

colorful  
bridgeport



what we do

As the Business Improvement District for the Park City, the mission of the Bridgeport Downtown Special Services District (DSSD) is to promote the preservation and development of the downtown business district; make the area more attractive and accessible; and enhance the public perception of Downtown Bridgeport through overseeing and managing its appearance, security, and cleanliness.



who we are

The Bridgeport DSSD is operated under the direction of a nine member Board of Commissioners representing property owners in Downtown Bridgeport.

It's also powered by a wonderful team who volunteer their time, talent, and creativity to our committees—the Bridgeport DSSD couldn't deliver critical services without this Colorful Crew.

Officers

- Philip Pires, Chairman  
*C&W Associates II, LP*
- David Iassogna, Vice Chairman  
*M&T Bank*
- Eric Gross, Treasurer  
*John Broadcannon, LLC*
- Callie Gale Heilmann, Secretary  
*Made in Bridgeport, LLC*

Commissioners

- Javier Ceja  
*Downtown Strategic Group*
- Jason Cohen  
*Bordentown DB, LLC*
- Karolyn Egbert  
*Trefz Corporation*
- Philip Kuchma  
*Kuchma Corporation*
- Tony Sherwood  
*AMS Real Estate*
- Andy Toledo, Ex Officio  
*City of Bridgeport*
- Robert Schneider, Emeritus  
*Jimmy's A&N, LLC*

Daily Operations Team

- Lauren Coakley Vincent  
*President and CEO*
- Charles Suarez-Penn  
*Operations Manager*
- Marcella Kovac  
*Creative Director*

Special Events and Marketing Chair

- Alicia Cobb  
*Art Simplified*

Physical Conditions Chair

- Chris DeAngelis  
*Chris DeAngelis PE, LLC*

Committee Members

- Laurence Caso  
*The Klein Memorial Auditorium*
- Gemeem Davis  
*Bridgeport Generation Now*
- Curtis Denton  
*Downtown Resident*
- Carla Ford  
*Rum and Tequila Fusion*
- Fred Frassinelli  
*AMS Real Estate*
- Suzanne Kachmar  
*City Lights Gallery and Bridgeport Art Trail*
- Lauri MacLean  
*Downtown Resident*
- Lynn Mosher-Howell  
*Rapha Massage*
- Chief Roderick Porter  
*Bridgeport Police Department*
- Karin Smith  
*Kindred Thoughts Bookstore*
- Joyiesha Smoak  
*Bridgeport Public Library*
- Brendan Toller  
*WPKN 89.5 Community Radio*

## where we work

The Downtown is bounded on the east by the Pequonnock River, by Route 8 on the west, by Interstate 95 to the south, and by East Washington Avenue to the north.



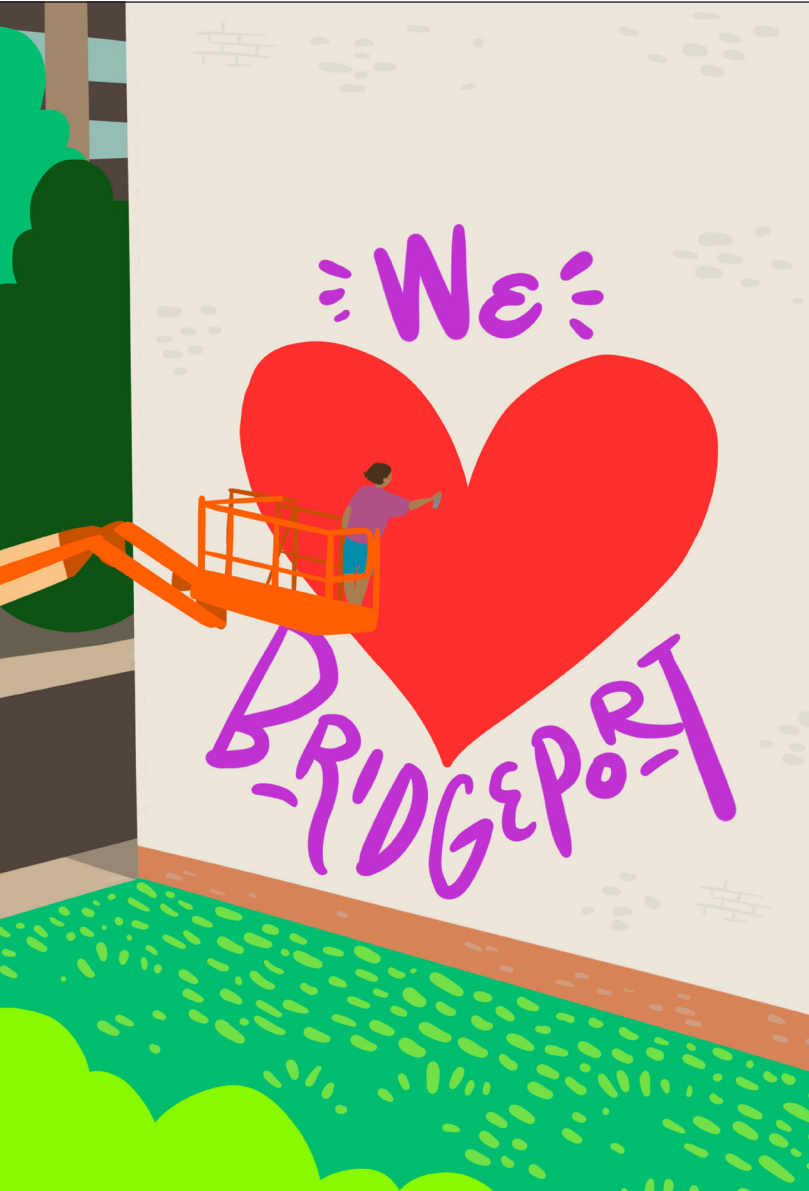
Your presence in the Downtown is vibrant and impactful. I am grateful for all of you!

