

The Color It In Public Spaces Project

Call for Concepts

DOWNTOWN BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT



PHOTO KRISTYN MILLER

The City of Bridgeport and the Bridgeport Downtown Special Services District (DSSD) are calling artists and makers to Downtown Bridgeport. We invite you to share your skill, your imagination, and your inspiration to help transform the city's Downtown into a vibrant center of community activity.

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Project Overview

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 Color It In Public Spaces project is about celebrating the full spectrum of Downtown and intersections of its people, streets, places, and spaces.

The Opportunity

The Color It In Public Spaces Project invites architects, landscape designers, environmental artists, garden designers, urban engineers, inventors, fabricators and makers to re-imagine multiple Downtown Bridgeport public spaces. Color It In Public Spaces Project aspires to activate different sites as a means to enhance the experience of residents, business owners, daytime workers, and visitors to the Downtown, while welcoming those individuals to explore different areas of the neighborhood. We seek ideas to create, make accessible, and establish sustainable multi-functional spaces for community engagement, recreation, play, events, and markets. We are open to all formats of space activation.

Implementation and Budget – Partnership with the City

We seek moderately priced proposals, preferably less than \$25,000, inclusive of design, materials, permits, insurance, and installation and related management services. The City understands that it may need to be a direct partner in the execution of certain projects. This can include reasonable improvements to a site, and will be discussed on a case by case basis. Improvement costs, if approved, would not be part of the proposed budget i.e. sidewalk repair.



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Documentation and Promotion

The Bridgeport DSSD will credit the selected individual or firm whenever the space activation is published or promoted on the Colorful Bridgeport platform. The Bridgeport DSSD and the City of Bridgeport may use images of the installation in promotional or educational materials. The selected individual or firm's contact information will be included in any printed or published reference to the installation.

How to Express Your Interest

Expressions of interest are to include:

- Your contact information.
- An overview of your professional and community experience, including images of existing and past work that would be relevant to the project and site.
- A brief statement (no more than 500 words) for each location that describes your concept, what community need or desire it meets, if any, and what kind of activity you expect will result from the concept, installation, or site activation.

We will be hosting an information session and walk of the various sites on Wednesday, June 29, 2022 from 11:00am to 2:00pm. Contact Julio Pardo at hello@infobridgeport.com to RSVP.

We're taking expressions of interest on a rolling basis until Friday, July 15, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. Send us your response via email to 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 or phone to (203) 908-3622.



Selection Process

Proposals will be reviewed by a Selection Committee consisting of representatives from the DSSD and the City's Office of Planning & Economic Development. Respondents' proposals will be considered in light of the following criteria:

1. Respondent's experience
2. Quality of proposal (originality, imaginativeness, colorful impact)
3. Readiness to proceed

Site No. 1: Baldwin Plaza

Location: 1130 Main Street



This park is named after Raymond E. Baldwin, a prolific political persona of the 20th century. Baldwin served as an United States Senator, Connecticut Governor, CT state representative, and was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Connecticut. In addition to the Plaza, you can find his name on a senior center in Stratford, the Middlesex Judicial District courthouse in Middletown, and the bridge spanning the Connecticut River along I-95. None of this information is displayed on the site. Let's change that. The site lends itself to segmentation and multi-purpose usage concepts. Which part of Baldwin park speaks to you?

Some potential ideas include:

- Bust or other homage to Raymond E. Baldwin
- Roller skating infrastructure
- Ground painting in walkways or other type of murals
- Wayfinding signage
- Sculpture(s)
- Recreation space
- Community garden
- Dog run/park

Site No. 2: Post Office Square

Location: 1136 to 1160 Main Street



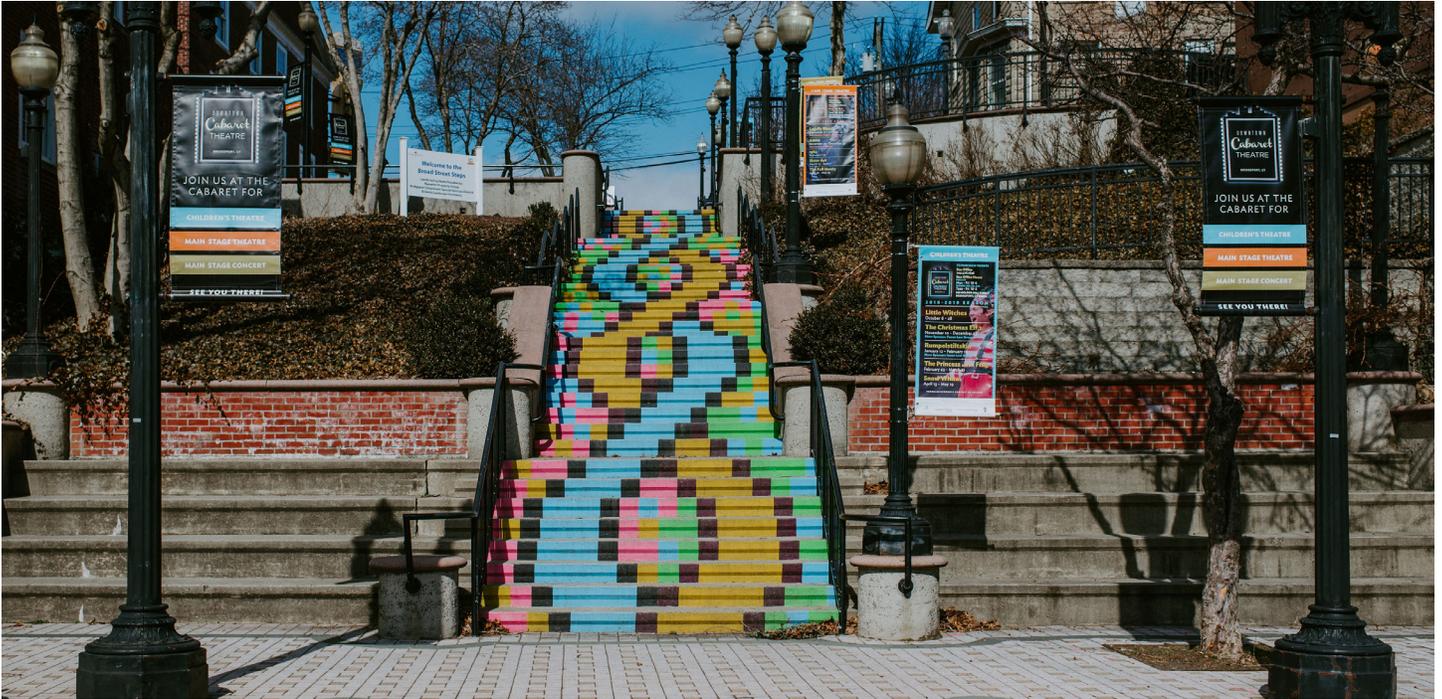
Surrounded by historic buildings, Post Office Square is the city's newest public open space. Located across the street from the Bridgeport Post Office and the 1188 Main Street residential development, this was a monumental historic redevelopment for Downtown North. Bridgeport's very own Berlinetta Brewing is located on the first floor looking out onto the Square, and they are looking to use a portion of the space as a beer garden in the summer months. We want this to be Bridgeport's Living Room, and the largest public art park in Connecticut. Please note, the wall along the backside of the space is in the process of being repaired.

