

STAMFORD DOWNTOWN

A MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER



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STAMFORD'S VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

Veterans Memorial Park was the scene for Stamford's Veterans Day Ceremony on Sunday, Nov. 8, honoring Stamford veterans for their service. The event was livestreamed and is available on [YouTube](#).

Located at the intersection of Atlantic and Main Streets, in the heart of Stamford Downtown, Veterans Memorial Park while "not quite finished" yet, is open to the public after a two-year renovation. This park pays homage to the contributions of Stamford veterans going back to the French and Indian War, showcases the five branches of service, has space for quiet reflection, a memorial walk, amphitheater seating hundreds for public events and presentations, and a full-color, dancing-water feature. Even when the water is turned off during freezing weather, the light display will provide continued enjoyment year-round. The expansive plaza has green space and walkways bordered by hundreds of engraved pavers with messages for those who served in America's countless efforts securing our freedom. Many pavers and plaques are still being installed and opportunities remain for contributions (see [here](#)).

Work will be finalized in January with the installation of the audio visual system for special events and plantings will be completed next Spring. Next year will see the reconstruction of the intersection of Atlantic and Main Streets integrating Old Town Hall and Heritage Park into a larger public space and complement the recent Veterans Memorial Park improvements.

The Stamford Veterans Park Partnership values and appreciates their public/private partnership with the City of Stamford, all the collaborations, and donor support. They look forward to the official reopening next year when they can properly recognize and thank all those who are helping make this happen.

For more information visit the Stamford Veterans Park Partnership website at vprstamford.org or email Colleen Harkey, executive director at harkey@vppartnership@gmail.com.



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HAT'S OFF TO WINFIELD STREET COFFEE GIVING BACK PROGRAM



Winfield Street Coffee (96 Broad St.)

Recognizing that the pandemic has brought hardship to not only to the nation but to our local communities, the team at Winfield Street Coffee has started a "Giving Back" program during their reopening this summer. With all the seven Connecticut and New York Winfield Street Coffee locations participating, Winfield will donate 10,000 meals by year's end to help households struggling through the economic hardship caused by the pandemic. For every guest check of \$20.00 or higher, Winfield donates one \$5.77 meal to a household impacted by COVID-19. To date, 4,819 meals have been donated, benefiting 294 families!

Winfield is located in the heart of Downtown within the Ferguson Library at 96 Broad Street, so it is easy to stop in and contribute. Breno Donatti, local owner and Downtown resident is responsible for bringing the "Giving Back" program to life. He explains, "Part of the core of the company I founded is to establish ourselves in the community and provide value to the residents. We cannot just be a spectator and go about our business as usual. In the current 2020 scenario, the people affected by COVID go beyond the ones in the hospital, but all of those who lost jobs, assist and loved ones. We decided to leverage the resources we have by not only donating meals, but many of our vendors, local corporations and customers felt compelled to donate as well."

For more information, visit winfieldcoffee.com now.



Winfield's Giving Program in action

WELCOME THE WHALE TEA TO STAMFORD DOWNTOWN!



STOP BY (1 BANK STREET) FOR SPECIALITY BUBBLE TEA, FRESH FRUIT TEA
AND MANY OTHER TRADITIONAL MILK TEAS

INTERVIEW WITH GINKGO'S STAR CHILDS

Stamford Downtown has partnered with Ginkgo to map streetscape fixtures – such as street lights, trash receptacles, banners and trees – and property characteristics. Improved mapping will greatly assist Stamford Downtown's land-use planning and operations. Ginkgo will also transform how Stamford Downtown communicates with all stakeholders such as property owners, tenants and sponsors. Ginkgo is the creation of Star Childs – a graduate of Cornell and Yale with an impressive background in urban planning.



Star Childs

We interviewed Star to learn more about him and the many benefits of Ginkgo:

Please describe your professional background.

I'm a city planner and landscape architect that took a deep dive into GIS mapping and web-based technology.

What inspired you to pursue a career in urban planning and downtown management?

My career goals have always been closely tethered to my fascination in urban systems and environmental studies. Studying landscape architecture at Cornell, there were 3 studio projects that I remember being particularly inspired by. Two of these were in New York City, the High Line project and the Brooklyn Bridge Park project, and the third was a downtown plan for Hagerstown, Maryland. The complexity of the urban context of all 3 of these projects was way more appealing to me than designing golf courses and gardens. To take this interest in urban landscapes further, I spent my first 4 years out of college working as an urban designer at Toronto-based planning firm Urban Strategies Inc. It was my experience at this firm that introduced me to the importance of access to information at the local level in cities.

What is cloud-based software and how may Ginkgo improve operations within a Business Improvement District (BID) like Stamford Downtown?

Cloud-based software simply put is a system that enables you to access everything you need online, as opposed to a software being hosted on your desktop computer. The advantage of this system is that everyone on the team (and even the community) are able to access the same information and tools wherever they are from any device. It's great for teams that need to work remotely and collaboratively, particularly useful when faced with a pandemic for instance. Ginkgo, as a cloud-based solution, enables a BID to work more collaboratively within its team, contractors and the community at large. It also enables the community to be more resilient because information is more accessible when and where it's needed most. For instance, if business hours change suddenly, the BID is able to map out these changes and provide the community with updates in real time.

What other BIDs do you serve?

Ginkgo started to serve BIDs initially in NYC where we now serve over half of the 76 BIDs in the city. This includes a wide range of incredible communities, from the Grand Central Partnership BID in midtown Manhattan to the Pitkin Avenue BID in East New York. We also have BIDs on the other side of the country using Ginkgo, such as the Downtown Reno Partnership in Nevada. In addition to BIDs, there are other downtown and Main Street organizations using Ginkgo. The Kalamazoo Downtown Partnership is one such organization. They deliver a number of uniquely supportive local services to their vibrant community of small businesses and property owners.

What is your favorite restaurant in Stamford Downtown?

There are many places in Stamford Downtown that I enjoy. I am impressed with the diversity of restaurant options and particularly enjoy Bedford Hall for its great comfort food. I also love how many new breweries – such as Half Full and Lock City – have been opening up across Connecticut.

Learn about Ginkgo and its services at ginkgo.city