

# ARTS COUNCIL OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

## Tyson's Land Use Plan Remarks to Planning Commission Tysons Land Use Subcommittee

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee . . .

My name is Douglas Brammer. I am chairman of the Board of Directors of the Arts Council of Fairfax County, here this evening speaking on behalf of the Arts Council and in that sense for arts organizations and artists in Fairfax County.

First, let me applaud the language that you have included from the Tysons Land Use Task Force plan that recognizes the arts as an integral part of the social and economic health of Tysons in years to come. The vision document designates an arts subdistrict and, throughout Tysons, incorporates recommendations of the Commission on the Future of the Arts in Fairfax County for public art, as well as space for creating and presenting art. In retaining this vision, Strawman II moves toward an urban environment that is a magnet for a creative citizenry.

Strawman II takes an important step further by listing arts facilities and public art as part of infrastructure, along with schools, libraries, and recreational facilities. In so doing, the planners have reaffirmed local and national findings that the arts can create a sense of place and can drive economic development.

And, I should add, the inclusion of arts considerations in the planning for Tysons is consistent with the proposed Board of Supervisors policy statement on the arts, with its opening statement "Fairfax County is a community that values the arts. . . A strong, dynamic, and diverse arts presence in the County provides economic, social, and educational benefits." The proposed policy's first objective calls for "Support opportunities to display art in public places, private development and public-private ventures." What better opportunity than in the planning for the future Tysons!

As language is finalized for phasing, transportation, density, and implementation, we encourage all involved to continue to show national leadership in creating a true urban environment. The Arts Council and the arts community look forward to contributing to the economy and quality of life in the vibrant urban Tysons of the future.