A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I recently passed my one year anniversary at Laumeier, and I can’t believe how quickly time flies. It has been my great pleasure to get to know the ins and outs of this organization, including our staff, our supporters, visitors from near and far.

When we introduced the printed Year in Review for 2018, it was met with great enthusiasm, so it’s very exciting to roll out this year’s version. With so much happening at Laumeier, we increased the page count slightly to give us room to touch on the many things we do. Even with more pages, this record only scratches the surface on what a full year brings.

Laumeier remains the place you know and love, even as we grow and expand. 2019 was a banner year, with the introduction of several new programs. 2020 will be no different, and at the end of this book, you will get a sneak peek into a bit of what’s to come. I repeat what I wrote a year ago: We can’t wait to share it all with you, and give you even more reasons to love Laumeier.

With best wishes for a wonderful new year,
Improved Visitor Experience

One of Laumeier’s ongoing goals is to improve visitor experience in the Park. 2019 brought notable changes, with the introduction of the revamped and improved Emerson Visitor Center in the Aronson Fine Arts Center. With a generous four-year commitment to the Visitor Center, Emerson serves as an invaluable partner in visitor experience. Among the many improvements we have made: the introduction of a visitor survey (please take the survey on your next visit!), a refreshed Gracie’s Shop with more offerings, including branded merchandise and unique artist consignments. Meet Danielle Hinton (left), the staff person overseeing all of this as Visitor Experience Manager, a new role launched in 2019.

As wonderful as all of this is, it’s just the start. In the near future, we hope to introduce more food and beverage options, increased seating and lighting, and more. Remember, we always welcome your input on how we can improve your experience!
EXHIBITIONS

2019 exhibitions are supported by Ken and Nancy Kranzberg, Mitchell and Joan Markow, Mary Ann and Andy Srenco, and Ellen and Durb Carlee.

HOW WE SEE: MATERIALITY AND COLOR
Claire Ashley / Jedediah Caesar / Jeffrey Gibson / Barbara Kasten / Anne Lindberg / Odili Donald Odita
March 2–June 30, 2019

How We See: Materiality and Color presented the work of six artists in the Whitaker Gallery in the Aronson Fine Arts Center, all investigating how color and material enliven and amplify artwork’s form, shape, and surface. Working across many mediums and techniques, the exhibition featured paintings by Jeffrey Gibson and Odili Donald Odita, sculptures by Claire Ashley and Jedediah Caesar, photography by Barbara Kasten, and drawings by Anne Lindberg. Additionally, Claire Ashley presented several outdoor performances featuring her inflatable sculptures activated by individual and team performers.

SAM FALLS
August 24–December 22, 2019

This solo exhibition features a combination of recent and newly commissioned works. In the Whitaker Gallery in the Aronson Fine Arts Center, Falls exhibits paintings made with his distinctive technique using dried pigments, dew drops, rain and mist, including two brand new paintings made on-site at Laumeier, utilizing plants collected from the Park’s forest floor. In a clearing in Laumeier’s Eastern Woodlands, Falls exhibits two monumental commissioned sculptures, featuring brightly glazed ceramic tiles embedded into 30-foot, steel I-beams. These ceramic tiles feature floral grown in the Park by Laumeier’s master gardener at the artist’s request.

CARLOS ZAMORA: cART
July 25–November 1, 2019

As part of the Kranzberg Exhibition Series, Carlos Zamora transformed three of the Park’s golf carts into kinetic sculptures by enveloping them in printed vinyl wraps and topping them with custom-built forms, all featuring an origami-style folded paper boat. The theme derives from Barquito de papel (“Little Paper Boat”), a wartime song about a child’s wishes to travel, make friends, and live in a peaceful world which took on renewed import during the Cuban Refugee Crisis. With their red, white, and blue palette, the boats brings to mind many metaphors and messages, such as innocence and hardship, hope and friendship, difference and desperation.

FOR CAPTIONS ON ARTWORK: See page 17.
**XINYUE DENG ▶ Cultural Thinker In Residence**

The Cultural Thinker In Residence program, launched in 2012, appoints an individual to engage with Laumeier’s programming over the course of one year. This person is typically a scholar with expertise in a field outside of art to engage in interdisciplinary thinking and learning.

2019 Cultural Thinker In Residence, filmmaker Xinyue Deng, engaged our audiences through video and film, documenting the art and nature of Laumeier as well as the people who visit our park. Through a series of on-site interviews, Deng asked questions, collecting a diversity of voices and presenting a slice of life here at the Park. With a keen eye for recording her world, Deng’s multi-part film project pairs nicely with our mission to get to know and understand our public and our environment.

