



Eddie A. Perez
Mayor

RESTAURANTS SERVE UP TASTY COMPLEMENT TO THE ARTS TASTE OF HARTFORD BENEFITS ECONOMIC ENGINE FOR HARTFORD

---NEWS AND COMMUNITY RELEASE---

(January 20, 2010)--- The Taste of Hartford warms the winter chill this week, but more importantly it showcases Hartford's flavorful and diverse restaurants that are a unique complement to Hartford's Arts and Cultural Mecca.

Mayor Eddie A. Perez says, "Hartford is proud of its Arts and Heritage industry. It generates \$7.8 million in audience impact dollars. That is one reason why the City chose to invest more than \$1 million dollars in Art organizations for Phase 1 of our Arts and Heritage Jobs Grant and we're now in the midst of Phase 2 of using federal dollars to stimulate our local arts economy. Restaurants play a vital role in benefiting our Arts Community. So if you're considering "dinner and show" as a way to enjoy Hartford, the Taste of Hartford not only allows you to sample fine food, but benefit the Greater Hartford Arts Council, our partner in our Arts Stimulus, that is creating and retaining about 350 employment opportunities in the City."

Phase 2 of the jobs grant is geared towards small (5 employees or less) Hartford based arts organizations and individual artists. Grants will range from \$5,000 to \$25,000 and can be used for example for wages and operational costs or to purchase equipment. For more information on Phase 2 of the Arts and Heritage Job Grant, please log on to <http://www.hartford.gov/Development/grants-mgt/Hartford%20Arts.htm>.

The Taste of Hartford runs through Sunday, January 24th. A fixed menu for \$20.10 is available at participating restaurants. For more information, log on to www.letsgoarts.org. You are invited to couple this with events this week at venues like the Hartford Stage, the XL Center, the CT Expo Center, Theatre Works, the Mark Twain House, and the Hartford Public Library. What a way to enjoy and explore Hartford as we ready ourselves for our 375th Anniversary!