**colorful bridgeport follower**



our services

We strengthen the spirit of culture and community in the heart of Downtown through open space beautification, our welcoming Ambassadors who keep the district clean and safe, and a vibrant mix of activities—from the “Color It In” public art program to the Downtown Farmers Market and other signature events. Check out the highlights from DSSD’s past year to the right.



general stats

\$144,380  
external (non-assessment) revenue generated

96  
volunteers contributed

1,116  
hours of their time equating to

\$37,219  
invested in the Downtown

86  
city and local organizations were partnered with

\$652,000  
invested in 39 locally-based companies, nonprofit organizations, and creatives to produce our programming

downtown ambassadors

5  
Downtown Ambassadors kept

30  
blocks clean and beautiful

14,223  
trash bags collected

650  
instances of graffiti and stickers removed

14,599  
visitors and business owners were interacted with

491  
hours spent beautifying three public spaces

51  
ground planters

434  
panhandling diversions or interventions

\$419,716  
devoted to clean and safe programming

marketing and placemaking

13,116  
social media audience members engaged

80  
newsletters and curated guides released to

3,000  
newsletter subscribers

11,335  
visitors attended

40  
public events in the neighborhood

75  
decorative light pole banners installed

15  
BigBelly solar powered waste receptacles

\$143,756  
devoted to marketing and placemaking



## creating community

The Bridgeport DSSD embraced **big changes** this year, launching two major projects that each showcased the vibrant spirit of Downtown Bridgeport in their own unique way.



# 1

Late last year we announced that we were adding four new seats to our Board of Commissioners, so that residents, business owners, and leaders of cultural or educational organizations that hold a written lease in Downtown Bridgeport could have a voice in determining how equitable economic growth happens in the neighborhood.

We began outreach through our online and in-person channels to get the word out about the opportunity to serve on the board, eligibility requirements, and the process to get on the annual meeting ballot. We welcomed over 40 people to our information and training sessions, as well as shared videos on social media and placed announcements in our weekly newsletters. We were thrilled to receive 10 applications from property owners and leaseholders who wanted to be included on the annual meeting ballot. Their information was compiled into a printed and digital voter guide, which was mailed to all Downtown property owners who vote at the annual meeting, and was made available on our website.

This is the first time since the Bridgeport DSSD's founding in 1987 that the governance structure has been expanded to include a wider range of stakeholders and breadth of perspectives. We cannot wait to see what ideas, programs, and partnerships this expansion yields. We know we will be in a stronger position to serve this community.

# 2

In March, we revealed a completely refreshed **colorfulbridgeport.com** online experience that showcases the people, places, and events that make our community so vibrant, with exciting new features like dynamic maps, events calendar, and guides. The new platform is a living, evolving hub, constantly updated with fresh content and resources to discover the full spectrum of Colorful Bridgeport and explore everything Downtown has to offer.

