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Parks and Recreation Commission Recommends Art Club's Statue Proposal ***Iconic Fashion Designer Claire McCardell Subject of Public Art Project***

[Frederick, MD] At its meeting this evening, the Frederick City Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed and unanimously recommended a proposal from The Frederick Art Club to install a statue along Carroll Creek Linear Park that will honor renowned fashion designer and Frederick native Claire McCardell.

The club's Claire McCardell Project calls for erecting a 7 ½ foot bronze sculpture of McCardell in a prominent location at the east end of Carroll Creek Linear Park in downtown Frederick. The designated site overlooks the creek, with McCutcheon's Apple Products to the south, the restored United Knitting Mills building to the north, and the impressive Galleria Fountain to the west.

"The Parks and Recreation Commission has been very helpful to us throughout the process of identifying a site," according to Linda Moran, who chairs the steering committee for the project. "It's wonderful to know that our plans were well made and we only have one more approval to seek from the City."

The recommendation next goes before the Mayor and Aldermen.



The Frederick Art Club has launched a \$209,000 fundraising campaign, with plans to unveil the sculpture in 2021. The Claire McCardell Project is a fund of the Community Foundation of Frederick County, making all gifts tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Sarah Hempel Irani, an award-winning sculptor based in Frederick, has been commissioned to create the sculpture, while Kiroloff Design of Frederick will create a wayside exhibit that tells McCardell's story.

Claire McCardell (1905-1958) was internationally credited with creating the American Look in sportswear. Her iconic designs defined decades of fashion and continue to influence the industry today. Among many

honors, she received the Coty American Fashion Critics Award, appeared on the cover of Time Magazine, and was named one of the most influential Americans of the 20th Century by Life magazine. Her work is held by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Fashion Institute of Technology, the Maryland Historical Society and Heritage Frederick, among others.

Established in 1897, the Frederick Art Club is one of the nation's oldest art clubs. Initially a small league of women art students, it evolved into a Frederick institution with the long-standing mission to teach and practice art, enlighten members, and generate an appreciation of the value and beauty of art in the broader community. Today, the club has nearly 100 members and has taken on the Claire McCardell Project as its gift to the local public art landscape.

For more information, visit the club's website www.frederickartclub.com, Facebook at The Claire McCardell Project, and on [instagram.com/clairemccardellproject](https://www.instagram.com/clairemccardellproject).

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Conceptual rendering by Sarah Hempel Irani