

# The Color It In Public Art Project

## Call for Artists

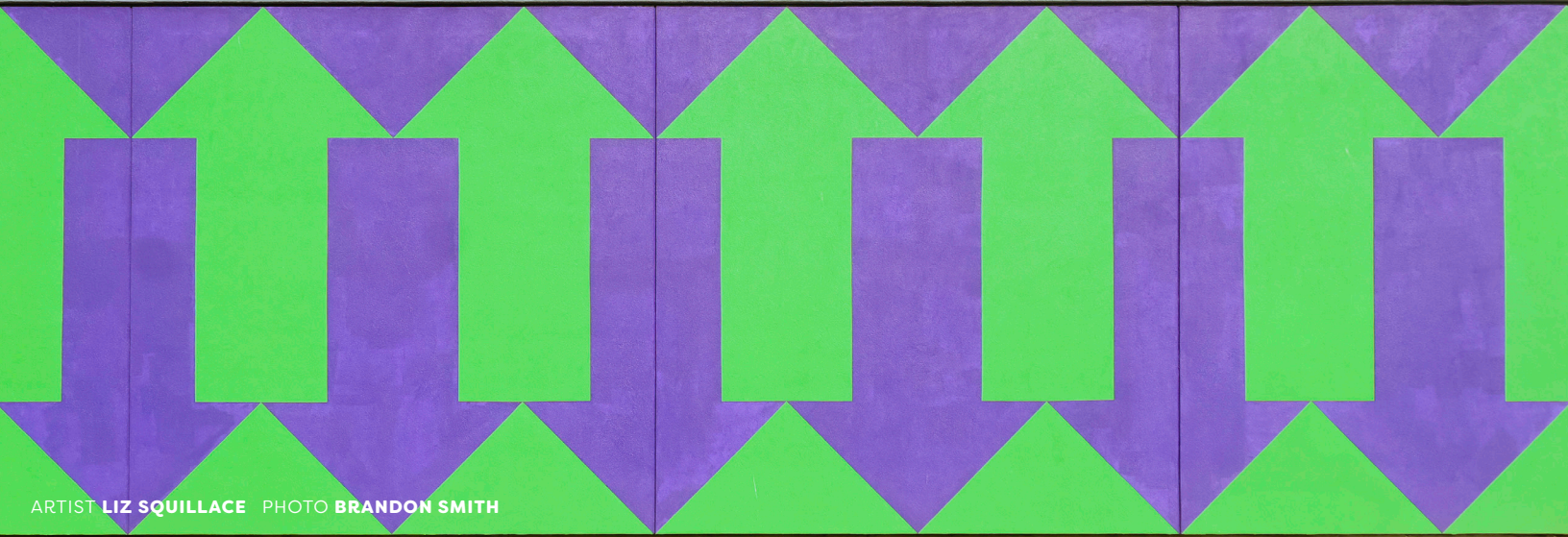
DOWNTOWN BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT



ARTIST AISHA NAILAH | PHOTO BRANDON SMITH

The City of Bridgeport and the Bridgeport Downtown Special Services District (DSSD) are calling artists to Downtown Bridgeport. We are already “Colorful Bridgeport,” and YOU can make it more so by sharing your skill, your imagination, and your inspiration to help transform the city’s center into an expression of art itself.

[LEARN MORE](#)



ARTIST **LIZ SQUILLACE** PHOTO **BRANDON SMITH**

### **Downtown Bridgeport**

The City's fastest growing neighborhood, Downtown represents and serves a diverse tapestry of the wider Bridgeport community. The public parks and independently-owned restaurants and shops that populate the neighborhood create connection points that foster the sense of community so special to the Downtown and the city.

### **The Color It In Public Art Project**

The Color It In Public Art Project aspires to activate different sites as a means to service and enhance the experience of residents, workers, and visitors to Downtown, while welcoming them to explore different areas of the district. We seek and encourage artists from all backgrounds and from all levels of experience and engagement, artists whose work can create multi-functional spaces that encourage lingering time in the district and at local businesses, while offering an amenity for Downtown residents, workers, and visitors.