Through these two initiatives, the Bridgeport DSSD proudly demonstrated our identity as “Colorful Bridgeport,” a reflection of our rich diversity, vibrant culture, and unique character. This is a testament to our commitment to public art, inclusivity, and community-driven beautification, ensuring that our Downtown and surrounding areas continue to evolve as welcoming, engaging, and inspiring spaces. We hope you will join us in shaping a Downtown that is not only visually stunning but also deeply connected, culturally rich, and full of opportunity.

sponsors

Thank you to our 2024–2025 sponsors! The Bridgeport DSSD is grateful for the following partners and sponsors who through their funding recognize the importance of investing in Downtown Bridgeport. Each company’s contribution ensures that the sense of culture and community is bolstered with bright and vibrant placemaking activations all around Downtown Bridgeport’s commercial district.

- 29 Markle
- Adam J. Lewis Academy
- Adobe
- AKDO
- AMS Real Estate
- The Apartments at 323 Fairfield Avenue
- Aquarion Water Company
- The Bananaland
- Bridgeport Charter Bus Rentals
- Bridgeport City Council
- Bridgeport Generation Now
- Bridgeport Islanders
- Bridgeport Police Department
- Bridgeport Public Library
- Cabezas-DeAngelis Engineers & Surveyors
- City of Bridgeport
- Cohen & Wolf, P.C.
- Connecticut Housing Partners
- CT State Housatonic College
- Ernest and Joan Trefz Foundation
- Fairfield County’s Community Foundation
- Forstone
- GE Credit Union
- Greater Bridgeport Transit
- Green & Gross, P.C.
- Hi-Ho D’Addario Industries
- HSW Bridgeport
- Indigo Massage
- Jimmy’s Hip Hop
- Kindred Thoughts Bookstore
- M&T Bank
- Miller, Rosnick, D’Amico, August, & Butler, P.C.
- NBALAB
- O&G Industries
- Primrose Companies
- Pullman & Comley, P.C.
- Rum & Tequila Fusion
- SCG & UI, part of the Avangrid family of companies
- SMG Corporate Services
- Soundview
- Steve Boyle Agency, State Farm
- Time Equities
- Tour Bus
- Tremont Sheldon, P.C.
- Una Dolce Vita
- University of Bridgeport, Innovation Center at Bauer Hall
- The WorkPlace
- WPKN 89.5 Community Radio
- ZenBusiness

financials

Statement of Financial Position

Revenues	2024	2023
Property Taxes	\$638,754	\$595,664
Sponsorship	\$61,834	\$65,317
Grant Revenue	\$51,645	\$65,150
Other Revenue	\$314,963	\$403,593
Total Revenues	\$1,067,196	\$1,129,724
Expenditures		
Streetscape Maintenance	\$404,900	\$389,317
Marketing	\$63,950	\$60,536
Creative Placemaking	\$404,881	\$456,414
Other Operating	\$212,322	\$204,474
Total Expenditures	\$1,086,053	\$1,110,741
Net Revenue (Loss)	(\$18,857)	\$18,983

Balance Sheets 2024 to 2025

Assets	2024	2023
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$151,880	\$147,473
Property Taxes Receivable	\$16,540	\$0
Other Receivables, Primarily Grants and Sponsorships	\$31,759	\$56,521
Prepaid Expenses	\$9,689	\$109,192
Total Assets	\$209,859	\$313,186
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$58,712	\$71,938
Deferred Revenues	\$25,250	\$3,500
Leases Payable	(\$77,803)	\$169,118
Total Liabilities	\$83,962	\$172,618
Net Position		
Without Donor Restriction: Undesignated, Available for Operations	\$121,711	\$140,568
With Donor Restriction	\$0	\$0
Total Net Position	\$121,711	\$140,568
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Net Position	\$209,859	\$313,186

Balance Sheets 2024 to 2025, cont.

2024	2023
\$151,880	\$147,473
\$16,540	\$0
\$31,759	\$56,521
\$9,689	\$109,192
\$209,859	\$313,186
\$58,712	\$71,938
\$25,250	\$3,500
(\$77,803)	\$169,118
\$83,962	\$172,618
\$121,711	\$140,568
\$0	\$0
\$121,711	\$140,568
\$209,859	\$313,186



# celebrating the full **spectrum** of people, places and spaces that create our Downtown



## Follow Us

Instagram, Facebook,  
YouTube and LinkedIn

@colorfulbridgeport

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