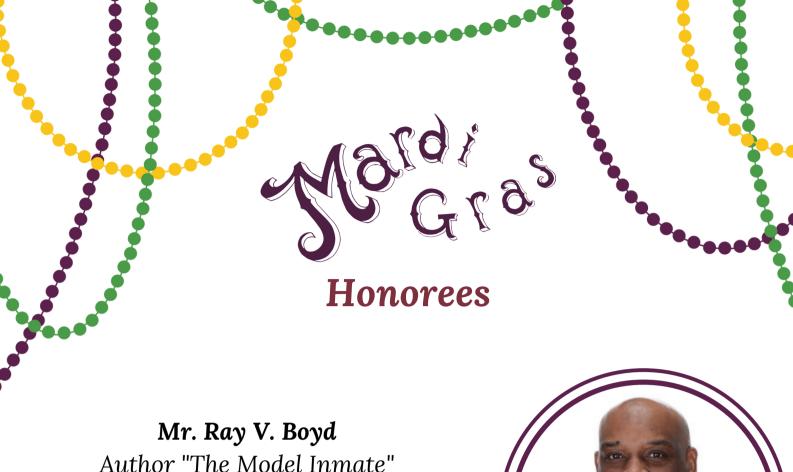
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024

Event to Benefit



Presenting Sponsor





Author "The Model Inmate" for his outstanding contributions to the literary culture of New Haven and for advancing social justice in the community and beyond.





Noah Webster Award U.S. Senator Christopher Murphy for his steadfast advocacy of the New Haven Free Public Library and its mission to foster opportunity and inclusivity for all residents of New Haven.



Schedule of Events

5:30 PM

Cocktail Hour Featuring Timmy Maia

6:30 PM

Welcome Remarks Dr. Mary Ellen Savage, President New Haven Free Public Library Foundation Board of Directors

Dr. Lauren Anderson, President New Haven Free Public Library Board of Directors

> Honorable Justin Elicker Mayor, City of New Haven

Maria Bernhey City Librarian and Director New Haven Free Public Library

State Senator Gary Winfield (D-10)

Honoring Mr. Ray V. Boyd Author "The Model Inmate"

Noah Webster Award U.S. Senator Christopher Murphy

7 PM Dinner Music and Dancing

8 - 8:30 PM Final Dance and Good Bye

Welcome to Mardi Gras at the New Haven Free Public Library

Dear Friends,

It is with immense joy and gratitude that I extend a heartfelt welcome to each of you as the newly appointed City Librarian of the New Haven Free Public Library. As we gather to celebrate the vibrant spirit of Mardi Gras 2024, I am honored to share in this joyous occasion with a community that values the profound impact of knowledge, learning, and cultural enrichment.

This annual celebration not only brings festivity to our city but also serves as a vital fundraiser organized by the New Haven Free Public Library Foundation. I am truly touched by the overwhelming support from our dedicated staff, community members, and generous donors and sponsors – your commitment ensures the vitality of our beloved Library and its crucial role in the cultural tapestry of our city.

The New Haven Free Public Library is a dynamic institution that serves as a hub of knowledge, community engagement, and inclusivity. With branches strategically located in different neighborhoods throughout New Haven, the Library plays a pivotal role in fostering a sense of belonging and providing access to resources for residents of all ages. Each branch is a gateway to a world of possibilities, providing not only books but also a diverse array of programs, services, and resources tailored to the unique needs of its local community.

To our cherished donors and sponsors, I extend heartfelt thanks for your generous contributions to the New Haven Free Public Library Foundation. Your support is not just an investment in books and resources; it is an investment in the future of our city.

As we come together to celebrate Mardi Gras, let us reflect on the importance of our public library system in creating a more connected and enriched New Haven. The funds raised during this event will directly contribute to sustaining and expanding the invaluable services offered to the community, ensuring that every neighborhood continues to thrive intellectually and culturally.

Thank you for your steadfast support. I look forward to a year filled with shared accomplishments and the continued growth of our beloved Library.

