



For Immediate Release: August 13, 2019

Contact: Linda Moran, lmoranmg@gmail.com or Marilyn Bagel, mbwriter2@gmail.com

Public Art Commission Recommends the Frederick Art Club's Statue Proposal

[Frederick, MD] At its meeting today, the Frederick City Public Art Commission reviewed and recommended a proposal from The Frederick Art Club to create and install a statue in the city honoring renowned fashion designer and Frederick native Claire McCardell. The recommendation will now go before the Parks and Recreation Commission before going to the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Frederick.

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

"The Public Art Commission's recommendation is a vital step toward realization of this goal," according to Linda Moran, who chairs the steering committee for the project. "Claire's historical significance calls for a level of public recognition she has not yet gotten in her hometown. She's a natural choice to be honored in such a significant way, and the Frederick Art Club is proud to be leading this endeavor."

Born and raised in Frederick, Claire McCardell (1905-1958) was an internationally known leader in the fashion industry credited with creating American sportswear. Her iconic designs uniquely defined decades of fashion and continue to influence and inspire the industry today. During her career she received numerous honors, including the Coty American Fashion Critics Award. She was featured on the cover of Time Magazine in 1955 and named one of the most influential Americans of the 20th Century by Life magazine in 1999. Her work is held by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Fashion Institute of Technology, the Maryland Historical Society and Heritage Frederick, among others.

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.

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.