

# STAMFORD DOWNTOWN

MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

A transformative Complete Streets project is taking place at the intersection of Bedford and Forest Streets in Stamford Downtown. This project emanated from a detailed planning and visioning process by Stamford Downtown, its consultant partners at Stantec, and the City of Stamford as part of the Stamford Downtown Public Realm Enhancement Plan.

What was once a parking lot is being transformed into a shady plaza for outdoor dining and other pedestrian activities.

As described by Luke Bittenwieser, the City of Stamford's Transportation Planner, when completed, the trees in this plaza will rest in an innovative soil cell system. Soil cells are engineered systems installed beneath paved surfaces that create healthy rooting environments for urban trees, enabling them to thrive, even in the heart of city landscapes.

As described by Travis Ewen of Stantec's Landscape Architecture practice, providing this vital below-ground infrastructure for trees not only enhances the urban forest canopy—providing shade, improving air quality, and boosting biodiversity—but also tackles one of the city's major infrastructure challenges: stormwater management. Soil cells allow tree roots to access more soil, increasing their ability to absorb and filter rainwater. This innovation helps reduce runoff, prevents flooding, and improves water quality throughout our community.

Construction will extend into the spring of 2026. Stamford Downtown and the City of Stamford will communicate the construction schedule to all stakeholders and work to offset disruption faced by businesses by delineating pedestrian access and making clear available parking options, such as those at the nearby Bedford Street Garage.

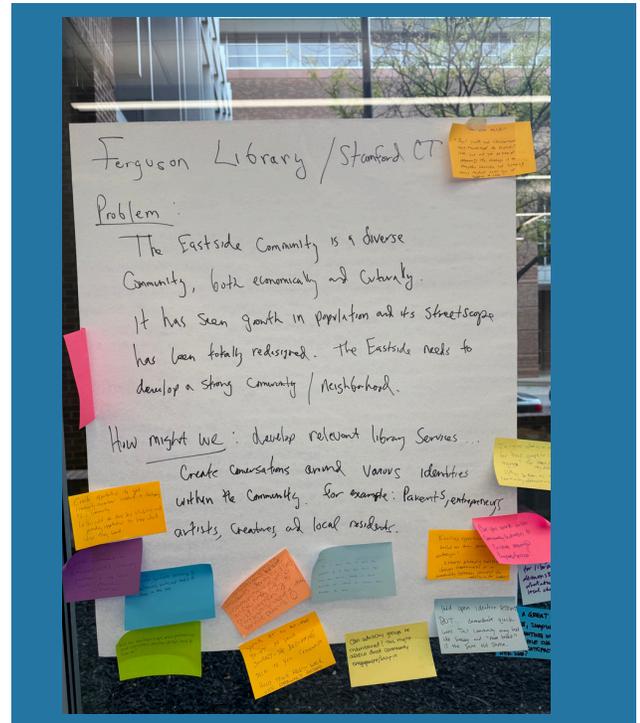
Stamford Downtown is excited to welcome this project, as it will create a welcoming, open space that will further position the Bedford Street corridor as a destination for communal gathering, entertainment, and culture.

## ALICE KNAPP AND THE URBAN LIBRARIES COUNCIL FELLOWS PROGRAM

Libraries and Parks are unique public spaces where we want people to feel like they belong. But how do we do that? For Alice Knapp, CEO, and Anthony Marrocolla, Director of Adult and Information Services, this process is building upon the Ferguson Library’s 10-year Comprehensive Facilities Plan. We have the beautiful concepts but how do we drill down to an actual plan?

Since May, we have been participating in the Urban Libraries Council Fellows Program. Working with urban libraries across the country and led by incredible leaders, including Shamichael Halliman, who helped reimagine public spaces like the River Walk during his time at the Memphis Public Library, and Tommi Laitio, the former Executive Director for Culture and Leisure in Helsinki, who championed the world-renowned Oodi Library and was a Bloomberg Public Innovation Fellow. Their deep expertise in bridging divides and strengthening community-focused public spaces is already providing our team with the insights and network needed to drive transformational change right here at the Ferguson Library and throughout Stamford Downtown.