Warm regards,

Maria Bernhey City Librarian and Director New Haven Free Public Library

Honoring Mr. Ray V. Boyd, Author "The Model Inmate"

We are enriched by Mr Boyd's outstanding contributions to the literary culture of New Haven and for his work advancing social justice in the community and beyond.



"The Model Inmate" offers a unique perspective on the prison experience, capturing the essence of life behind bars through Mr. Boyd's own lived experiences. His story is a reminder of the power of resilience and the ability to overcome adversity. As an author, Mr. Boyd looks to share his lived experience, aiming to foster meaningful change and progress within communities.

Currently, Mr. Boyd serves as the Program Manager for New Visions for Public Safety at the Yale Law School Law and Racial Justice Center.

In November 2021, Mr. Boyd was released from the Connecticut Department of Correction after serving 30 years since his incarceration at the age of 17. Notably, during his time behind bars, Mr. Boyd co-founded two impactful programs: the Skills of Socialization (S.O.S.) program at the Osborn Correctional Institute in 2015, and the T.R.U.E. Reentry program at the Cheshire Correctional Institute in 2018. These innovative initiatives garnered national attention, including a feature on 60 Minutes.

Mr. Boyd dedicates his time to volunteering as a Board Member of CT Stop Solitary Confinement, advocating passionately for second chances for individuals with criminal backgrounds. Additionally, he contributes his efforts to the United States Department of Justice as a speaker with FED Up, Project Safe Neighborhood, and Project Longevity, aiming to inspire positive change and support for those reentering society.

Mr. Boyd is married to the love of his life Jacqueline James-Boyd. Together, they are the co-founders of Next Level Empowerment Program in New Haven, where they advocate to create a supportive community for returning citizens and their families through direct engagement and holistic social support.

The Noah Webster Award

The Noah Webster Award reflects the passion of Noah Webster, a Yale graduate and New Haven resident for many years, whose legacy remains a literacy building block today. The award recognizes a library supporter who builds community and advocacy coalitions in support of the Library and, in turn, the New Haven Community.

It is our honor to present the 2024 Noah Webster Award to U.S. Senator Christopher Murphy

Senator Murphy's unwavering commitment to the constituents of Connecticut has defined his illustrious career.



Senator Murphy's pivotal role in nominating the New Haven Free Public Library was a key factor in the library's recognition and receipt of the prestigious 2019 Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Award.

The IMLS Award is a testament to the library's commitment to excellence in serving its community. Chosen from a pool of 30 national finalists, the recipients of the 2019 National Medal for Museum and Library Service exemplify institutions that deliver dynamic programming and services surpassing conventional standards.

Senator Murphy has been instrumental in enhancing the national standing of the New Haven Free Public Library, steadfastly supporting our cause.

Thank you, Senator Murphy! We are grateful to have your support.







