

HARNESSING THE WIND: CARROLL CREEK KINETIC ART PROMENADE FEATURES SCULPTURES THAT MOVE



By Crystal Schelle, Frederick News Post, March 18, 2020 [Excerpted]

The Rotary Club of Carroll Creek in Frederick is the organization behind the not-for-profit community enhancement project, which features three kinetic artwork pieces from four area artists on display along Carroll Creek between the suspension and stone bridges.

Chairman of the project is Bernard Gouin, who is also a member of the club.

“The Rotary Club of Carroll Creek has been tied with Carroll Creek for a long time,” Gouin said, noting the club was founded in 1993. “Ever since, we’ve always been part of projects along the creek.”

One of the club’s first donations was for the mural on Carroll Street, and members have either helped or volunteered their time for several events at the creek, including planting aquatic plants. One event the club has been involved in since 2017 Sailing Through the Winter Solstice, which features decorative boats in the creek throughout February.

Gouin said Rotary members were looking at how to decorate Carroll Creek after the sailboats are removed. He said the plant life isn’t added until April and wouldn’t bloom for several weeks after that.

“So the idea was, well, how do we fill the gap?,” he said.

That’s when members settled on the idea of kinetic art sculptures, which move and change depending on the strength of wind.

Gouin said the sculptures were selected on originality, creativity, cost and public appeal.

“We ended up being very fortunate to select three that were very diversified in appearance and in structure,” he said.

Artists chosen were Erin Aylor and his “Three Little Birds,” which is sponsored by Ann and Ric Adams; Marguerite de Messières and Tsvetomir Naydenov and their piece, “An Elusive Kinetic Portrait,” which is sponsored by the Ausherman Family Foundation; and Thomas Sterner and his piece, “Tree of Life,” which is sponsored by The Hendrickson Group at Morgan Stanley.

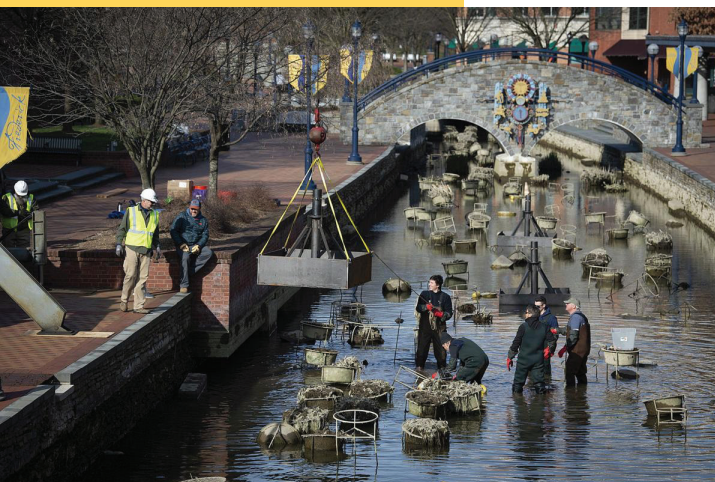
The three pieces, which were installed on March 14 in the creek, will remain on display until November. They will then be removed for the sailboats.

“So that’s basically the genesis of it, to optimize the beauty of the creek. And for us, the Carroll Creek Rotary Club, it’s really in sync with our mission,” Gouin said. “Art is something that resonates with everyone. But moving art, not only resonates, it fascinates people.”

The most difficult element to the planning was how to install the pieces. Gouin explained that large steel pyramids had to be made that would allow the pieces on polls to be attached. The pyramids need to sit in the creek the entire time and the water had to be lowered for them to install them first. The bottom will be hidden once the water level returns. Then using a crane, the sculptures were installed on the pyramids.

Gouin said there are plans to add another three sculptures next year.

[Above] The Carroll Creek Kinetic Art Promenade, a new public art project at Carroll Creek in downtown Frederick, was organized by The Rotary Club of Carroll Creek in Frederick and features three kinetic artwork pieces from four area artists on display along Carroll Creek between the suspension and stone bridges. [Photo by Bill Green]



[Above] Members of the Carroll Creek Rotary Club and other volunteers used a crane to install large steel platforms for the large artworks to be supported in the creek for the Kinetic Art Promenade on March 14. [Photo by Bill Green]