

Statement of the Arts

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The arts – voice, visual, performance, physical, instrumental, and other – are key to the quality of life in Frederick and an important economic driver. The arts benefit residents and attract visitors. Specific ways in which I want the City to support the arts include:

We should Invest in Our Neighborhoods: The City of Frederick should assess a small Community Based Fee on development projects that will contribute to funding public art and allied arts activities.

Every Neighborhood Counts: Working with the Frederick Arts Council, the NACs, and other stakeholders, the City of Frederick should identify “destination Art” installations throughout the City that will serve in part as a place maker for these areas of the City. As part of this, sculptures should be created and placed throughout the City, one goal being to connect these using a sculpture walking tour.

Establish Gateway Art: Working with pertinent stakeholders, the City should work to have artwork created and installed at gateways into the City. Three current possibilities include the planned pedestrian bridge over Route 26 connecting Clemson Corners to neighborhoods south of Route 26; the existing traffic circle on East Street adjacent to the planned Brickworks project; and at the corner of Schifferstadt and East Church Street on the City’s east side; and as part of the Jefferson Street intersection redesign.

Art Requires Artists and Art Making Spaces: The City of Frederick should formulate a plan to assist artists with affordable housing and studios. The Artspiration project at 915 Toll House Avenue may help

address this latter need. Incentives for people to open galleries should also be considered.

Expand Cultural Festivals: The Frederick Festival of the Arts is an important cultural event in the life of the City. Working with pertinent stakeholders, the City should foster film festivals, theater festivals, dance festivals, and other “pan Frederick” arts events.

City Performance Spaces: The City should evaluate Weinberg and New Spire Arts rental policies and fees in order to assist emerging and non-profit theater, dance, and other performance groups with reduced fees, understanding the cultural enrichment and economic contributions these groups make to the City.