

Statement of the Arts

Joe Adkins, District 4 (R)

Adkins4Frederick.com

Frederick needs to create community pride in communities throughout the City. Art is certainly one way to start creating these community focal points. Whether a statue at Whittier Lake, a small stage area located along the Golden Mile, or an interactive art piece at Walnut Ridge Park, all of these would help create focal points and instill a sense of community and identity.

These focal points could be an event or a parade. Why not have a multicultural parade along Key Parkway? Starting at Waverly Elementary School or the mall and ending at the Elks Club or Frederick Shoppers World. This route would be within walking distance of many communities and the route would have minimum intersection closures and able viewing opportunities.

Maintenance of public art is a critical aspect of having a thriving arts community. An interesting fundraiser to help cover the cost of maintenance of art in the City could be a decorating event for one of the local statues in Frederick. I am thinking of Manneken Pis in Brussels. Groups could pay for the right to decorate a local statue for 2 weeks. I think it could be a good fundraiser, and it would also draw people in to see how and who decorated the statue. Maybe Charity the Dog Statue or Cain and Able in front of City Hall would lend itself to such an event.

Art, whether a static piece or an event will help to create community identity and pride and make Frederick a much richer place to live.