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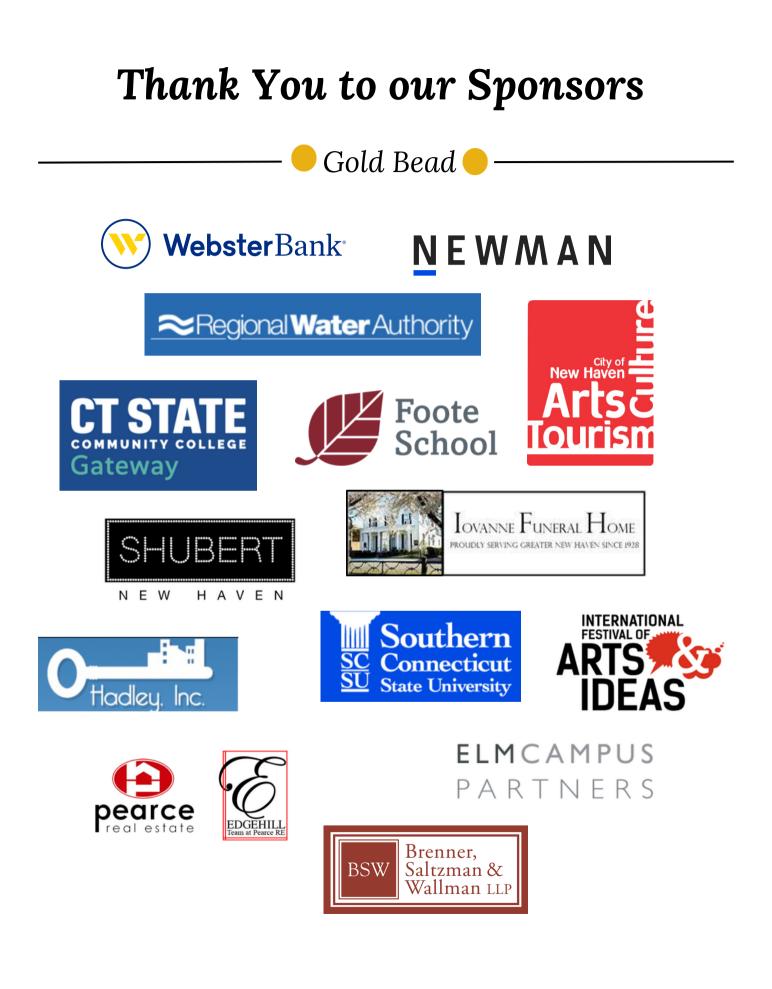
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The New Haven Free Public Library

for all their years of service and support of the New Haven Community



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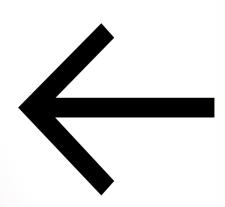
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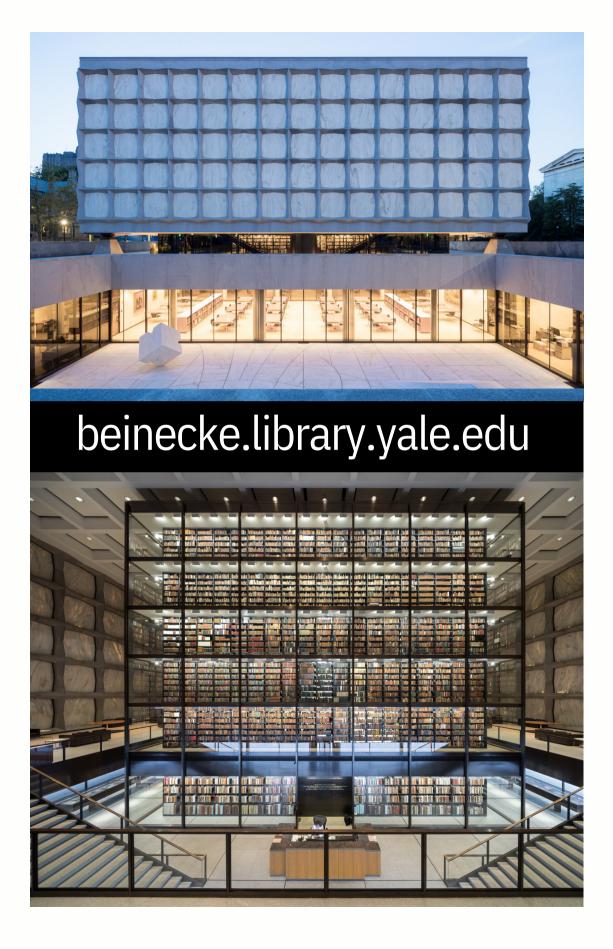




A 36-hour, online-giving event to support local nonprofits





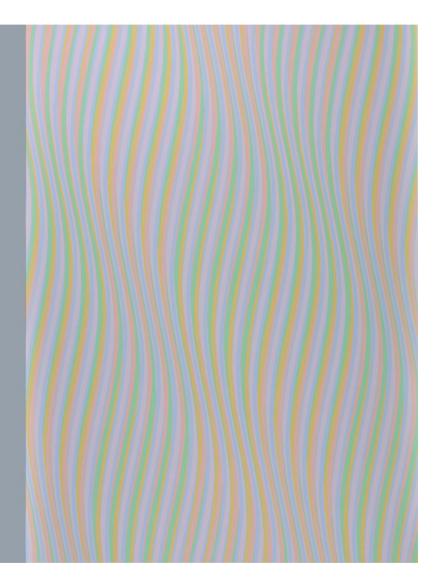


YALE CENTER FOR BRITISH ART

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Bridget Riley, *Orpheus, study* 6 (detail), 1977, gouache over graphite, gift of John Russell © Bridget Riley



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Happy Mardi Gras!

