

As of December 14, 2021

Request for Qualifications – Public Mural

Overview

The Stamford Downtown Special Services District (Stamford Downtown) seeks proposals for the design and production of two public-art pieces for placement on the ground surface of Kiwanis Park. Stamford Downtown wishes for the first piece to have three-dimensional (3D) elements and the second will help facilitate pedestrian flow through the park. Stamford Downtown envisions the implementation of this project in the early Spring 2022.

Background

Stamford Downtown serves as the Business Improvement District for the city's central business area covering over 500 properties. In that role, Stamford Downtown oversees a diverse array of initiatives to improve and transform, spaces within the public realm of Downtown. Stamford Downtown has retained Stantec – a multi-disciplinary urban design and planning firm – to create a placemaking strategy to activate and reposition Kiwanis Park into a central node for communal gatherings while recasting the pedestrian setting. Kiwanis Park was constructed in 1968 and renovated in 2003. The park is located between the historic Palace Theatre and 87 Atlantic Street – a four-story, mixed-use building and serves as a primary pedestrian connecting corridor linking the bustling Atlantic and lower Summer Streets. The strategy for Kiwanis Park includes multiple components including (1) grouping the six, large granite planters currently at the site, (2) constructing a wooden seating area to surround these planters, (3) installing decorative lighting, (4) public art and (5) facilitating public space activations conducted by Stamford Downtown (such as performances) and by private partners (such as a coffee kiosk).

Proposal Detail

Stamford Downtown proposes two murals at Kiwanis Park. Stamford Downtown seeks an artist, or artists, to paint or adhere these murals to the ground adjacent to the proposed seating area.

The first mural is envisioned as a 10'x10' image characterized by an anamorphic illusion (3D) – also known as trompe l'oeil art. The selected artist or artists will paint or adhere to the mural in a location adjacent to the eastern- or street-side, of the proposed seating area (see attached image). It is expected that this mural will serve as a draw and a destination next to which visitors will want to take their picture and share it with their network.

Stamford Downtown intends to locate the second mural – to measure 30' in length – along, or parallel to, the southern wall of the Palace Theatre (see attached image). Stamford Downtown wishes for this mural to help draw the eye of a pedestrian into, and through, the park towards Summer Street from Atlantic Street. Stamford Downtown does not intend the second mural to be 3D. Instead, this second mural should highlight the walking path between the proposed seating area and the Palace Theatre while encouraging the use of Kiwanis Park as a pedestrian connection; the mural could include a whimsical element that makes stepping along its path exciting and fun.

Stamford Downtown will require the following of the selected artist(s) and artwork:

- a) The art must withstand the forces of nature and have a projected lifespan of at least five years.
- b) 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.

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

Stamford Downtown seeks qualifications from interested artists or arts-based organizations. Based on the responding qualifications, Stamford Downtown will then short-list respondents and invite proposals, to include designs, and cost estimates. Stamford Downtown will work with the selected artist, or artists, to finalize the mural images and related materials. Note, Stamford Downtown will require proof of necessary insurance coverage.

Stamford Downtown wishes to install these selected images when the weather first permits in Spring 2022.

The artist will remain under contract for three years to assist with the maintenance of the associated artwork. Stamford Downtown will retain ownership of the final product and related images.

Submission Requirements

Please submit a summary of qualifications including:

Contact Information, images, and written summary of at least three-related projects and client references. The written summary – no more than 500 words – should summarize materials used, detail the process to design the image, and plan for maintenance.

The budget cannot exceed \$25,000.

Please submit the summary of qualifications by January 19, 2022.

Stamford Downtown will review qualifications and circulate invitations to submit proposals by January 31, 2022.

