



## **New Britain, New London Celebrate City Canvas Arts Initiative**

*Gov. Malloy Unveils Mural for New London Mural Walk*

(HARTFORD, CT) –Two city artwork projects funded through the state Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) City Canvas initiative will be unveiled in New Britain and New London this weekend. New Britain officials gather today to celebrate a mural by artist Sol LeWitt, on display in conjunction with the New Britain Museum of American Art’s First Friday event. The second piece, part of “Wall-to-Wall: The New London Mural Walk,” will be unveiled on Saturday afternoon in a ceremony with Governor Dannel P. Malloy, DECD Deputy Commissioner Christopher “Kip” Bergstrom, state and local officials, artists, and community partners.

“City Canvas brings art into our communities in a way we haven’t experienced in Connecticut,” said Governor Malloy. “We have a rich and diverse arts culture—performance, mixed media, and music play an important role in our quality of life and creating a vibrant, thriving state. City Canvas is a way to attract visitors to our city centers and downtown spaces, and celebrate the talent and skill of these artists.”

“These initiatives demonstrate the impact arts can have on a community and its economic development efforts, and also magnifies that impact,” said Bergstrom. “DECD’s Office of Arts is spearheading this community development initiative in order to spark revitalization efforts in urban centers. By breathing new life into our downtowns with cultural activities, City Canvas is helping these neighborhoods become destinations, places where people want to live, work and visit — the essence of placemaking.”

Mayor Timothy O’Brien and Douglas Hyland, Director of the New Britain Museum of American Art, along with Bergstrom unveiled a new Sol LeWitt mural titled “Colored bands of arcs from four corners.” The installation is at the Dakille Building. Sol LeWitt is most famous as the founder of Conceptual Art and was a native son of New Britain.

“This is an exciting opportunity for our city and we are enormously proud to have been selected,” said Mayor O’Brien. “We’ve seen a revival of the arts in New Britain and I’m confident we’ll be seeing more projects like this unveiled in the future.”

On Saturday afternoon in New London, Governor Malloy, joined by state and local officials, artists, and community leaders, will dedicate three new murals by Mark McKee and Qimen Liu (Songs of our City), Michael McNabney and Troy Zaushny (Hard Hat Painters), and Russ Kramer and Katie Fogg of the New London Mural Alliance (One Face Many Cultures) at Eugene O’Neill Drive and Golden Street.

These three murals, along with 12 previously installed pieces, create “Wall To Wall: The New London Mural Walk,” one of the most ambitious public art projects in the state. The 15 murals on the walking tour include pieces by internationally acclaimed artists Sol LeWitt and Robert Wyland, and all are within a six-block area in the downtown. The project is the most concentrated collection of fine art murals in an urban area in New England and is helping to establish New London as the Arts Capital of Connecticut.

“This project demonstrates the productive results of an ongoing partnership between the City, the State, and community groups like Hygienic Art. Projects like this are breathing new life into the City of New London,” said Mayor Justin Finizio.

The other City Canvas projects are:

**Bridgeport** — 12 bold building projections by 12 local artists, coinciding with and illuminating Bridgeport’s Downtown Thursday celebrations.

**New London** — Digital images of seashells mounted on the exterior of the Water Street Parking Garage facing the New London Train Station.

**Torrington** — Playful and beautiful artworks by two Connecticut artistic talents.

**Waterbury** — A stunning outdoor community-created mosaic mural, 30’ x 30’, based on a design by two of Connecticut’s foremost mosaic artists.

**Stamford** — An infinitely variable illumination of the Stamford Transportation Centers northern façade.

**Hartford** — A water-activated, interactive representation of the iconic “Charter Oak,” the enduring symbol of Connecticut’s revolutionary spirit.

City Canvas is a \$1 million pilot project that commissions large-scale works of art. The initiative was launched in early 2012 and is funded through DECD and supported by the National Endowment for the Arts.

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