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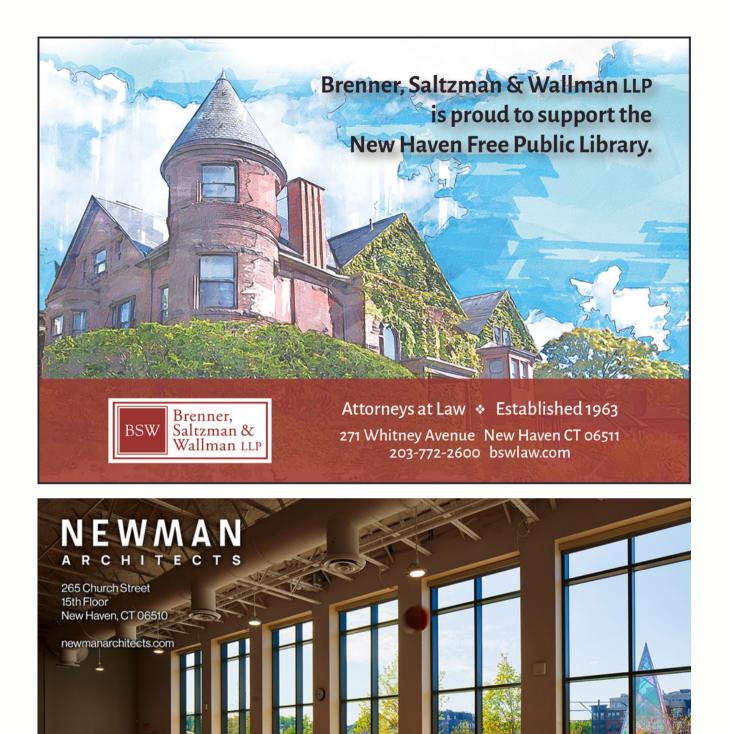
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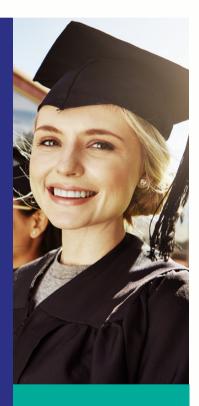
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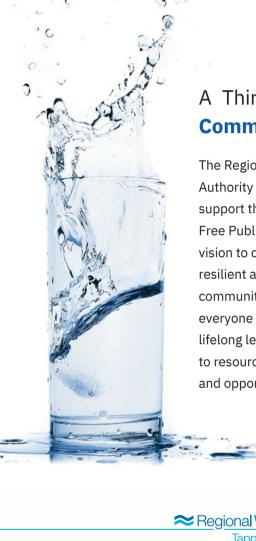
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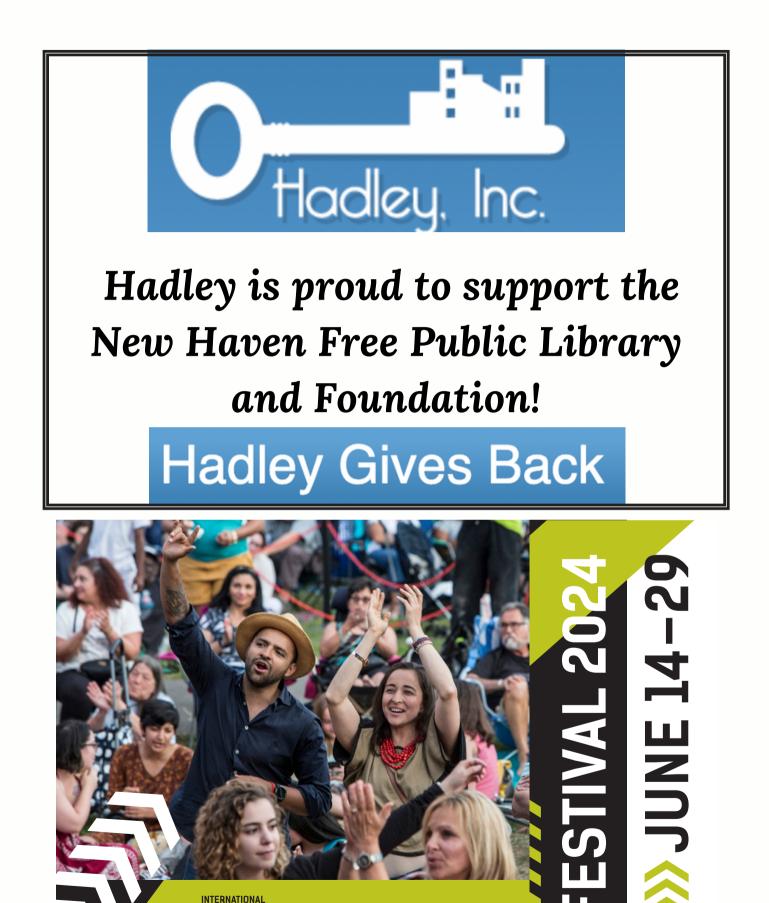
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A Thirst for **Community**

