



Town of Stonington  
Cultural District Commission  
152 Elm Street Stonington, Connecticut 06378

February 11, 2026

Warden Michael Schefers  
Borough of Stonington  
Stonington, Connecticut

Dear Warden Schefers,

The Stonington Cultural District Commission respectfully requests the allocation of \$5,000 within the Borough's Fiscal Year 2026–2027 budget to support a public art initiative in collaboration with the New England Sculptors Association (NESA).

This project proposes the one-year loan and installation of four outdoor sculptures in Wadawanuck Square, with the objective of enhancing the aesthetic character and cultural vitality of the Borough's principal public space. The Commission has negotiated a preliminary agreement with NESA to coordinate a regional Call for Art, inviting submissions from professional sculptors throughout New England. Works will be evaluated and selected by a qualified jury of arts professionals in consultation with the Commission, ensuring that each installation complements the historic setting and reflects the Borough's dedication to cultural enrichment.

The total proposed budget of \$5,000 will cover a \$1,000.00 stipend for each selected sculptor, as well as NESA's administrative and management fee of \$500. The additional \$500 will be used for advertising and miscellaneous opening costs. The project schedule anticipates the release of the Call for Art in late spring 2026, the selection of sculptures in summer, and public installation in early August 2026.

Beyond its aesthetic contribution, this initiative represents a strategic investment in public engagement and cultural tourism, advancing the Borough's long-standing commitment to the arts as a foundation of community life and economic vitality.

The Commission appreciates your consideration of this request and the Borough's continued support for cultural programming. We would welcome an opportunity to present additional details or answer any questions regarding the project at your convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Douglass Rice  
Chair

Stonington Cultural District Commission

## **ABOUT THE PROJECT**

As proposed by the Stonington Cultural Commission, the Borough of Stonington wishes to engage the New England Sculptors Association (NESA) to secure a one-year loan of four sculptures to enhance the main square of Stonington Borough, Wadawanuck Square. The complete overall budget for this one-year installation is \$5000, as detailed below.

### **This MOU outlines the basic responsibilities of both parties.**

NESA will engage their members with a call for art to attract a wide range of desirable work/sculptures. The commission will select a highly qualified jurist (one to three) who will then select the final sculptures. Determining factors will take into consideration, the quality of each individual piece as well as its potential to enliven the park grounds, draw visitors, engage guests, and enrich the public cultural life of the Borough.

The Stonington Commission proposes the following schedule: call for artists in late spring, selection in the summer, with the goal of sculpture placement in early August of 2026.

### **Specific Responsibilities - NESA**

NESA will create, publish, and distribute the Call for Art to collect submissions for the one year installation of four outdoor sculptures.

NESA is responsible for any fees or income associated with the call entry process.

Once the call for entry period is over, submissions will be presented to the Panel of Jurors for review and selection. NESA will be accorded a fee of \$500 for this administration of the process.

NESA will provide the Borough with the artist's contact information so they may directly communicate installation logistics.

### **Specific Responsibilities – The Borough of Stonington**

In order to facilitate the creation of the Call for Art, the Borough will provide NESA with information and requirements relevant to the sculptures desired.

The Borough will provide installation and deinstallation assistance including mechanized equipment, if necessary, and sculpture site preparation.

The Borough will provide individual signs for each sculpture with content provided by NESA

## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING:**

The sculptures will remain on exhibit from August, 2026 -through August, 2027.

The overall cost will be \$5000, as follows:

### **Artist Stipends**

The one-year stipend will be \$1000 per sculpture, for a total of \$4000. If the Borough of Stonington wishes to purchase the sculpture upon delivery, the stipend will be waived. Sale commissions will be allocated as follows - 70% to the artist and 30% to NESAs.

### **Administrative Fee**

\$500 - payable to NESAs upon signing this agreement.

\$500 – to be administered by the Stonington Cultural District Commission. for miscellaneous expenses that might be incurred by the Commission in relation to the project. (The sculpture labels and the installation will be handled by the Town of Stonington)

We thus request of the Borough \$5000: \$4000 for artist stipends, \$500 for NESAs, and \$500 for the SCDC.

### **New England Sculptors Association**

Founded in 1948, the New England Sculptors Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing sculpture to communities and building community for sculptors. NESAs promotes the sculptural arts and seeks to educate the public by facilitating the exhibition, installation, and collection of artworks.

Comprised of over 200 juried members, plus a nation-wide network of affiliated artists, NESAs partners with other organizations to bring sculpture to communities across New England.

In addition, NESAs serves as a hub for artists in all stages of professional development, offering workshops, mentorship, and a community of like-minded individuals who have committed to enriching the world through their art.



www.nesculptors.org  
info@nesculptors.org

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

# **Stonington Cultural District Commission/ Borough of Stonington Outdoor Sculpture Park**

Justin Perlman  
president@nesculptors.org  
Patricia Aronson  
artsdirector@nesculptors.org

**NEW ENGLAND  
SCULPTORS ASSOCIATION**

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

As proposed by the Stonington Cultural District Commission, the Borough of Stonington wishes to engage the New England Sculptors Association (NESA) to secure a one year loan of four sculptures to enhance the main square of Stonington Borough - Wadawanuck Square. This MOU outlines the basic responsibilities of both parties.

NESA will engage their members with a call for art to attract a wide range of desirable work/sculptures. The Commission will select a highly qualified jurist (one to three) who will then select the final sculptures. Determining factors will take into consideration, the quality of each individual piece as well as its potential to enliven the park grounds, draw visitors, engage guests, and enrich the public cultural life of the Borough.

**Proposed Schedule - To be determined - sculpture placement in early August 2026.**

## **Specific Responsibilities - NESA**

- NESA will create, publish, and distribute the Call for Art to collect submissions for the 1 year installation of four outdoor sculptures.
- NESA is responsible for any fees or income associated with the call entry process.
- Once the call for entry period is over, submissions will be presented to the panel of jurors for review and selection.
- NESA will provide the town with the artist's contact information so they may directly communicate installation logistics.

## **Specific Responsibilities - Stonington Cultural District Commission**

- In order to facilitate the creation of the Call for Art, the Commission will provide NESA with information relevant to the sculptures desired, including size, weight, and content requirements
- The Commission will provide a concrete pad or any specific site conditions required by the chosen sculpture.
- The Commission will provide assistance with installation and deinstallation including mechanized equipment, if necessary.
- The Commission will provide signage for the sculpture with content provided by NESA
- Insurance will be provided by the Commission

MEMORANDUM  
OF  
UNDERSTANDING

**Artist Stipends**

The one year stipend will be \$1000 per sculpture. If the Commission wishes to purchase the sculpture upon delivery, the stipend will be waived. If the Commission or a donor wishes to purchase the sculpture during or after the loan period, the stipend will be paid and the sale commission will be applied. Sale commissions will be allocated as follows - 70% to the artist and 30% to NESAs.

**Administrative Fee**

\$500 - payable to NESAs upon signing this agreement.

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Justin Perlman, President  
New England Sculptors Association.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stonington Cultural District  
Commission

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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**BRINGING  
SCULPTURE TO  
COMMUNITIES**