



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Jane & Laurayne's Walk Film and Community Tour Explore Colorful Bridgeport on October 30th and 31st

BRIDGEPORT, CT – OCTOBER 22, 2020 – The Bridgeport Downtown Special Services District (DSSD) is excited to host the Jane & Laurayne's Walk, a two-day series of events where the unique story of how we see, interact with, and feel about our city will be explored on film, on foot, and on bicycle. This year we are expanding the international Jane's Walk event concept to celebrate the history and legacy of one of Bridgeport's heroes, Laurayne Farrar-James (more on her below).

The weekend of activities kicks off at the Bijou Theatre on Friday, October 30th, with the premiere of the Jane & Laurayne's Walk short film and panel discussion with the film's creators, followed by a screening of [Edward Norton's Motherless Brooklyn](#). Tickets are \$5. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Purchase tickets on the Bijou Theatre's site here: <https://bit.ly/3nN4Wsk>.

The next day, Saturday, October 31st, the DSSD will host a walking tour and bicycle ride around many of the sites featured in the short film to explore the city, connect with neighbors, and contribute to thoughtful conversations about creative, community-driven city building. The bicycle ride will be led by [Urban Bike Tours of Bridgeport](#). Riders depart from McLevy Green at 1:30 p.m. A walking tour led by the [Colorful Bridgeport team](#) will depart from the DSSD office (938 Broad Street, Downtown Bridgeport) at the same time.

"The Bridgeport DSSD is proud to host the Jane & Laurayne's Walk event this year. We are honored to incorporate the celebration of Laurayne Farrar-James into this annual event which mirrors so much of what she contributed to our city," said Lauren Coakley Vincent, President and CEO of the Bridgeport DSSD. "The video tour short film, which would not have been possible to produce without generous support from the Connecticut Humanities Fund, will serve to connect Ms. Farrar-James' legacy with colorful Downtown Bridgeport, its history, and unique places. We invite you to enjoy and explore our Downtown with expert guides, new neighbors, and friends."

For more information about the event, visit: <https://infobridgeport.com/jane-lauraynes-walk/>. Register for the event here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jane-lauraynes-walk-tickets-125218541027>.

### ABOUT LAURAYNE FARRAR-JAMES

Laurayne Farrar-James was an educator, community organizer, and civil rights leader. She graduated from Bridgeport's Harding High School in 1943, then went on to attend college at both Howard University and University of Bridgeport. Her many roles included: first grade teacher in Bridgeport Public Schools, coordinator for Dr. Martin Luther King desegregating the John Marshall in Virginia, Bridgeport City Council, member of the National Political Congress Black Women, organizer for Jesse Jackson's presidential campaign, board of directors for YWCA, lifetime member of NAACP, recipient of the Ella Anderson NAACP Image Award, soundkeeper and steward of Long Island Sound, and led the fight to eliminate Mount Trashmore (illegal dumping site on Bridgeport's East End). Laurayne embodies the principles of human-centered and community-led change, and we aim to celebrate her with this year's event and introduce new people to her story and legacy.

## ABOUT JANE'S WALK

A [Jane's Walk](#) is a neighborhood tour inspired by the urban activist Jane Jacobs, whose focus on human-centered and community-led neighborhood development has made a lasting imprint on how cities are planned and built. A Jane's Walk is a unique story about how you see, interact with, and feel about a place or topic. We have held "Jane's Walks Bridgeport" for the last three years as a film series, walking tour, bicycle ride, and discussion panel of community leaders on how to make change in our neighborhood.

## PARTNERS

We are privileged to partner in creating this celebration of Downtown Bridgeport, Laurayne Farr-James, and community-driven city building with the following local and regional arts, civic, and resident-led organizations:

[Art Simplified](#)

[The Bijou Theatre](#)

[Bridgeport Generation Now](#)

[The City of Bridgeport](#)

[The Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County](#)

[The Trust for Public Land](#)

[Urban Bike Tours of Bridgeport](#)

Our Jane & Laurayne's Walk video tour project was made possible with generous support from the Connecticut Humanities Fund, and its partners the State of Connecticut and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Connecticut Humanities, a nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, provides opportunities to explore the history, literature and the vibrant culture that make our state, cities and towns attractive places to live and work. Learn more by visiting [cthumanities.org](#).



### About Bridgeport Downtown Special Services District

As the Business Improvement District for the Park City, the mission of the Bridgeport Downtown Special Services District (DSSD) is to "promote the preservation and development of the downtown business district; make the area more attractive and accessible; and enhance the public perception of downtown Bridgeport through overseeing and managing its appearance, security, and cleanliness." The DSSD is operated under the direction of a nine member Board of Commissioners representing property owners in downtown Bridgeport. [www.colorfulbridgeport.com](http://www.colorfulbridgeport.com).

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