As the Ferguson moves forward, you might notice some subtle changes as well as some major initiatives.



Convening in Cincinnati



### About Tommi Laitio:

Tommi is an internationally recognized leader and expert on public life, cities and public innovation.

Tommi’s advisory and consultancy builds on his background as a city executive and a researcher. Tommi was the City of Helsinki’s first Executive Director for Culture and Leisure where he led a team of 1,800 professionals delivering over 20 million annual arts and culture, sports, public library and youth work experiences. Based on his innovative leadership, he was appointed as the inaugural Bloomberg Public Innovation Fellow at Johns Hopkins University where his international research focused on the partnership capabilities of local governments in creating public spaces.

## NAN XIANG SOUP DUMPLINGS- AUTHENTIC SHANGHAISE

If you haven't been to Shanghai, you may not yet have discovered the joy of Xiao Long Bao—the delicate, savory soup dumplings that originated in Nan Xiang County, a charming corner of the city. The good news? You don't need a passport to experience this world-renowned specialty. **Nan Xiang Soup Dumplings**, newly opened at the Stamford Town Center Plaza, brings the flavors of Shanghai right to 230 Tresser Boulevard.

Nan Xiang first opened its doors in 2006 in Flushing, New York, where it quickly became a beloved destination for Chinese immigrants and food lovers seeking truly authentic Shanghainese comfort cuisine. Today, its reputation continues to grow—thanks in large part to signature dishes like the legendary crab and pork soup dumplings, handmade daily and bursting with rich, savory broth.



The menu goes far beyond dumplings, offering an array of Shanghainese favorites: silky pan-fried noodles, fried rice cakes, scallion pancakes with sliced beef, fish fillet and pickled cabbage noodle soup, and perfectly crisp pan-fried dumplings, to name just a few.

Whether you're a longtime fan of soup dumplings or ready to try them for the first time, Nan Xiang offers a warm welcome—and a delicious glimpse into one of China's most cherished culinary traditions.



## ANNUAL CRAZIES CT RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Congratulations to two of our Stamford Downtown restaurants who have been nominated for this year's December 8th Annual Crazyies CT Restaurant Association Awards Event at Foxwoods Resort Casino. CT's biggest and most exciting industry gala of the year, celebrating the people and places who make Connecticut's restaurant community so special.



To be named a finalist is truly an honor — it represents statewide recognition from peers and guests alike, highlighting excellence, leadership, and impact across our hospitality industry.

### This year's recipients are:

- Çka Ka Qëllu who has been named a finalist for Restaurant of the Year – Fairfield County
- Esaul Rodriguez of Puerto Vallarta Restaurant Group (which includes a Stamford location) will be honored as Restaurateur of the Year

CONNECTICUT  
*Restaurant*  
ASSOCIATION

For More Information:  
Connecticut Restaurant Association  
100 Great Meadow Road, Suite 100  
Wethersfield, CT 06109  
United States  
860.278.8008

## CONNECTICUT PIZZA TRAIL UNVEILED



### Connecticut is the Pizza Capital of the U.S.

According to "Pizza King" Dave Portnoy, founder of Barstool Sports, "Connecticut is the best pizza state in the country." Now, the state is making a bold case to prove it by unveiling its first-ever Official Pizza Trail.

This new trail is a crave-worthy celebration of the local pizzerias that confirm Connecticut's status as the Pizza Mecca of the United States. Our diverse pies, ranging from legendary New Haven "ah-beetz" to Neapolitan, Greek, tavern, and thick styles, consistently rank among the nation's best. Out of more than 900 contenders statewide, the winners have earned a place on this official route, ensuring a delicious geographic representation in all eight counties.

### Connecticut Pizza Trail Map!

Check our stamford downtown winners:

Remos Pizza - <https://remospizza.com/>

Sally's Apizza: <https://sallysapizza.com/>



# STAMFORD SMALL BUSINESS BRAND ACCELERATOR PROGRAM

The City of Stamford is partnering with LaunchPad to provide 10 Stamford-based small businesses with digital marketing support to elevate their business and brand.

