

STAMFORD DOWNTOWN ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF LYNNE COLATRELLA, SENIOR VP OF EVENTS AND MARKETING, AFTER 25 YEARS OF SERVICE



Lynne Colatrella

Stamford Downtown announces the retirement of Lynne Colatrella, Senior Vice President of Events and Marketing, after 25 years of transformative leadership and unwavering dedication to Stamford's cultural and economic vitality.

Lynne joined Stamford Downtown in 1999, bringing a passion for innovation and community engagement that has shaped Stamford Downtown into the vibrant hub it is today. Over her tenure, she has overseen the creation and execution of hundreds of iconic events, including Alive At Five, Art in Public Places Sculpture Exhibits, Stamford Downtown Parade Spectacular, each of which has drawn thousands of visitors and contributed significantly to the local economy.

Under Lynne's leadership, Stamford Downtown's marketing initiatives flourished, garnering regional and national recognition for the district's commitment to art, music, and community events. Her creativity and ability to foster collaborations between businesses, artists, and the community have left a legacy.

"Lynne's impact on Stamford Downtown is immeasurable," said Michael Moore, President of Stamford Downtown. "Her vision, passion, and relentless pursuit of excellence have not only elevated our events but also deepened our connection with the community. We are profoundly grateful for her contributions and will miss her immensely. Stamford Downtown has been transformed as a result of Lynne's work."

Stamford Mayor Caroline Simmons expressed gratitude, stating, *"On behalf of the City of Stamford, I want to thank Lynne Colatrella for her many years of dedication and leadership with Stamford Downtown. Her work has been instrumental in making our downtown a vibrant and thriving space for residents, businesses, and visitors alike. Lynne's impact on our community is lasting, and we wish her all the best in her next chapter."*

Reflecting on her retirement, Lynne shared, *"It has been an honor and a privilege to have worked for such an incredible organization and my team for over 25 years. I am so grateful to Sandy Goldstein for giving me the opportunity so long ago. I am proud of all we have accomplished together to make Stamford Downtown a dynamic and welcoming destination. While I am excited for this new chapter, I will continue to serve my community as Chair of the Arts and Culture Commission and continue to support and foster live theatre."*



Lynne Colatrella (second to right) with her Stamford Downtown Events Team (starting left): Annette Einhorn, Kate Cook, and Starr Donnell

ART RESTORATION FINDS A HOME ON SPRING STREET



Ana Maria and Alain Bars with U & I Deco works

Established in 2003, [U & I Deco](#) has witnessed many changes in Stamford Downtown, including a significant boom in the residential population and several transformations in the Bedford Street neighborhood. Such additions include the opening of two-way traffic on Spring Street along with its sidewalk upgrades. The business, owned by Ana Maria and Alain Bars, celebrates 21 years of artistic excellence in its location at 33 Spring Street adjacent to Chez Vous Bistro, which was once owned by Alain's brother Jean Pierre Bars.

Nowadays, Ana and Alain take great pleasure in collaborating with their customers on custom framing and the restoration of fine art. Based on Google reviews for U & I Deco Fine Arts & Framing, it is evident that their clients trust them with their valuable art treasures, with some even willing to travel over two hours for consultations. The shop's website invites us *"to experience where art, design, and inspiration converge with expertise and experience."*

The art of repairing, cleaning, and restoring precious works of art and collectibles is becoming increasingly rare. Finding shops that custom-make frames and restore family heirlooms is more challenging than ever. At the art studio, Ana remarks that their prioritization of preservation and conservation: *"We use acid-free materials that will not harm your artwork."* Ana is passionate about teaching clients how to restore their treasured pieces, including sculptures.

Their picture hanging service has experienced significant growth over the years. They now offer high-quality archival printing services perfect for trade shows, exhibits, and personal presentations.

Inside U & I Deco, you will find a selection of unique handmade gifts and original artworks. For that boutique SoHo vibe, don't miss out on their holiday offerings featured in [Stamford Downtown's Holiday Guide!](#)

STAMFORD DOWNTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL MAINTENANCE & AMBASSADOR SERVICES NOVEMBER STATISTICS



TIS THE SEASON...

