

# City of Stamford & Stamford Downtown - Request for Artist Proposal:

## Public Art Mural Project

at The Bedford Street Garage (17 Forest Street, Stamford, CT 06901)

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: May 1, 2024**

### Mission

Stamford Downtown's *Public Art Mural Project* represents a partnership between the City of Stamford, and Stamford Downtown, the Business Improvement District within the City's urban core. The City of Stamford and Stamford Downtown seek to produce a mural project at The Bedford Street Garage (17 Forest Street) and the 'crosswalk' connecting the garage and the Bedford Street Passageway (189 Bedford Street).

### Background

The Bedford Street Garage and the annex (the surface parking lot) are amid a period of transition. The City of Stamford is presently investing in the garage by making a series of repairs and much needed maintenance. The redevelopment of 128 Broad Street to a 194-unit residential building with 4,300+ square feet of retail is on track to break ground in July 2024. A portion of that parcel currently makes up the composition of the Bedford Street Annex. Therefore, the City is moving forward with redesigning the annex, focusing on improving the motorist and pedestrian experience. With all this upheaval, the need to for motorists to park in the Bedford Street Garage and not in the annex is a matter of great importance. After parking their cars, the goal is to have those now pedestrians quickly and safely exit the garage and access Bedford Street through the passageway. That task is a challenge as there is a perceived reality that the garage is unsafe as well as those finding it dark and confusing on where to exit.

Stamford Downtown and the City believe that having a mural on the garage's first floor hallway leading down to the stairs and a temporary crosswalk to 189 Bedford Street Passageway will significantly improve the flow of traffic while beautifying the area. This RFP is asking for both spaces (inside the garage and crosswalk), but applicants can submit proposals for both spaces or only one.

We hope the local and regional arts community will join in participating in this exciting project and help shape the future of Downtown.

### Artist Eligibility

Any artist or team of artists interested in the project, to be completed by September 1, 2024, may complete a proposal in accordance with the guidelines provided below.

### Goals

- Create a piece of public art for an outdoor environment that reflects the community and spirit of Stamford Downtown.
- Be a qualified artist or artist team that can demonstrate artistic excellence while completing this project on time and within budget.

## Location

The space designated for the project is on the first-floor hallway of the northwest entrance of Bedford Street Garage. The concrete wall surface is 8' high by 28' wide leading down to the stairs to the 98' pavement to the entrance at 189 Bedford Street Passageway.

Please note two items –

1. The whole space need not to be covered with art if the goal of creating a pedestrian flow is met.
2. The crosswalk will be temporary as the parking lot surface lot is scheduled to be revamped in the near future.

See Exhibit A for images.

## Mural Preparation

- Prepared by whatever means the artist recommends for durability, aesthetics, and longevity.
- Indicate actual preparation plans, what materials will be used by naming brands, major colors, make up of those materials, and how they are applied.
- Two applications of anti-graffiti/anti-ultraviolet coating will be applied by the artist after painting according to manufacturer's instructions.

## Application Requirements

No later than May 1, 2024, each artist or team of artists shall submit the following in digital format via DropBox (or other file sharing service) to [marisa@stamford-downtown.com](mailto:marisa@stamford-downtown.com).

It is up to the artist if they want to submit design(s) for the whole project or a portion of the project. If choosing to do the whole space, it does not have to be a continuation of the same design from the hallway to pavement. However, it does have to look cohesive and flow together.

- A narrative and design(s) illustrating the concept(s) including approximate dimensions
- Description of medium and materials to be used
- Timeline for completion
- Project budget (cannot exceed \$25,000) including the artist(s) fee, supplies, travel-related expenses, insurance, and other associated costs
- Portfolio of at least two previously completed comparable works with description of size, materials, cost, and location
- References from sponsors or two prior comparable projects

## **Policies**

The art on the garage interior wall must withstand the forces of nature and have a projected lifespan of at least five years. (This policy does not include the temporary crosswalk).

The art must respect a broad-based audience of all ages. Stamford Downtown will not select designs that are of a religious, political, racially denigrating, or sexually explicit nature.

Stamford Downtown will also not accept commercially recognizable names, symbols or logos, or any trademarked content.

The contract between the artist and Stamford Downtown will be a work for hire. artists will retain the ownership of design ideas submitted with this application until a selection has been made and contract signed between the artist and Stamford Downtown

At the time a contract is awarded, the ownership of the design and the artwork produced, in this case the public art mural project, will become the property of the City of Stamford.