### Services Included:

- ✓ Onsite video and photography session(s) with an emerging production professional from the LaunchPad program
- ✓ Visuals including 30+ still photos of your space, products and team in action
- ✓ Edited videos including a brand highlight video, a highlight reel and a short form video for social media platforms

**SCAN QR CODE TO APPLY**  
**APPLICATION DEADLINE NOVEMBER 21ST**



Questions? Email Geraldine Uribe at [guribe@stamfordct.gov](mailto:guribe@stamfordct.gov)

PROJECT MUSIC PRESENTS

# First Notes of Fall

DONATIONS ARE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!

**TUESDAY**  
**NOVEMBER 25**  
**6:00 PM**

1450 NEWFIELD AVE  
KINGS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER  
STAMFORD, CT

WWW.PROJECTMUSIC.ORG  
INFO@PROJECTMUSIC.ORG  
(203)-539-1733





**STAMFORD DOWNTOWN  
IN COLOR**

*Connecting the city through art at every intersection.*

**CALL TO ARTISTS**

**CELEBRATE DOWNTOWN  
STAMFORD!**

**Apply to design and paint  
traffic signal boxes downtown.**

**Deadline:**  
December 6, 2025

**Apply:**  
<https://bit.ly/StamfordDowntowninColor>

Presented by The RiseUP Group and Stamford Downtown

**RISEUP  
FOR ARTS**      **Stamford  
MURALS**      **STAMFORD  
DOWNTOWN**

### **CALL FOR ARTISTS: STAMFORD DOWNTOWN ART WORKS**

The Stamford Downtown Signal Box project has a new name and a fresh focus! We're inviting local artists to help transform Stamford Downtown by designing vibrant artwork for our city's signal boxes.

Applications are open now through the first week of December, with five artists to be selected by mid-month. Compensation is provided, and contracts will be managed by Rise up.

We're looking for designs that celebrate the spirit and energy of Stamford Downtown. Help us bring art to the streets!

## ANNOUNCING THE SIDEWALK MOSAIC ART PILOT PROGRAM

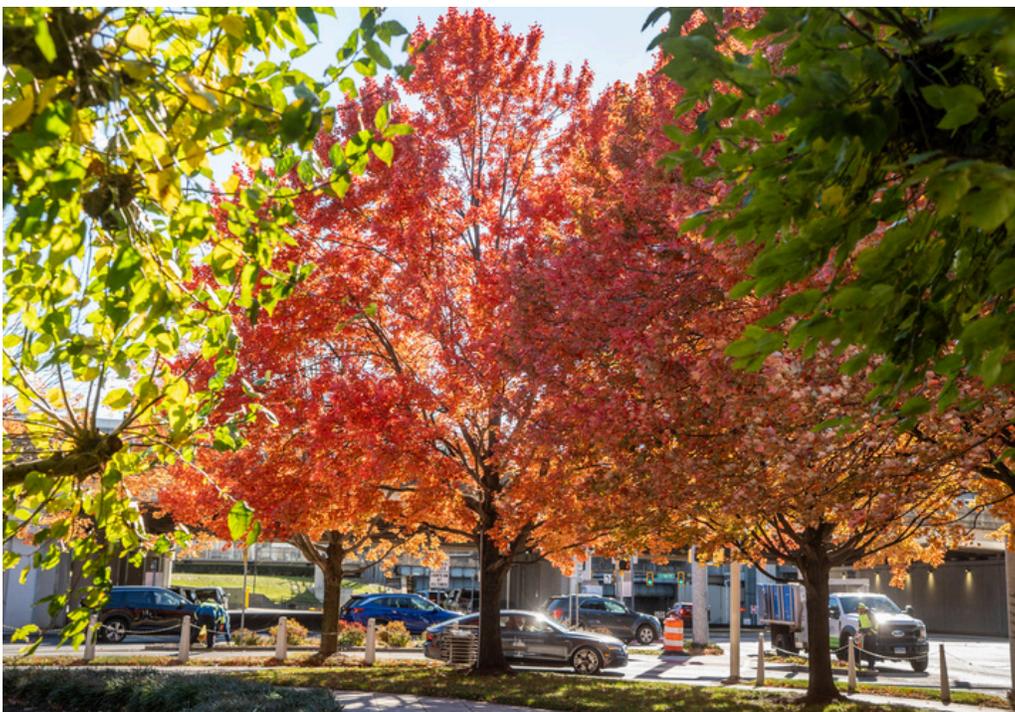
We are thrilled to share the new Sidewalk Mosaic Art Pilot Program!

