

## Request for Proposals: Bridgeport Public Art Fund Read's Artspace Canopy Installation

**Deadline: May 15, 2022**

### **Budget Description:**

This is an RFP for a \$10K maximum commission for the entire cost of the public art project including all aspects of creation, installation and materials as itemized on an attached budget page. Proposals should not exceed this amount. In addition, please provide estimated annual maintenance costs on the budget page for three years from installation. The dimensions of the canopy are 21' 6" wide, and it projects 15' out from the building. The dimension of the steel members is 8 inches.

### **About the Project**

The Bridgeport Public Art Fund is partnering with the Read's Artspace Building to host the inaugural commissioned artwork to beautify the Broad Street corridor. The former main entry canopy steel framework will be a focal point on Broad Street for this project. Illuminated artworks, artistic lighting, or other creative ideas may be proposed as outlined in the specifications below. Water features will not be accepted.

Artworks of all sustainable media appropriate for an outdoor environment are eligible, including but not limited to light installation, painting, photography, graphic design, sculpture, audio video projection, mixed media, and other mediums. For projections, film, or special entries, accepted artists must provide AV equipment and ensure that it can be safely installed in a public, outdoor environment. Environmentally interactive work is encouraged.

The Bridgeport Public Art Fund is not allowed to award grants directly to an individual due to Internal Revenue Service regulations. As such, the Fund will issue a grant to a 501c3 nonprofit arts organization, with a restriction to forward funds to the artist.

While specific criteria and requirements for the project will be finalized with the selected artist grantee upon selection, below outlines general criteria and requirements:

### **Eligibility**

An individual must meet **ALL** the following eligibility requirements:

- Be a Bridgeport resident or be an artist with a studio in Bridgeport or connected to a creative business or activities, be affiliated with Bridgeport arts organization (to serve as a fiduciary agent). (e.g., you must make art in Bridgeport or work/volunteer with Bridgeport arts organizations, businesses, or participate in Bridgeport arts activities).
- To receive funding an artist must be affiliated, with a Connecticut nonprofit arts organization. If an interested artist is not currently affiliated with a nonprofit organization, [applicants can contact the Bridgeport Public Art Fund](#) for assistance to establish a relationship with a nonprofit organization.

**Note:** The Bridgeport Public Art Fund is not allowed to award grants directly to an individual due to Internal Revenue Service regulations. As such, the Fund will issue a grant to a 501c3 nonprofit arts organization, with a restriction to forward expenses for the artist.

### **Artwork Design, Safety, Durability Requirements**

- Total "dead load weight" of installation may not exceed four hundred (400) pounds

- No decking or platform-type application may be added to the existing structural steel framework
- Height requirement for singular sculptures may not exceed 10 feet centered in the target site. The dimensions of the steel structure of the canopy are 24' wide by 12' deep. Steel is 8" tall.
- Additional foundations cannot be installed, and nothing may be attached to the façade of the building without specific written approval by the building owner
- Illumination of light-based sculptures must not intrude on neighboring businesses or residences
- The artwork must not create a disorienting situation or cause a distraction for drivers (i.e., highly reflective material discouraged)
- The artwork must improve and not detract from the safety of the site
- The artwork must allow for visibility to oncoming traffic and pedestrians
- The artwork should be designed "in the round" and be equally intriguing from all angles
- The artwork should be scaled to the attention of approaching drivers but should not be so detailed that it attracts drivers' up-close or extended inspection for appreciation.
- The artwork must be fabricated in durable, permanent, outdoor media that is safe, easily maintained, and proven in its viability in public installations, lasting at least for 3 yrs.
- The artwork must be able to withstand harsh weather conditions which include intense sun and summer temperatures above 100°F, high winds, and extreme winter temperatures below 0°F
- Proposing artists must provide any anticipated ongoing maintenance that will be necessary and who (e.g. which entity) should be expected and capable of providing said maintenance
- Prospective applicants are advised to research colors and materials for durability
- The artwork must be constructed to reasonably discourage or deter theft and vandalism
- The artwork must be suitable for public viewing by all ages.
- Photos of the location are below.
- Must adhere to the public art standards for the city of Bridgeport, CT.



### **Selection Process**

The BPAF will select up to three finalists for the project. Finalists will be given a \$500 budget to develop additional presentation materials and a maquette to scale. Oral presentations will be scheduled in person or via Zoom video call.

Final selection decisions will be made by members of the Bridgeport Public Art Fund Advisory Committee and others chosen at the discretion of the Advisory Committee.

Adjudication will be based on the following: excellence in craftsmanship, quality and design, technical competence, individual creative style, consistency, and professional presentation, sustainability and maintenance requirements.

The selected artist will be required to execute a formal agreement with the Bridgeport Public Art Fund.

**How to Apply:**

All proposals to include conceptual design must be submitted via our website at [BridgeportPublicArtFund.org](http://BridgeportPublicArtFund.org) by May 15, 2022.

**For questions, please go to [BridgeportPublicArtFund.org/contact](http://BridgeportPublicArtFund.org/contact)**

The following are also required: contact info, resume (can include artist’s statement and short bio), 4-8 work samples (jpegs, cell phone photos are acceptable), a preliminary to scale conceptual design, and if available website, Instagram, social media account links.

**About the Bridgeport Public Art:** Just prior to the COVID-19 pandemic taking hold across our region, state and nation, local businesspeople and residents established a new charitable fund to support the growth of public arts in the Greater Bridgeport region, to be managed by the Fairfield County Community Foundation. The mission of the Bridgeport Public Art Fund, administered by Fairfield County’s Community Foundation (FCCF) is to provide financial resources, guidance, connections to the arts community, collaboration, and hands-on support to create new public art trails in Bridgeport, piloting in the downtown core and then moving to additional Bridgeport neighborhoods.

The Bridgeport Public Art Fund’s initial focus — ART on Broad Street — intends to support projects on the Broad Street corridor from the Painted Steps to the University of Bridgeport and Seaside Park in the South End. The goal of creating this mile-long arts corridor is to enliven the built-form, catalyze community engagement, celebrate Bridgeport’s rich history and culture, strengthen place-making, and support an artful pathway connecting the South End to the Downtown area.

**Application check list:**

Contact info, resume (can include artist’s statement and short bio), 4-8 work samples (jpegs, cell phone photos are acceptable), to scale conceptual design, and if available website, Instagram, social media account links.

**SAMPLE: Bridgeport Public Art Fund Budget Sheet**

AMOUNT	EXPENSE	NOTES
	Artists’ fee	
	Supplies	
	Rental/Equipment	
	Installation	
	Other	
<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Total commission</b>
	Maintenance	

Budget narrative, provide further budget explanation if needed.

Explain maintenance plan, for 3 years.