The artist will remain under contract for three years to assist with the maintenance of the wall mural at a rate mutually agreed upon time of maintenance.

Stamford Downtown will abide by the Visual Artists Rights Act (VARA) a federal law protecting the rights of visual artists and agree to give the artist 30 days' notice to document their work before the mural is decommissioned or removed.

The final selections will be made by City of Stamford in coordination with Stamford Downtown.

Financial compensation and insurance for completion of the project will be made in accordance with the agreed upon contract between the artist(s) and Stamford Downtown.

Artists must provide insurance for the project. If the artist is unable to do so, notice must be given with your application and Stamford Downtown will provide insurance on your behalf as part of your compensation.

## **Questions?**

Please send any questions to Marisa Rogo at [marisa@stamford-downtown.com](mailto:marisa@stamford-downtown.com).

**City of Stamford and Stamford Downtown  
Public Art Mural Project Application  
APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 1, 2024**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Website/Instagram Handle: \_\_\_\_\_

A complete application must include the following:

- Artist application form
- Project description including narrative, size, and materials
- Images of previous work and references
- A color representation of the proposed project
- Itemized budget, including time and materials
- Timeline for completion
- Maintenance Plan
- Proof of Insurance

\_\_\_\_\_ I am able to provide insurance.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am not able to provide insurance.\*

\*(Stamford Downtown will provide insurance on your behalf as part of your compensation)

As an applicant for the opportunity to complete this public art project for the City of Stamford and Stamford Downtown, I certify that all works submitted represented as my work are the product of my creation and no other. I further certify that all statements made in this application are true to the best of my knowledge.

I understand that the City of Stamford and Stamford Downtown may make duplicates of my images and application materials for the purpose of the consideration of my application, the upcoming exhibition, and for promotional materials concerning the project.

Applicant signature:

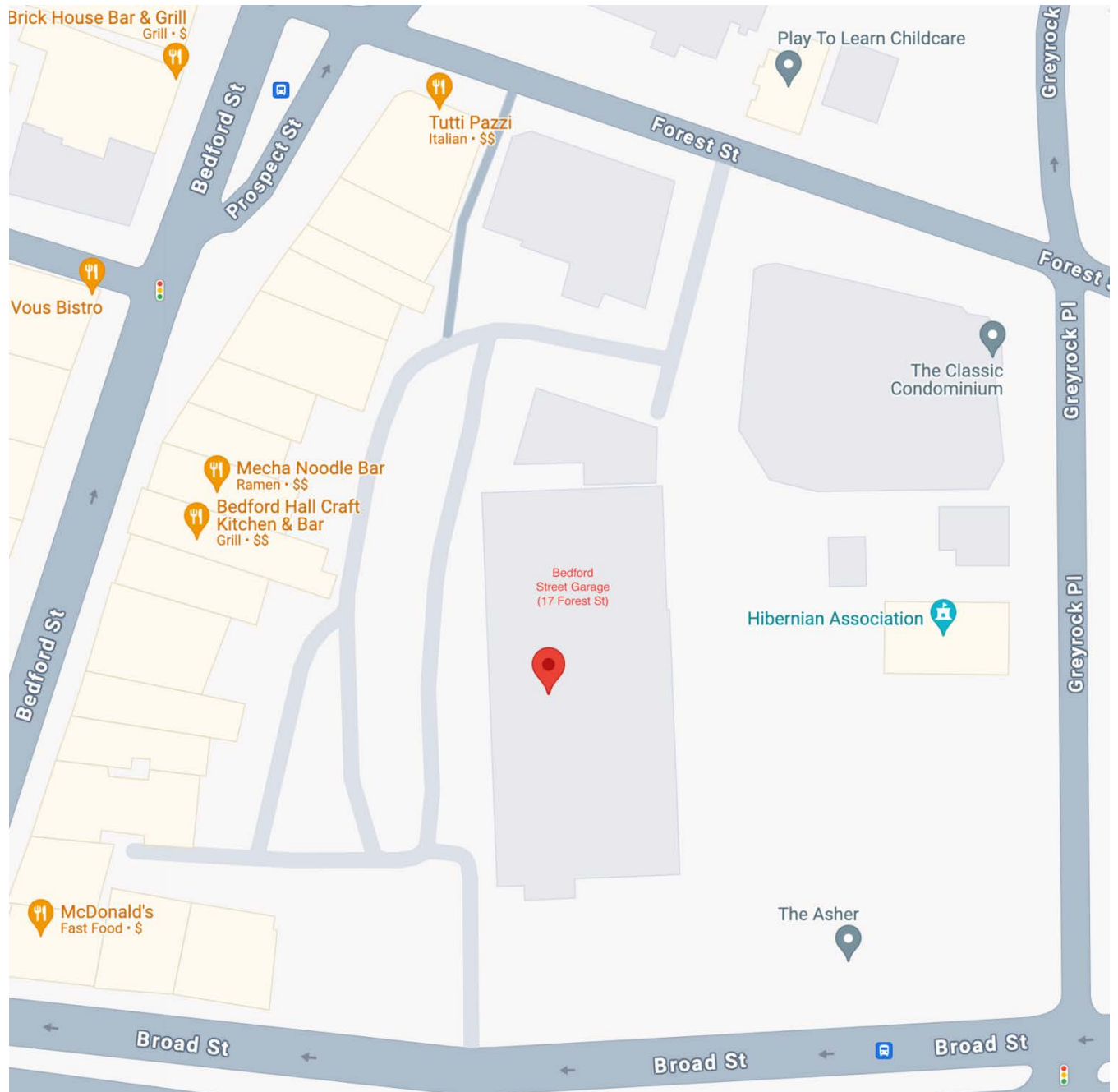
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send complete application to Marisa Rogo ([marisa@stamford-downtown.com](mailto:marisa@stamford-downtown.com)) no later than May 1, 2024.

