

Statement of the Arts

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Dougherty Promotes Renovation of City Hall Park with Guidance from Public Arts Commission and Garden Clubs

July 2025 - From the beginning of time, people marked walls, public spaces, even the ground with symbols – what we now call art. The sunrises and sunsets of the seasons marked in stone, places of worship, and pieces of jewelry with drawings tell a story. Live performances in open-air theaters or historic theaters-in-the-round made people laugh, cry and sing along. Winners of battles wrote the history of the day – maybe embellishing the victor's story -- in paintings, tapestries, or ballads.

In Frederick, we see why public art is important and why we still invest in it today. It reflects what we value whether along Carroll Creek Park, on a parking deck, on a building, or on a skate park.

In 2001, while serving as mayor, we passed a commitment to public art with the passage of one of the first Arts & Entertainment Districts in Maryland. The creation of the district made it possible for artists to invest in the Downtown and their art without being “starving artists”.

The City of Frederick has committed to the Arts over the years and the creation of the Public Art Commission is an important way to remove politics from art! In 2001, I created the Carroll Creek Task Force to “paint the picture” of what the development of Carroll Creek Park should look like. I appointed two artists to the task

force because we needed more than just the buildings to look right, we needed the space to feel right.

If elected, I will propose that the Public Art Commission and the local Garden Clubs collaborate on a renovation of City Hall Park which needs new and safe sidewalks, new seating, illustrations of our history, and plantings that reflect our rich history.