

For immediate release

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Program to Explore the Impact of Public Art on Communities

CUMBERLAND—The Allegany Arts Council and the Arts & Entertainment District of Cumberland are pleased to announce *Making Our Case for Public Art*, a special evening with February exhibiting artist, Erwin Timmers, exploring how public art transforms communities. The event will take place Friday, February 25, 2022 at the Allegany Arts Council, and will kick off with a cocktail reception at 5:30PM followed by the program at 6:00PM. Artists interested in learning more about how to access public art bids, community residents seeking to understand the role of public art, or anyone wanting to know more about how public art can add economic value to communities are encouraged to attend this free event.

Public art has become a vital component of a community's sense of place and of self, not just for the aesthetic beauty of public art projects, but also the deep economic impact their existence can have on communities, both in drawing visitors and in bringing dollars to places which have become forgotten or underutilized. Today, cities recognize that investments in public art don't just beautify spaces, they activate them.

Presenter Erwin Timmers is Co-founder and Director of the Washington Glass School and one of the DC area's leading 'eco-artists'. His work in sustainable design can be seen in some of the large public art projects he has completed, including an award winning project for the EPA headquarters in Washington, DC, and the public artwork for the LEED certified Safeway supermarket in Bethesda, MD.

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