### **The Opportunity**

Thanks to our private partners, we have twelve building walls ready to go. Some of them are pretty big. Don't worry; though it certainly may, the artwork doesn't necessarily have to cover the complete surface of any particular wall. Some sites also come with adjacent open space that can be incorporated into the art, as well. We're open to all ideas and to all formats and media that you might propose: paintings, drawings, prints, panels, photographs, projected images, lighted, interactive, immersive, three-dimensional, animated, sculpted, electronic, web-based, even performance-based.



ARTIST ALICIA COBB PHOTO BRANDON SMITH

### **How to Express Your Interest**

We ask you simply to introduce yourself, share your work, and to tell us what kind of art you'd like to bring to Downtown. Specifically, we ask you to share:

- Your contact information
- Links to your online portfolio or images of your work
- A general description or depiction of the art you'd like to create, and at which location(s)

*We will be hosting an information session and walk of the various sites on Friday, April 15, 2022 from 11:00am to 2:00pm. Contact Julio Pardo at [hello@infobridgeport.com](mailto:hello@infobridgeport.com) to RSVP.*

*We're taking expressions of interest on a rolling basis until Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 2:00pm. Send us your response via email to [hello@infobridgeport.com](mailto:hello@infobridgeport.com) or mail a hardcopy to the Bridgeport DSSD office: 938 Broad Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604. Any questions can be referred to Julio Pardo at [hello@infobridgeport.com](mailto:hello@infobridgeport.com) or phone to (203) 908-3622.*

### **The Contract**

Artists will be contracted by the City and will be compensated as per negotiated agreements that will recognize the value of unique works of art and that will be supportive of artists as entrepreneurs. The City will require artists to carry general liability insurance and will recognize that cost. The City will also pay for equipment rental.

### **Take a Look**

Read on to see the walls and spaces we'd like you to color in. Thank you, artists! We're looking forward to the work.

**Site No. 1: The Film Archive Building**

Location: 118 Congress Street (at the corner of Housatonic Avenue)

Wall Direction: North Facing

Dimensions: 138ft x 40ft (approx 5,520 sq ft)



**Desired Theme**

“Metropolis,” Classic Movies, The Communal Experience of Movies

**More Details/Considerations**

Located on an entryway wall into the city from the north, this canvas offers high visibility and the chance to work with an impassioned property owner who is interested in your approach to engaging the iconic imagery of classic film, particularly “Metropolis.” Interactive? Why not? Can we click on your artwork and see a clip of the film? Want to take advantage of the open expanse of land before the wall? Go ahead. Edgy, curious, striking, this work will say “Welcome to Bridgeport: Something new is happening here.”

**Site No. 2: The Former Azteca Restaurant**

Location: 1330-1336 Main Street (at the corner of Congress Street)

Wall Direction: North and South Facing

Dimensions: see below



Smaller Section

Dimensions: 31ft x 21ft (approx 600 sq ft)

Larger Section

Dimensions: 80ft x 28ft (approx 1,350 sq ft)



Dimensions: 80ft x 46ft (approx 3,416 sq ft)

