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DOWNTOWN BRIDGEPORT WELCOMES NEW PUBLIC MURAL CELEBRATING LOCAL MUSIC HISTORY

BRIDGEPORT, CT – November 12, 2021 – Yesterday, the Bridgeport Downtown Special Services District (DSSD) kicked off Bridgeport Art Trail weekend by celebrating the success of its collaboration with property owner Fred Frassinelli and mural artist Alicia Cobb to produce a public mural commemorating the legacy of Bridgeport’s musical history. Downtown Bridgeport is a commercial area that represents and serves a diverse tapestry of the wider Bridgeport community. The public parks and independently owned restaurants and shops that populate the street-level spaces in the neighborhood create connection points that foster the sense of community so special to the Downtown and the city. The mural unveiled on Thursday, November 11, 2021, “colored in” another corner of an emerging public art destination within Downtown Bridgeport.

The installation connects the Broad Street Steps with the ground mural at Peacock Alley, the mural honoring Mary & Eliza Freeman at 15 Elm Street, the Arrows Weave mural across the street, and the historic Works Progress Administration/New Deal era murals inside of the Bridgeport Post Office. The mural titled, “The Middle Street Music Mural,” will attract daily visitors to enjoy the improved physical setting of the street and educate them about the history and legacy of recorded music in the building.

The Middle Street Music mural finds its home at a building with a well-documented connection to American music history. The upper floors previously housed Paul Leka’s recording studio. As was noted in the book *Only in Bridgeport*, Paul Leka was a Bridgeport native, who wrote songs and recoded music for world-famous acts like REO Speedwagon, Harry Chapin, and Stevie Wonder. Leka made an indelible mark on music history with his well-known song, *Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye*. A favorite of baseball fans across the country. Current tenant Edwin Ramos, founder of [Platinum Room Recorders](#), advised on the design of the mural.

“Learning about the chart topping music that was created at this site in our very historical city was the biggest inspiration behind the mural. It is exciting to be a part of honoring the history and current use of the space with this mural. It represents the history, diversity, and commitment to community in the beautiful city of Bridgeport.,” said Alicia Cobb, the artist who created the mural.

“I am so pleased to see this project come together. I knew the building’s history and wanted to find a way to share it with the public. Alicia’s design just hit all the right notes, and connected the legacy of the site with what has been created here. I look forward to what our current and future tenants will bring to the space and what they will add to the revitalization of Downtown Bridgeport,” said Fred Frassinelli, sponsor of the mural and owner of the building where it was installed.



“We are so excited to support this mural in Downtown Bridgeport. This commercial and residential community radiates with diversity, and this mural project will provide an opportunity to add vibrancy, spread color and joy through public art, and add to the neighborhood’s identity making our place one of value. Our Color It In public art program continues to activate different sites as a means to enhance the experience of residents, daytime workers, and visitors to the Downtown. We thank Fred for his vision and Alicia for her artistry. Together we are creating a destination that welcomes residents and visitors alike to explore,” said Lauren Coakley Vincent, President and CEO of the Bridgeport DSSD.

The process to create the mural engaged neighborhood stakeholders to add to the growing network of murals in pedestrian plazas, creating a pathway connected by visual art through different elements of the neighborhood. The Bridgeport DSSD is complementing the installation with the launch of an online guide to the Downtown’s works of public art, inspiring a walking path or informal tour of the many sites. Access the guide at colorfulbridgeport.com/color-it-in-mural and be on the lookout for sidewalk stickers next to the sites where the artworks are located. The QR codes on those sidewalk stickers take visitors to the guide on the website.



DSSD
colorful bridgeport

Color It In: Downtown Public Art Works

Downtown Bridgeport is a commercial area that represents and serves a diverse tapestry of the wider Bridgeport community.

The public parks and independently owned restaurants and shops that populate the street-level spaces in our neighborhood create connection points that foster the sense of community so special to the Downtown and the city. The murals in our neighborhood celebrate the full spectrum of Downtown and its beautiful and vibrant overlapping forms, shapes, and colors that intersect through its people, streets, places, and spaces. We hope you will explore and enjoy these public art destinations. Check out the artworks listed below, or access [this working guide to take your own tour of Downtown Bridgeport public art!](http://this.working.guide.to.take.your.own.tour.of.downtown.bridgeport.public.art/)

All public art documented by local photographers: [Whiskey & Oxfords](http://Whiskey&Oxfords.com)

Middle Street Music 115 Middle Street Created by local artist: Alicia Cobb Commissioned by AMS Real Estate.	History of Mail Transportation Interior of 100 Middle Street Explore inside the Bridgeport Post Office. Mural commissioned by the Works Progress Administration, executed by Robert Landis.	Pictures in Exhibition 1057 Broad Street Created by Brechin Moraga , resident at Bridgeport studio AnFab Arts.

Downtown No. 3 Public Art Walk

Walking Guides

 Preserving Access and the Passage of Time 425 Water Street	 Pictures in Exhibition 1005 Broad Street
 History of Mail Transportation 100 Middle Street (interior)	 Patrick Kelly Patented: Whiskey & Oxfords, 1012 Broad Street and 400 Water Street.
 Middle Street Music 115 Middle Street	 Crane Ally DeBruin: 400 Corner Street and 400 Corner Street.
 Franklin Armstrong (Artful Home) 100 Fairfield Avenue	 Patented Plaster Whiskey & Oxfords: 1012 Broad Street and 400 Water Street.
 Liberation: the Holy and Blue 100 Water Street Julia 18	 Wavy Hair Studios 100 Water Street Julia 18

The online guide to Downtown public artworks is paired with a printed walking guide available for pick up during the week at the Bridgeport DSSD office, located at 938 Broad Street in Downtown Bridgeport.

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Bridgeport
Downtown Special
Services District

DSSD

About Bridgeport Downtown Special Services District

The Bridgeport Downtown Special Services District (DSSD) serves the vibrant and diverse businesses within the 30 blocks in of our heart-shaped neighborhood. Our role at the Bridgeport DSSD is to support the needs of growing businesses in the district, from keeping the Downtown clean and friendly, connecting them to city resources to offering free marketing and advertising, and everything in between. Throughout the year we deliver sanitation services, our friendly team of Ambassadors keep the district clean and safe, we promote the district through the dynamic Colorful Bridgeport campaign, and produce community events including the Downtown Farmers Market.

Contact Lauren Coakley Vincent at

lauren.dssd@infobridgeport.com or (203) 908-3622 and learn more at www.colorfulbridgeport.com.



About Alicia Cobb

Alicia C. Cobb is a professional visual artist, fine body painter and teaching artist currently residing and working in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Part of her purpose is to honor her ancestors and create art for those who couldn't. Her work is a celebration of the human body and spirit through everything it endures. Breaking away from conventional canvas and concepts, Alicia create stories of survival and beauty on human skin and through fine art. She wishes to inspire others to be un-apologetically themselves. **Contact Alicia Cobb at artsimplified@gmail.com or (203) 998-5040 and learn more at www.artsimplified.com.**