

For Immediate Release

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Stamford to join global public art activation *Portals*

Stamford Downtown, May 30, 2019 For the next 12 months, Stamford, CT, will join a network of global cities as part of an international art activation that connects the world’s communities.

Stamford will connect to cities in Iraq, Germany, Nigeria, and many more using a Portal. Portals, a new type of civic infrastructure by the organization Shared_Studios, are a global network of interconnected sites designed to bring people together who would never otherwise meet. When you enter a Portal, you come face-to-face with someone in a Portal somewhere else on the planet, live and full-body, as if in the same room.

There are more than 40 Portals around the world, and each Portal can connect with one another. They are used by schools, businesses, communities, and everyday citizens for conversation, education, collaboration, and play.

Through the Portal, Stamford residents will be able to speak with, learn from, and interact with communities across the entire Portals network, including sites in Afghanistan, Honduras, Kenya, Jordan, Germany, Rwanda, and Mexico. The Portal is intended as a resource through which Stamford can access the richness of human diversity and share what is special about Stamford with the world. Live interpretation is available, and the experience is free and open to the public.

The Stamford_Portal is an initiative of Stamford Downtown Special Services District (DSSD), Stamford’s Business Improvement District. It is made possible by funds from the DSSD and a grant from CTNext.

“At a time when social media is driving communities away from each other, we are proud to bring to Stamford a resource that promotes understanding and dialogue,” said Amar Bakshi of Shared_Studios.

Key Launch Dates - Latham Park, Bedford Street, Stamford Downtown

Wednesday, June 5, 2019 10am-12pm	Community engagement sessions Live portal connection with Erbil, Iraq Community organizations can RSVP to events@stamford-downtown.com
Wednesday, June 5, 2019 4-6pm	Press & dignitary event / soft launch Live portal connection with Mexico City, Mexico
Thursday, June 6, 2019 10am	Public launch 10am Live portal connection with San Juan 12pm Live portal connection with Nigeria

To check out current schedule at the Stamford_Portal, visit: <https://www.sharedstudios.com/stamford-ct-usa>

Portal Sites in Stamford

Over the next 12 months, the Portal will move to various locations in Stamford’s Innovation District to give access to as many citizens as possible. Locations in Stamford that will host the Portal include Latham Park, Columbus Park, Mill River Park, UConn Stamford and Harbor Point. Exact dates at each location will be announced later in 2019.

Shared_Spaces Overview Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63eE7HTYXxo>