

Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum Mini Lesson Plan

Ninth Grade

The Spirit of Detroit, Detroit, MI in bronze (left), the 1/4 scale plaster model in the museum (right) and *The Spirit of Detroit*, Detroit, MI in bronze c. late 1950s or early 1960s (below right).



Marshall Fredericks sculpted this 16 foot high kneeling figure of a man holding a deity form and family in 1958. Fredericks stated: "The theme was a verse from the Bible (2 Corinthians 3:17): Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." "I tried to express the spirit of man through the deity and the family," Gradually people began calling it *The Spirit of Detroit*. He also waived his creative fee for this sculpture and it actually ended up costing him money to produce; he thought a mere part of his civic responsibility.

Can you answer these questions about *The Spirit of Detroit*?

Fredericks waived his fee for this artwork citing it as part of his civic responsibility. What does this mean?

Can you name some examples of personal and civic responsibilities?

Why is it important for American constitutional democracy to have civic responsibilities?

Do you know of any examples of civic responsibility that has happened in your community? Explain it.



Make your own drawing of the *The Spirit of Detroit*. Then using thin computer wire, transform your 2-Dimensional drawing into a 3-dimensional wire sculpture.



Curriculum Connections

Social Studies: Responsibilities of Citizenship
5.4.1, 5.4.2, 5.4.3

VPAA

ART.VA.I.HS.1
ART.VA.I.HS.2
ART.VA.I.HS.3
ART.VA.II.HS.3