



On May 2nd 2012 in just over 12 minutes Edward Munch's famous painting 'The Scream' sold in New York at Sotheby's for just under \$120 million dollars.



This one painting is probably worth more than the historic downtown of Martinsburg WV and it isn't even a Rembrandt! With that said shouldn't Martinsburg like all communities see that there is something wonderful about the arts? Whether it's a painting, a sculpture, a performance or an entire festival. The arts say who we are as a people and they reflect what is important to society.

And as some of you may know there have been some great artists to come out of this region and some famous ones from our own county.

Today I am here again to discuss the empty sculpture stand at the head of the new “town square” and to make known that there are ideas worth considering other than a bronze sculpture to memorialize the founder of this fair city.

Last month when I came here I presented to each of you 3 photoshoped renditions of sculpture, created by local sculptors, on the empty pedestal. This time I am discussing other possibilities for you to consider while your “committee” is deciding when to finally meet to discuss their options. Before I get started though I do want you to consider this, this sculpture stand should be a reflection of what Martinsburg can be. I didn't say “was” or “is” because in my opinion Martinsburg needs to shoot for greatness and aim for a more healthy future and not be only rooted in our past.

Tonight I was hoping to introduce you to Kirsten Lee who is a direct descendent of General Adam Stephens but she could not be here. Here is her statement:

“Adam Stephen was my great-times-five grandfather. Family accounts paint him as a brilliant, dynamic character. He arrived penniless from Scotland, and created a small empire here in the panhandle. He delighted in taking on the landed gentry, beating them at their own games, and perhaps creating new ones along the way.

Adam Stephen was not a patron of the arts in the way we tend to think of it. His personal artistic expression was his entrepreneurial genius. His life was a celebration of victory over the status quo, of turning ideas into realities, of growth and change and improvement. David Heatwole's recent "Toilet Caper" is just the thing Adam Stephen would have cheered.

Adam Stephen was a bit of an egoist, so perhaps would be amused by a statue of himself. More importantly, he was a whirlwind of intellect and action. He was not content to leave things as they were, but challenged himself to make things as they COULD be. A dynamic public area in the heart of his city, an affirmation of ongoing human spirit and expression- THAT would excite the man that made Martinsburg!” - Kirsten Lee 5/9/12

Before I continue I would like to read a small extraction from a larger important document written by President John F. Kennedy.

“Above all, we are coming to understand that the arts incarnate the creativity of a free society. We know that a totalitarian society can promote the arts in its own way--that it can arrange for splendid productions of opera and ballet, as it can arrange for the restoration of ancient and historic buildings. But art means more than the resuscitation of the past: it means the free and unconfined search for new ways of expressing the experience of the present and the vision of the future. When the creative impulse cannot flourish freely, when it cannot freely select its methods and objects, when it is deprived of spontaneity, then society severs the root of art.”

Read more at the American Presidency Project: [John F. Kennedy: Magazine Article "The Arts in America."](http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=9061#ixzz1trMSnjLH)
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Please have an open mind for what I am about to propose it isn't all that unique in the world of art BUT it would be unique for Martinsburg and certainly most of the Quad-state region. This is a multi-part proposal that does include usage ideas for the sculpture stand in the town square but also for other aspects of what I envision for Martinsburg.

First: I would like this council, and the committee assigned to consider the possibilities for this monument, to consider inviting performance artists, that practice the art of being living sculptures, to do their art on this sculpture pedestal. I believe completely that they will not only bring attention to Martinsburg but will also bring visitors from all over. Of course there will be logistics to work out but there is no reason not to be able to allow this to happen. I envision this performance art to be only temporary until a more permanent plan is put into effect.

Second: It is my belief that we should not settle for just one permanent work of art but rather consider changing it annually or every two years. The work of art that is switched out for another would not go back to the artist but rather would be moved to another more permanent location.

Third: work on a master plan for a sculpture garden somewhere close by.

Forth: Start a sculpture walk that people would come from all over to see.

Thank you for your time and serious consideration.

David F. Heatwole

“I must study politics and war, that my sons may study mathematics and philosophy...in order to give their children the right to study painting, poetry, music and architecture.”

–John Q. Adams



“Art is a nation’s most precious heritage. For it is in our works of art that we reveal to ourselves and to others the inner vision which guides us as a nation. And where there is no vision, the people perish.”

—Lyndon Johnson, on signing into existence the National Endowment on the Arts



“Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere.” -*Albert Einstein*





“Art is to Creativity as War is to Destruction. What road will you travel down?”

- David F. Heatwole