This vibrant initiative is designed to bring color and creativity directly to our public spaces.

The artist, Kenyetta Hayes, noted that creating the mosaic sidewalk was a beautiful experience, describing it as, "*my way of adding color, joy, and a little inspiration to the path we walk every day.*"

Ultimately, this project is viewed as a lasting reminder of how art can connect and inspire the community, turning everyday routes into engaging, shared experiences.

Look for more artwork to pop up this spring as the program expands!



*Fall color  
in  
Stamford  
Downtown*

## HELLO LAMP POST IN STAMFORD DOWNTOWN



Stamford Downtown is excited to announce the launch of Hello Lamp Post, an innovative AI initiative that brings everyday objects to life and invites the public to interact with the downtown in a fun, engaging way.

Designed to spark curiosity, conversation, and community input, Hello Lamp Post allows residents, workers, and visitors to engage directly with Stamford Downtown through friendly, text-based chats on benches, planters, bus shelters, and more. By scanning a posted QR code, users can ask questions and share feedback on everything from public spaces and restaurants to new developments and events — all from the sidewalk.

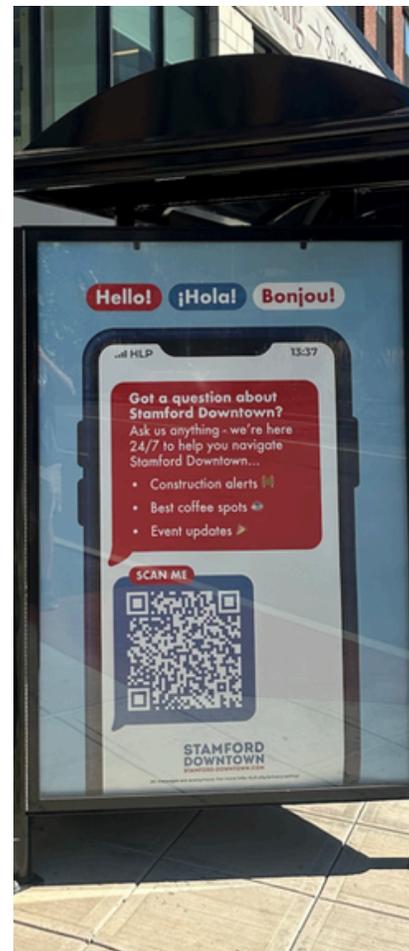
This interactive experience aims to:

- Foster stronger connections between people and their environment
- Make community engagement fun, accessible, and inclusive
- Gather real-time insights to inform Stamford Downtown’s planning and programming
- Answer questions about construction projects and new development

How it works:

Spot a Hello Lamp Post sign, scan the QR code, and start chatting with a bench, sign, or planter. There’s no app, no sign-up, and no cost — just scan and interact at your own pace, in multiple languages.

Participants enjoy a unique, tech-powered experience that puts them at the center of local decision-making, while Stamford Downtown gains valuable feedback to improve public spaces, services, and events. Responses and questions are reviewed regularly to keep the experience fresh, accurate, and responsive over time.