**More Details/Considerations**

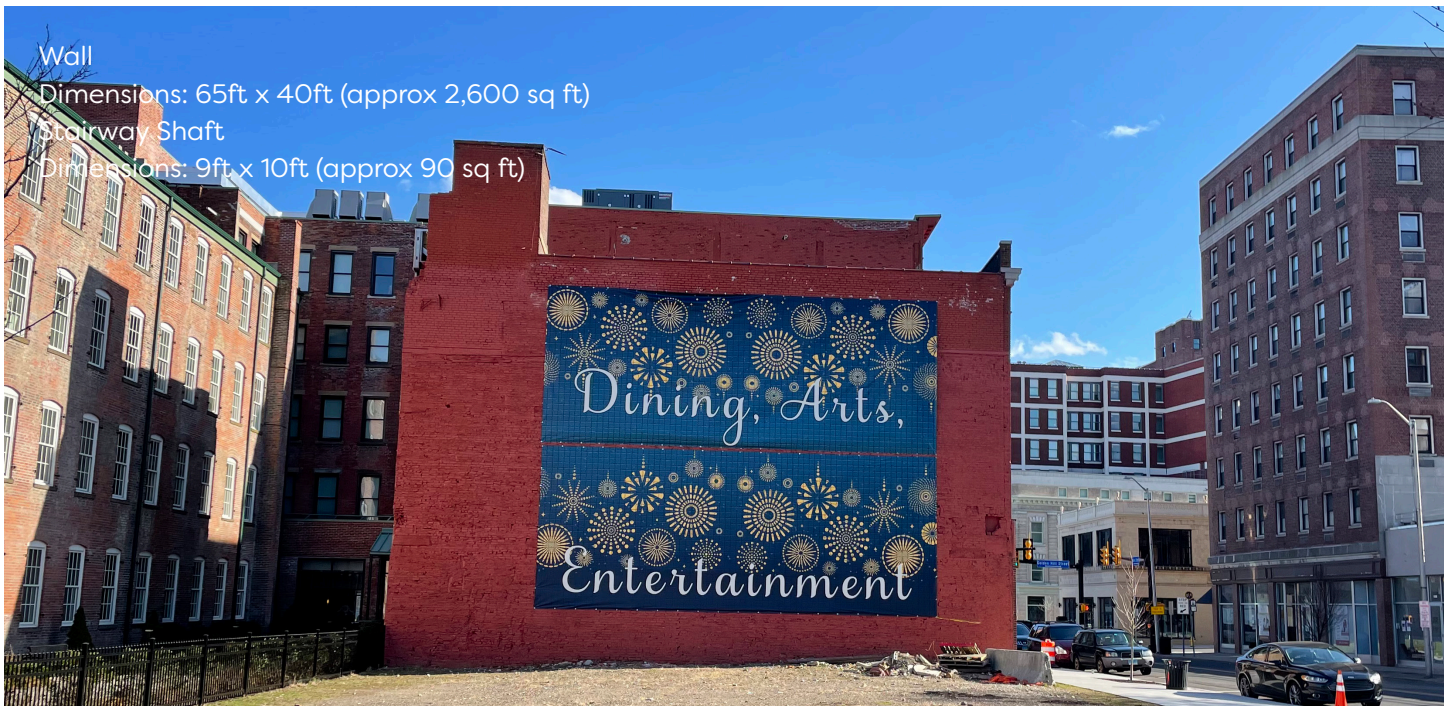
The north wall borders an expanse of publicly owned land, which could be incorporated into the proposed work. This may be the site for more risk-taking. The southern wall frames a church parking lot and faces neighboring residences, which may suggest something more intimate. The building is empty. These works of art will be its identity.

**Site No. 3: 1188 Lofts & The Dillon**

Location: 1207 Middle Street and 1136 Main Street

Wall Direction: North Facing

Dimensions: see below



**More Details/Considerations**

1188 Lofts is a mixed-income and mixed-use historic restoration project. The development is the product of collaboration, the distillation of effort into forming a new community. Formerly abandoned, these buildings now house a pharmacy, a brewery, a rooftop patio, and over 100 new residents. Create a vision across two walls here and use the L-shaped open space in the foreground. In the nice weather, the neighboring senior citizens would love to sit outside and enjoy. Treatments may need to be done as banners or wraps rather than paint on the walls.