Some potential ideas include:

- Artistic lighting
- Community events
- Vending infrastructure or activation(s)
- Recreational space
- Freestanding art
- Live performance programming
- Sculpture(s)
- Digital or augmented reality installation(s)

Site No. 3: Broad Street Steps

Location: Broad Street at Elm Street



The Painted Stairway is a Downtown landmark. The mural's design represents the great diversity of our city and our shared humanity. Created by local artist Liz Squillace and painted with love by members of the Bridgeport community, the site attracts everything from wedding photos, birthday parties, live music performances, and pop-up shops. We are looking to refresh the mural in its current form, and to activate the patios on Golden Hill Street and in the middle of the Steps by the entrance to the Downtown Cabaret Theatre.

Some potential ideas include:

- Sculpture(s)
- Artistic lighting
- Live performance programming
- Temporary installations in the garden beds
- Wayfinding signage
- Complementary mural art

Site No. 4: Behind the Archive

Location: 1340 to 1362 Main Street



This open space sits between The Archive and Azteca buildings located along Congress Street and Clifford House senior living at 1450 Main Street. It stretches from Main Street to Housatonic Avenue with nearby transit access from the Bridgeport Transit Center bus and train station. The Pequonnock River waterfront is accessible one block away from the Congress Street Bridge. There is also easy car access onto the lot from the Housatonic Avenue side of the site. This space is directly across the street from the historic Majestic and Palace theater building, how might you tie into the artwork along its ground level?

Some potential ideas include:

- Sculpture garden
- Freestanding art installations
- Community event space
- Farmers market or food truck meetup
- Roller skating infrastructure
- Wayfinding signage

Site No. 5: McLevy Green

Location: Main Street at the corners of State and Bank Streets



McLevy Green is located in the center of the Downtown. At the west side of the Green is McLevy Hall, once Bridgeport's City Hall and an important campaign stop for then presidential candidate Abraham Lincoln in March of 1860. Both the Green and the Hall honor former Bridgeport Mayor Jasper McLevy, a Socialist who served the city from 1933 through 1957, seeing it through the Depression, World War II, and the changes of the post-war era. Like Baldwin Plaza, there isn't any reference to its namesake. How might you pay homage to Mayor McLevy?

McLevy Green is utilized throughout the year for a wide range of events and community activities, including the Downtown Thursdays free concert series, the Downtown Farmers Market, Caribbean Jerk Festival, Peace Week, #100GirlsLeading, and many more. How might the space become more inviting?

Some potential ideas include:

- Bust or other homage to Jasper McLevy
- Artistic lighting
- Community bulletin board
- Wayfinding signage
- Performance space improvements
- Enhanced seating, i.e. Domino or Chess Table(s)



PHOTO KRISTYN MILLER

Other Sites

There are a number of other sites around the Downtown where we are open to any ideas you may have. Check out the list of sites and let us know what you think would be ideal for a community use. If you have an idea for a site that you don't see here, let us know where and what you would like to do.

Name

Main and Gold Pocket Park
Corner Brickwalk
Transportation Center Green
Water Street Tree
Waterfront Park, Boardwalk
City Hall Annex
City Hall Dog Park
Walkway on Cannon Street

Address

1200 to 1218 Main Street
1290 Main Street
710 Water Street
Bridgeport Train Station
Bridgeport Train Station
999 Broad Street
45 Lyon Terrace
43 Cannon Street

Ideas

Artistic lighting, community bulletin board, community garden, dog run/park, enhanced seating, farmers market or food truck meetup, ground painting in walkways or murals, lighting, live performance programming, performance space, roller skating infrastructure, sculpture or sculpture garden, temporary installations in garden beds, wayfinding signage.