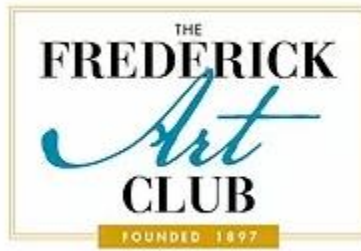


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## **Claire McCardell Project Achieves Fundraising Goal**

### ***Funds Available to Install Bronze Sculpture, Project Now Focused on Garden Setting***

[Frederick, MD] The Frederick Art Club has announced that the Claire McCardell Project has achieved its \$209,000 fundraising goal. The amount will underwrite the completion of the sculpture of the Frederick-born fashion designer, molding and casting it in bronze, installation on a granite plinth, and creation of a wayside exhibit that will tell Claire's success story.

“Thanks to overwhelming support from the entire Frederick community, we have reached our initial goal less than a year since we formally launched the campaign,” said Marilyn Bagel, president of the Frederick Art Club, which is leading the public art endeavor.

Donors include Aushman Family Foundation, Delaplaine Foundation, Celebrate Frederick, PNC, and a long list of other generous businesses, foundations, organizations, and individuals. All will be recognized on a donor plaque near the sculpture.

The sculpture itself has been progressing well despite delays caused by the pandemic. In fact, Claire (the sculpture) recently returned from the enlarging studio where she "grew" proportionally from a half-size model to her full 7.5-foot height. At her downtown Frederick studio, sculptor Sarah Hempel Irani will spend the next several months meticulously refining the clay sculpture before having a mold made of it and sending that to a Colorado foundry to be cast in bronze.

All indicators point to a spring 2021 unveiling of the statue at its designated location at the east end of Carroll Creek Linear Park, across from the former Union Knitting Mills factory. The City of Frederick earmarked the site for the sculpture in fall 2019.

## **Project Now Moves to Creating an Artful Setting for the Bronze Sculpture**

The Frederick Art Club is now embarking on phase II: creation of a welcoming garden setting for the statue along Carroll Creek Linear Park. The club anticipates the need for an additional \$55,000 to cover landscape and hardscape design, materials and installation, lighting, benches, and other elements to create an appropriately elegant venue for Frederick's own iconic fashion designer.

“Our goal now is to surround Claire with beauty, in a way that will invite people to pause, contemplate her likeness, and learn about the impact of her work,” said Linda Moran, chairperson of the project’s steering committee. “She is an important person in our community’s and our country’s history, and she deserves to be on a pedestal in a prominent location.”

A “coming soon” sign recently erected at the site shows the garden plan proposed by Frederick-based landscape designer Sharon Poole, owner of Poole’s Stone and Garden, Inc. Project leadership is also collaborating with the City of Frederick’s Parks and Recreation Commission on this phase.

### **A Fund of the Community Foundation**

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. Information about how to donate can be found at [www.frederickartclub.com/donatenow](http://www.frederickartclub.com/donatenow). To learn more about the project, visit [www.frederickartclub.com/theclairemccardellproject](http://www.frederickartclub.com/theclairemccardellproject); Facebook at The Claire McCardell Project; and [instagram.com/clairemccardellproject](https://www.instagram.com/clairemccardellproject).

### **About Claire McCardell**

Claire McCardell (1905-1958) grew up in Frederick and went on to become internationally recognized for creating the American Look in sportswear. Her iconic designs responded to the modern American woman’s desire to dress with style as well as comfort and practicality. She defined decades of fashion and her work continues 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 20<sup>th</sup> Century by Life magazine. Her clothing collections are held by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Fashion Institute of Technology, the Maryland Historical Society and Heritage Frederick, among others. Learn more at [www.frederickartclub.com/aboutclaire](http://www.frederickartclub.com/aboutclaire).

### **About the Frederick Art Club**

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 more than 100 members and has taken on the Claire McCardell Project as its gift to the local public art landscape.



Through a public art project directed by The Frederick Art Club (TFAC), a bronze sculpture of iconic fashion designer and Frederick native Claire McCardell will be installed along Carroll Creek Linear Park in spring 2021. Shown at the future site standing left to right are: Marilyn Bagel, TFAC president; Vicki Glenn, TFAC membership chair; Linda Moran, Claire McCardell project steering committee chairperson; Cristy Stup, steering committee member; and Pam Robey, TFAC 1st vice president. Seated left to right are Janet Arsenault, TFAC recording secretary; Marita Loose, steering committee member; and Maritta Grau, TFAC historian.