**Site No. 4: Post Office Square**

Location: 1126 Main Street (adjacent to the open green space)

Wall Direction: North Facing

Dimensions: 168ft x 80ft (approx 6,400 sq ft)

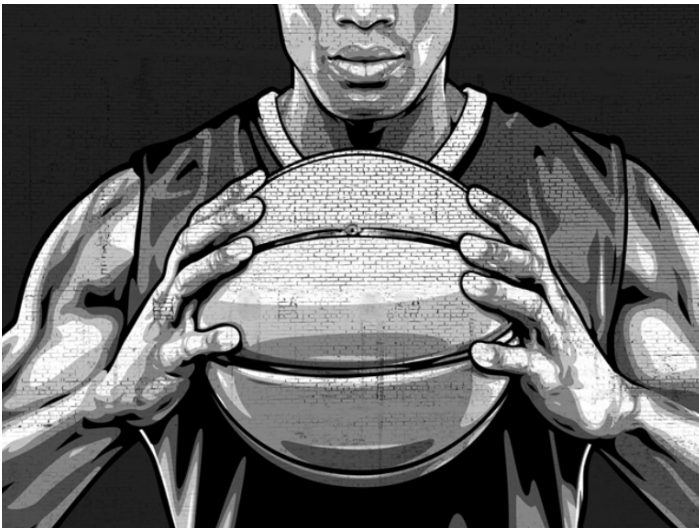


**More Details/Considerations**

Surrounded by historic buildings, Post Office Square is the city's newest public open space. It's still under development; and both the walls and the grounds are available for art. Perhaps this space wants to be one or two big things. Maybe it wants to be many intimate things. Temporary, permanent, changing, interactive, immersive? Recreational? Artistic? Extending an invitation? Experiential? Contemplative? You tell us. We want this to be Bridgeport's Living Room, and the largest public artwork in Connecticut.

**Site No. 5: Colorblends Building & NBA Lab Gallery**  
Location: 1163 Main Street (at the corner of Elm Street)

Wall Direction: West Facing  
Dimensions: 55ft x 34ft (approx 1,870 sq ft)



**Desired Theme**

Basketball

**More Details/Considerations**

The NBA Labs Gallery is filled with locally produced, basketball inspired art. Here's an opportunity to communicate the energy of the game, and of its art, out into the street. A sidewalk utility box in front of the gallery is also available for adornment.



**Site No. 6: Colorblends Building**

Location: 1163 Main Street (at the corner of Elm Street)

Wall Direction: South Facing

Dimensions: 80ft x 34ft (approx 2,720 sq ft)



**More Details/Considerations**

The owner would be refreshing and reimagining an existing mural (Arrows Weave by Liz Squillace). The work might be done atop the arrows or the wall might be entirely reimagined. In the foreground, there is also an open space rain garden that could be incorporated into the work.

**Site No. 7: Salvation Army Building**

Location: 30 Elm Street (blue wall facing East toward Main Street)

Wall Direction: East Facing

Dimensions: 62ft x 18ft (approx 1,116 sq ft)



**More Details/Considerations**

The Salvation Army will want to see art consistent with its mission to love, to serve, and to transform communities. Learn more about the Salvation Army here: <https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/about/>

**Site No. 8: Tiny Cellar (Wine Shop) and Aunt Spazz (Wreck Room)**

Location: 56 Fairfield Avenue (at the corner of Middle Street)

Wall Direction: West Facing

Dimensions: 95ft x 27ft (approx 2,225 sq ft)



**More Details/Considerations**

This building wall is the only street edge wall being offered. The wall features various window and door openings as well as masonry bands and circular offsets. Fun fact: this building is adjacent to the Bridgeport Post Office, which itself features indoor murals from the 1930's.

**Site No. 9: Murphy's Law Building**

Location: 239 Fairfield Avenue (at the corner of Broad Street)

Wall Direction: East Facing

Dimensions: 93ft x 72ft (approx 3,282 sq ft)



**Desired Theme**

Bridgeport History

**More Details/Considerations**

Facing Baldwin Plaza, the art will be part of daily Downtown life, and will create a visual identity for this popular spot. The wall rises in height and offers interesting projections. There are images of Bridgeport over the decades available online through the Bridgeport History Center's archives.