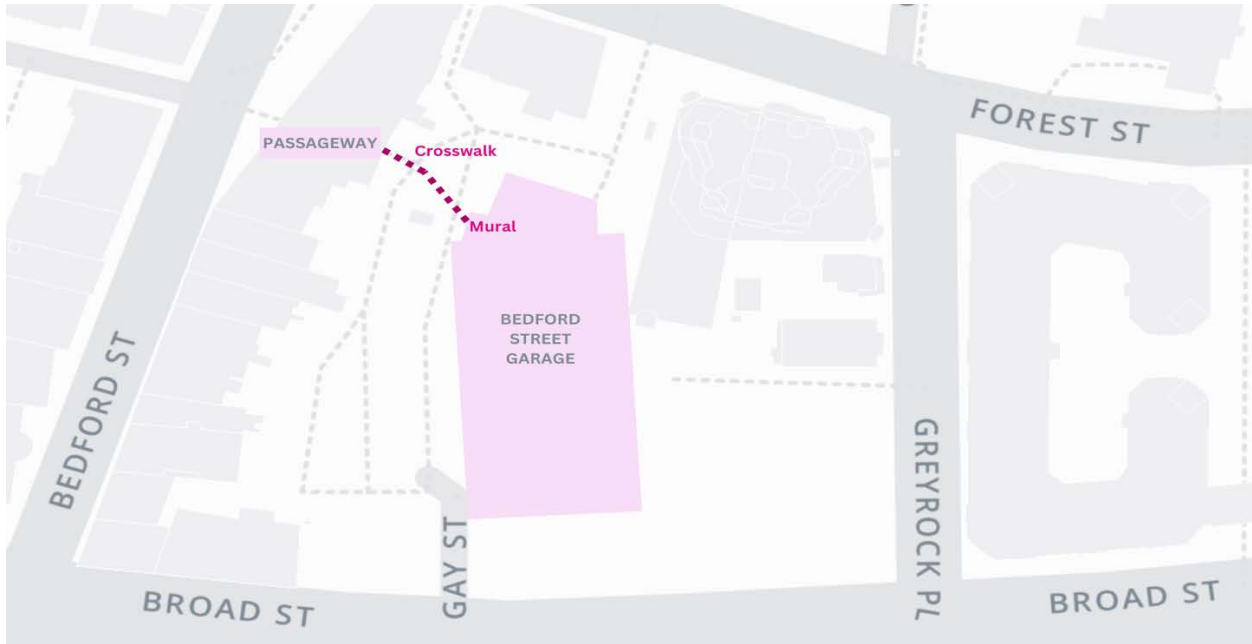
# Exhibit A

## Map view of Bedford Street Garage





## Overview



Interior Wall at Bedford Street Garage



Mural Space  
8' by 28'