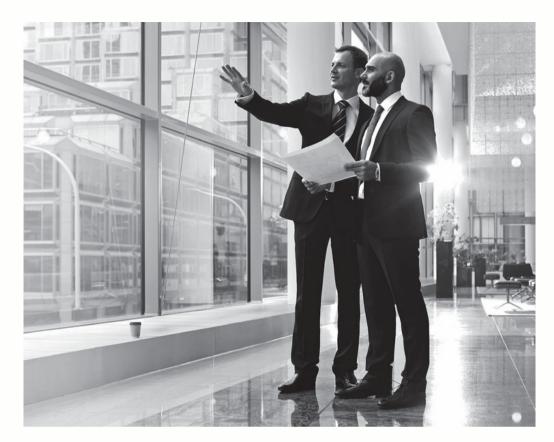
The Regional Water Authority is proud to support the New Haven Free Public Library and its vision to create a strong, resilient and informed community where everyone thrives through lifelong learning and access to resources, experiences and opportunities.

🗢 Regional **Water** Authority Tapping the Possibilities





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Laissez les bon temps rouler!

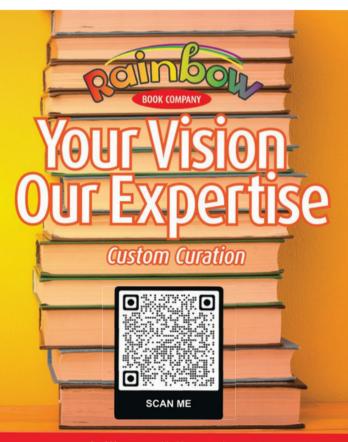
Did you know? Mardi Gras colors represent **faith**, **power**, and **justice**.



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Mardi Gras

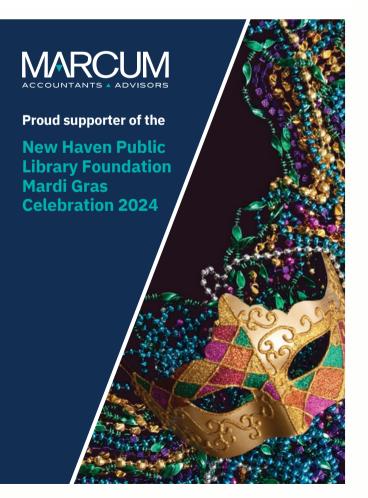
with the

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Thank you for celebrating with us at the New Haven Free Public Library