<https://bportlibrary.pastperfectonline.com/photo>

**Site No. 10: Trattoria A'Vucchella Building**

Location: 272 Fairfield Avenue (across from the Bijou Theatre)

Wall Direction: East Facing

Dimensions: 85ft x 38ft (approx 2,062 sq ft)



**Desired Theme**

Landscape including mountains and water

**More Details/Considerations**

This Downtown culinary destination on Fairfield Avenue sits in the middle of a vibrant food and entertainment district. Across from the historic Bijou Theatre and in view of the Downtown Cabaret Theatre and City Lights Gallery, this site also provides the back-drop for an outdoor dining cafe.

**Site No. 11: The Quill Group and Atlantic Engineering Building**  
Location: 525 John Street (at the corner of West Avenue)

Wall Direction: North and West Facing  
Dimensions: approx 2,210 sq ft



**More Details/Considerations**

This building offers entryway visibility coming into Downtown from the west. With the building walls opening like a book, bordering an open space, and commanding a corner, this site could really become a surprising and inviting nook of the city. There is also a school (Adam J. Lewis Academy) a few steps away from the building.

**Site No. 12: Court Exchange Building**

Location: 211 State Street (at the corner of Broad Street)

Wall Direction: South Facing

Dimensions: 95ft x 68ft (approx 6,460 sq ft)



**More Details/Considerations**

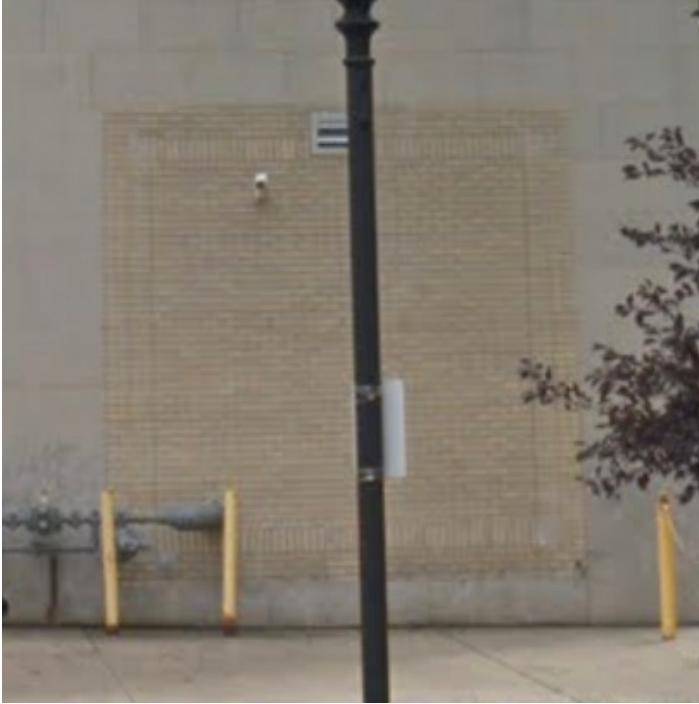
This building is home to a diverse range of ground floor businesses, including Una Dolce Vita, Downtown Cafe, Rum & Tequilla Fusion, Star Istanbul, Craig & Terry’s Barber Shop, and Colorful Bridgeport/DSSD’s office. This building is across from the Bridgeport Library, and the wall faces south toward an entrance to the Housatonic Community College and the Housatonic Museum of Art. Fun fact: Joe Tola’s homemade gelato shop (Una Dolce Vita) features an indoor mural of an Italian countryside and sports a red Vespa in the dining area.

**Site No. 13: Read's Artspace Building**

Location: 1042 Broad Street (at the corner of John Street)

Wall Direction: North Facing

Dimensions: 22ft x 20ft (approx 440 sq ft)



**More Details/Considerations**

At the base of the Read's Artspace Building, just at its corner near Broad Street, facing north toward Baldwin Plaza, a small masonry patch (taupe colored portion) of wall stands as the perfect frame for art. Needing to be hung or panelized, this work will complement colorful Peacock Alley.