To be merry and shop for special occasions at some of Stamford Downtown's long established merchants



Dennis Nanos welcomes you to his showroom at 115 Bedford Street

Brothers and business partners, Dennis and Paul Nanos, celebrate 50 years running their fur business Engel's Furs, which started in Greece. In 1965, they established a store in Manhattan's fur district on 7th Avenue and 28th Street. The brothers moved their fur business to Stamford Downtown 35 years ago, first finding a foothold at 59 Broad Street before moving to their current location at 115 Bedford Street. The expansion included a showroom, workroom as well as fur storage area, allowing to become a full-service furrier specializing in repairs, remodels and cleaning. Looking for a fur wrap? At Engel's Furs you can find custom made or new furs. Recreate your grandmother's fur into a fur vest or a fur blanket, using the Nanos' years of expertise.

Just up the block is another treasure, Zemo Men's Store at 242 Bedford Street. Celebrating 73 years in this location, owner Joseph Zemo can outfit any man for any occasion. Whether you are getting decked out for a black tie or in need of a new suit or blazer, Joseph Zemo specializes in everything you need to embrace the busy holiday or winter season.



Owner Joseph Zemo, serving the needs of Stamford's best dressed men for generations.

So, when you are making your holiday shopping list, let us consider the investment these business owners have made in our Downtown and ensure their businesses get our attention as we merrily stroll along Bedford Street.

STAMFORD DOWNTOWN'S LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES BY MARLENA BOESCH



Stamford resident and avid book lover, Marlena Boesch, has brought two new Little Free Libraries to Stamford Downtown, located in Latham Park and Columbus Park. Inspired by her childhood memories of visiting a Little Free Library near her hometown, Marlena decided to bring this community-building concept to Stamford. With the help of the Stamford Book Club, friends, family, and the Stamford community, Marlena raised funds, collected book donations, and oversaw the installation of the libraries.

The Little Free Libraries are a welcome addition to Stamford, offering a convenient and accessible way for people of all ages to discover new books and share their favorite reads. The Stamford Book Club members even added a personal touch by painting the libraries and including the pets of club members on the Latham Park little library. Stamford Downtown would like to express its gratitude to Marlena and her team for their efforts in bringing these delightful book-sharing spaces to the community.



Introducing StamFORWARD, City's of Stamford's new on-demand rideshare system that launched on November 19, please see below for more details.

Schedule: Monday through Sunday (6 A.M. to 8 P.M.)

Fare: \$1.75 fares for most riders and \$0.85 fares for lower-income individuals, individuals with disabilities, and seniors. If a rider chooses to include an additional passenger in their ride request, the service will charge an additional \$0.85 per passenger.

Service area: StamFORWARD will operate in the West Side, Waterside, Downtown, East Side, Cove, South End, Bulls Head, and Glenbrook neighborhoods.

Using the service: Riders can book their rides by using the Via-powered StamForward app (available in the App Store and Google Play) to enter their pick-up and drop off location. Alternatively, riders can book by phone through calling (203) 204-9782. Via's intelligent routing system will match riders headed in the same direction into one shared vehicle, assign a driver, provide an ETA, and direct the driver to their estimated location. Riders will be directed to a nearby "virtual bus stop" for pick-up (typically the nearest corner), which keeps the shared trip running quickly and efficiently for everyone. The passengers will then be transported to their destination.

Service connections: StamFORWARD will make connections with the following transportation services: CTtransit and Metro-North.

**DON'T DRINK
AND DRIVE
THIS HOLIDAY
SEASON.**



Designate a Driver or Use a Ride-Sharing Service.

**STAMFORD
DOWNTOWN**
STAMFORD-DOWNTOWN.COM

Sponsored by the Stamford Prevention Council.

COLUMBUS PARK IN STAMFORD DOWNTOWN

FIRE & ICE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2025, 2-6PM



WINTER FESTIVAL

STAMFORD-DOWNTOWN.COM



Shop Local Gift Guide

Need gift ideas this Holiday Season?

Explore the gift guide featuring unique gift ideas from local businesses. Shop local and help our neighborhood businesses thrive!

[View the Guide](#)

Have someone who's hard to buy for?

Buy a Stamford Downtown Card!
The digital gift card is redeemable at more than 50 downtown businesses, allowing your recipient to choose their own gift.

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