

Statement on the Arts

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Vibrant arts and culture play a critical role in the identity Frederick now enjoys and are essential for the quality of life we value and enjoy. Our goal has to be to continue building on the progress to date to elevate our community as both a destination and a foundation for arts development. The destination is observed every first Saturday, at the Festival of the Arts and other cultural events and celebrations, our many performing and visual arts centers and galleries, and our growing public art and sculpture inventory. To be a foundation for arts development, we need to expand on the benefits of our Arts and Entertainment District, while identifying strategies to create more opportunities outside downtown. I'm proud to have helped create as Alderman and now support as Mayor a variety of arts programming and organizations through our Community Promotions Grants. I have further committed to this through my budgets by adding a Manager of Arts and Culture, to continue to drive and support the efforts this statement addresses. We are initiating a pilot percent for arts program, an FAC objective, for appropriate capital projects we control such as the proposed west side Community Center and south side Youth Center. Our efforts toward addressing housing and affordability generally has to envision artists being able to live and work in neighborhoods throughout Frederick. I am excited about new hubs for creativity that are in development to give artists of all mediums space to start, grow, and collaborate. I share a vision that when our region thinks about communities that embrace and elevate the arts and cultural opportunities for people of all ages, Frederick is at the top of the list.