



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BRIDGEPORT DSSD RECEIVES CT CULTURAL FUND OPERATING SUPPORT GRANT FROM CT HUMANITIES

BRIDGEPORT, CT – January 3, 2023 – The Bridgeport Downtown Special Services District (DSSD) was recently awarded a \$17,700 CT Cultural Fund Operating Support Grant from CT Humanities (CTH). CT Cultural Fund Operating Support Grants assist organizations as they recover from the pandemic and maintain and grow their ability to serve their community and the public.

The CT Cultural Fund grant will help the Bridgeport DSSD to continue the Colorful Bridgeport creative placemaking projects that increase and diversify our audiences in an effort to build the reputation of the Downtown as a friendly, eclectic business and residential community flourishing at the intersection of commerce, community, and cultures. This critical funding allows us to grow and maintain our ability to serve our community and the public through events, public art, and other community-driven partnerships.

The Bridgeport DSSD understands the impact that well executed events have on the perception a person has of a place. The Colorful Bridgeport creative placemaking efforts introduce audience members to the whole neighborhood, even if they initially attend for a specific purpose. [The annual Jane's Walk](#) - neighborhood walking tours focused on local history and community building - was the fortunate recipient of a CT Humanities Fund Quick Grant. That funding exponentially increased the reach and impact of that event by allowing the Bridgeport DSSD to create a video walking tour, which gains more viewers and introduces more people to Bridgeport's history each day.

“We know that by partnering with initiatives like Skateport, WPKN’s Music Mash, the Bridgeport Art Trail, the West-Indian American Association of Greater Bridgeport, and the collection of stakeholders for our Jane's Walks each year, we will draw in individuals who have never been to Bridgeport and allow current Bridgeport residents to see their city in a new way. The CT Cultural Fund Operating Support Grant is transforming our ability to grow interest in Downtown Bridgeport by activating our city’s streets in a way that reduces car traffic and reclaims streets for people-centered activity, encouraging people to explore the area, and helping them re-imagine the places they live. This commercial and residential community radiates with diversity, and this funding allows us to offer events that add to the neighborhood’s identity, making our place one of value,” said Lauren Coakley Vincent, President and CEO of the Bridgeport DSSD.

The Bridgeport DSSD was one of 725 organizations in Connecticut receiving a CT Cultural Fund Operating Support Grant. Totalling more than \$8.5M, these grants are part of a two-year, \$30.7M

investment in arts, humanities, and cultural nonprofits by the CT General Assembly and approved by Governor Ned Lamont.

This CT Cultural Fund Operating Support Grant is provided to the Bridgeport DSSD from CT Humanities, with funding from the Connecticut State Department of Economic and Community Development/Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA) from the Connecticut State Legislature.

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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

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cthumanities

About Connecticut Humanities

CT Humanities (CTH) is an independent, nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. CTH connects people to the humanities through grants, partnerships, and collaborative programs. CTH projects, administration, and program development are supported by state and federal matching funds, community foundations, and gifts from private sources. **Learn more by visiting cthumanities.org.**

Connecticut

Department of Economic and
Community Development

Office Of The Arts

About Connecticut Office of the Arts

The Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA) is the state agency charged with fostering the health of Connecticut's creative economy. Part of the state's Department of Economic and Community Development, the COA is funded by the State of Connecticut and the National Endowment for the Arts. **Learn more by visiting [the COA website](#).**