

# Litchfield County

## ART AT HEART OF THE CITY



ERIN COVEY REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

Cami Long, Jenna Sittler and Sophi Dyer pose in front of a giant horse Friday night. Moments before, artist Danielle Mailer unveiled the next installment of her public art series in Torrington. Mailer's first piece was a giant cat. The city's Arts and Culture Commission hosted a Harvest Festival along Main Street on Friday night.

## 2 pieces unveiled in downtown Torrington

BY KEVIN LITTEN  
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

TORRINGTON — City officials unveiled two major public art pieces downtown Friday evening in what was billed as a harvest festival but was lightly attended due to rain that fell most of the day.

The earlier downpours had

faded to a misty drizzle by the time the tarp was raised on Danielle Mailer's horse cutout, so umbrellas weren't out among the 100 or so people who attended.

The crowd managed an enthusiastic cheer as the horse came into view on the southern wall of a building on Maiden Lane as 10 fire pits flicked

orange light against the wet street and buildings and circus performers on stilts ambled past.

Mailer, of Goshen, recounted how her work on the project put her into constant contact with residents who chatted with her as they sat at a stoplight or stopped to see her while walking past. The experience was

one of the most memorable of her career, Mailer said, and has convinced her to seek out more public art projects.

Mailer's work, the second to be unveiled in downtown this year, and another larger piece by Norwalk and New York artist Jo Yarrington on the sec-

# ART: 2 pieces unveiled in downtown Torrington

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ond-floor facade of 63 Main St., were funded by a \$165,000 state grant called City Canvases. The program was designed to help cities beautify their downtown areas, and city officials pursued the grant to as part of an arts- and culture-based revitalization effort.

“Nothing prepared me for working on the corner of Maiden and Main,” Mailer said. “I realized this is my calling as a muralist because you really get to share the process with the community.”

The horse Mailer painted depicts several Torrington icons, including abolitionist John Brown’s birthplace, as well as a trombone to symbolize the Coe Brass Co. that helped spark the manufacturing boom in the 19th century here. Mailer plans to add more Torrington-focused iconography to the horse in the coming days as she completes the piece.