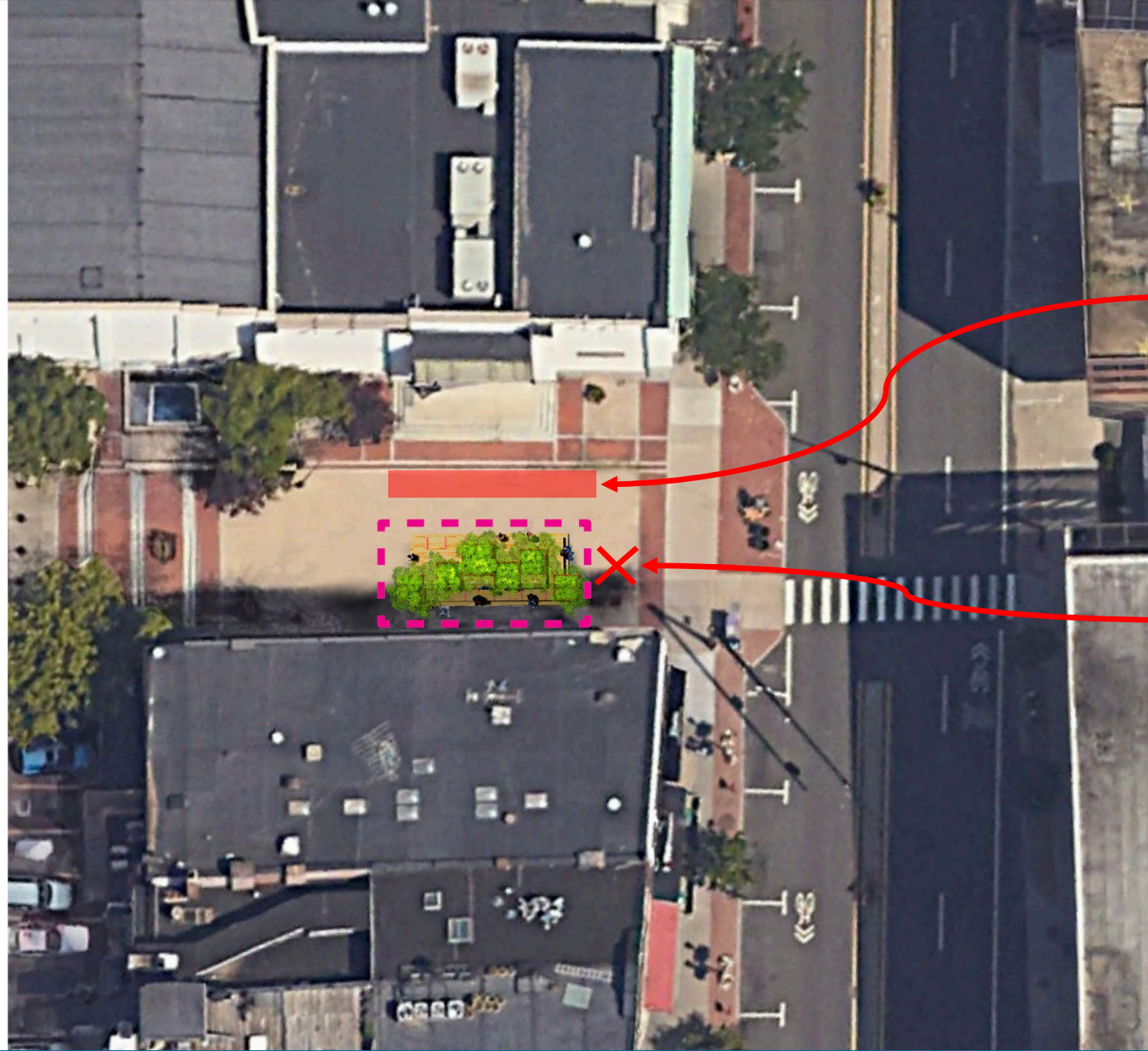
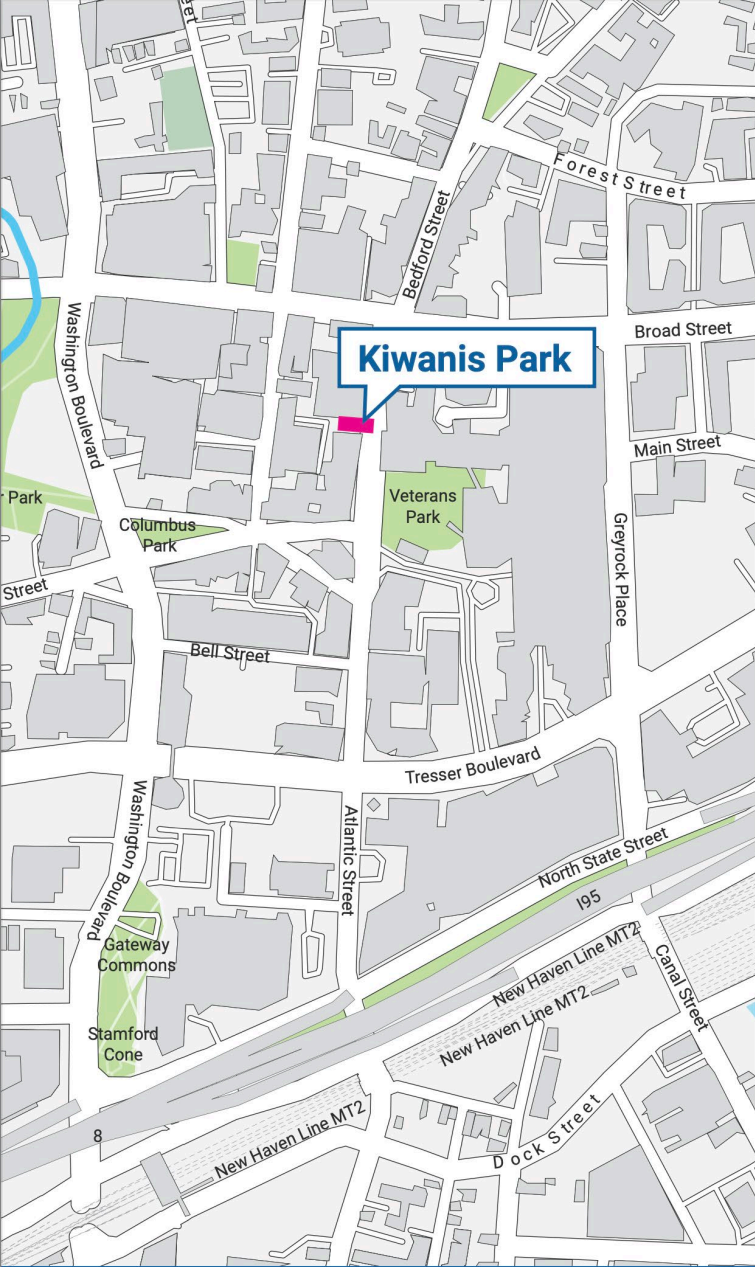
Note, Stamford Downtown reserves the right to proceed with one or two projects OR reject all responses and not implement a project.

Please contact Marisa Rogo, Project Manager for Operations for Stamford Downtown – via email (marisa@stamford-downtown.com) with any questions.



Kiwanis Park
STAMFORD DOWNTOWN Concept Design - 2





Proposed Location of 3D Mural



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