**Ready to talk to Stamford Downtown?  
Try this Hello Lamp Post link now:**

**[Hello Lamp Post Chat](#)**

STAMFORD DOWNTOWN

# PARADE

## SPECTACULAR

Sunday • 12 Noon • November 23, 2025

*Giant Helium Balloons! Marching Bands! Incredible Floats!*

Point72 Giant Balloon Inflation Party  
Saturday, November 22 • 3-6pm



ELMO, OSCAR THE GROUCH, SUPER GROVER™ & © 2025 Sesame Workshop, POTATO HEAD © 2025 Hasbro

### Heights & Lights

Presented by  
Reckson

Sunday - 5pm  
December 7, 2025

*Rappelling Santa, Fireworks  
and Tree Lighting.*  
Landmark Square & Latham Park



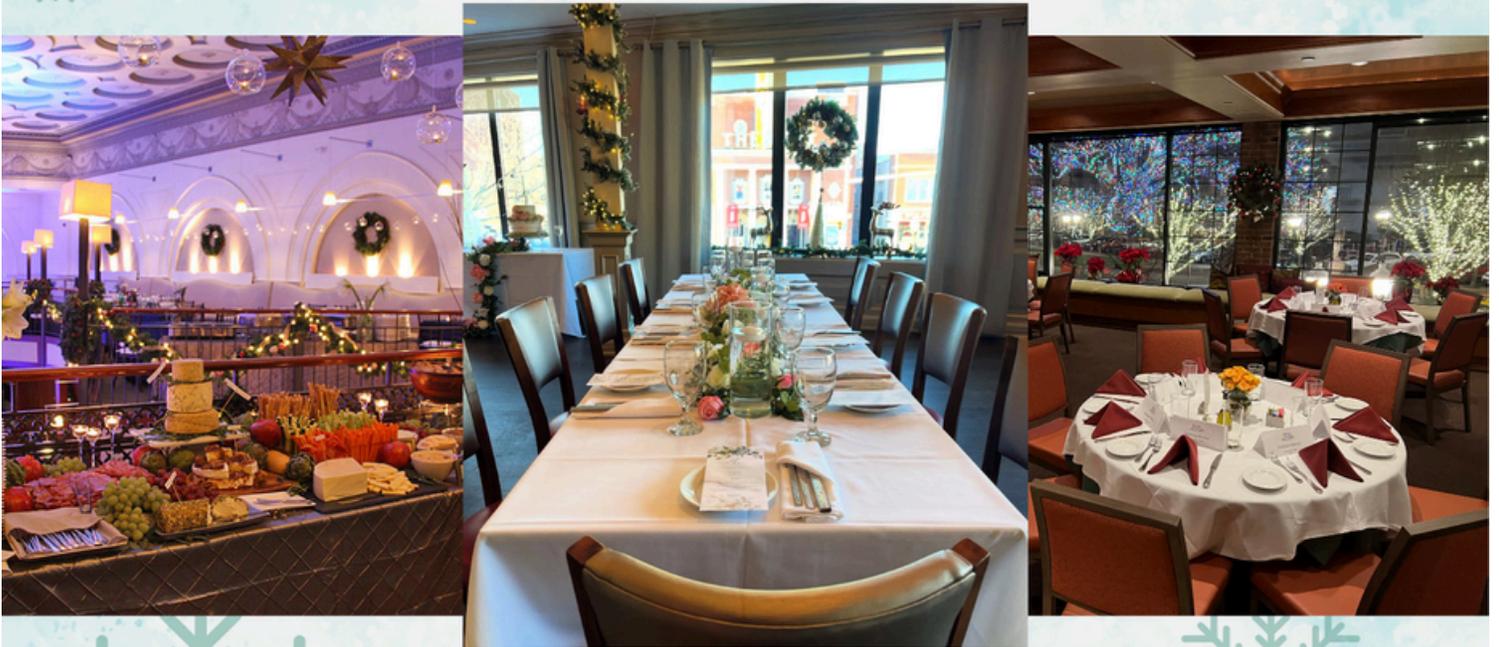
[STAMFORD-DOWNTOWN.COM](http://STAMFORD-DOWNTOWN.COM)



# 35+ DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY PARTY VENUES

*'Tis the season to book your holiday party before it's too late!*

WHETHER YOU'RE PLANNING AN INTIMATE GATHERING OR A CORPORATE EVENT, THERE'S NO SHORTAGE OF PLACES TO EAT, DRINK, AND BE MERRY IN STAMFORD DOWNTOWN.



[Explore Holiday Venues](#)