**DRYDEN WELLS ▶ Community Artist In Residence**

The Community Artists In Residence program, launched in 2018, allows for visitor engagement for two St. Louis-area visual artists. Dryden Wells recently returned to his hometown after spending 14 years studying ceramics in the U.S. and China. Since the completion of his MFA, Wells has lived and worked in Jingdezhen and Shanghai, China, alternating with stints in the U.S. We are so pleased he has brought his extensive work and teaching experience to Laumeier.

**TIFFANY SUTTON ▶ Community Artist In Residence**

Tiffany Sutton uses Polaroid, film and digital cameras to study the symbolic link between women and fruit. With this in mind, she creates images of women in classical and candid poses. Originally interested in classical portraiture, her work is expanding to depict womanhood and nature in more conceptually diverse ways.

Laumeier has several programs designed to welcome visiting artists, scholars, and thinkers to spend time at the Park, engaging with Laumeier’s programs and audiences. Each “residency” offers slightly different length and structure. All are designed to facilitate exchange between those in residence and the community, forging connections between art, nature, and other fields. In 2019 we rebranded the names of these programs, in anticipation of the new category we will add in 2020: Visiting Artist In Residence.

**COMMUNITY & SCHOOL TOURS**

In 2019, we introduced two new additions: STEAM Into Laumeier allows kids to explore the intersections of art and science, and EngAGING Arts provides off-site visits, van tours and walking tours to older adults of varying capabilities.

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EDUCATION AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

In February we brought the heat with Fire and Light, a large-scale evening event featuring artist demonstrations that use fire as a tool for artistic production. Laumeier After Dark, presented by PNC Arts Alive, reached over 6,000 individuals between June 2018 and May 2019.

The rest of the year's programs included the Conversation Series, Family Workshops, adult Night Out and Makers Night, Clay Classes and Free Family Days, supported by the Windgate Foundation.

SUMMER ART PROGRAMS

2019 was the 31st anniversary of summer Art Camp at Laumeier! Kids ages 4 to 12 enjoyed half-day and full-day fun, exploring art-making, the sculpture collection and Laumeier's landscape.

This year we also introduced a new Teen Art Program for teens ages 13 to 17, and it was a big hit. Teens got the chance to work with professional artists from near and far, and exhibit their work in a gallery show at the end of the summer.
ART FAIR

32nd ANNUAL ART FAIR
Presented by Emerson / May 10–12, 2019

St. Louis’ favorite Mother’s Day weekend tradition, the annual Art Fair features 150 booths from nationwide artists, local food and beverage vendors, hands-on activities for kids and live music. Event proceeds support Laumeier’s programs and operations.

Thank you to our sponsors

ART FAIR

GRACIE’S SHOP
FEATURED ARTIST

Madi Sharp (above right), the artist behind The Happy Houseplant, won our new Gracie’s Shop Featured Artist award at the 2019 Annual Art Fair. We are thrilled to be selling her “plants you can’t kill” in Laumeier’s gift shop.

A total of 2D awards with cash and prizes exceeding $5,000 are selected by a panel of guest judges. Ribbons are posted on the booths of all award winners and each winning artist is invited to return the following year.

Artist Awards Provided by
Emerson
Ameren
Art Mart
City of Sunset Hills
4 Hands Brewing Co.
This year’s event took place on September 21, and was inspired by the work of artist Sam Falls. Although only in its third year, this magical event quickly has become a favorite for so many people in our community. The Big Dinner is more than solely a chance to enjoy a lovely evening in the Park with delicious food and great company. This event raises the crucial funds that allow us to present world-class contemporary art, life-changing educational programs, and memorable experiences.
Because most of our art collection lives outdoors 365 days per year, we are always focused on the “3 c’s”: cleaning, care and conservation. In 2019, we restored and reintroduced important sculptures by Harriet Bart, Jene Highstein, Tony Tasset, and Dré Wapenaar. In 2020 we will celebrate the 40th anniversary of *The Way* by Alexander Liberman by attending to its conservation needs. Stay tuned for details.

Did you know you can help support sculpture restoration through our Sculpture Adoption Program? Visit www.laumeier.org/sculpture-adoption.

**DRE WAPENAAR**

*Treetent, 2005*

Treetent by Dutch artist Dré Wapenaar was first exhibited at Laumeier in 2012, and then acquired for our collection. The piece was immediately popular with visitors but unfortunately had to be removed in 2016 due to damage suffered as a result of inappropriate visitor interaction. We were thrilled to announce that Wapenaar has remade a new version of Treetent and personally traveled from Rotterdam to install it. Visitors are welcome to climb up and enter the work. Treetent will be on view seasonally.

**JENE HIGHSTEIN**

*Old Temple, 1991*

Old Temple is like new! Laumeier is proud to announce the acquisition and conservation of Jene Highstein’s *Old Temple*, 1991. Gifted by the Jene Highstein Estate, this acquisition highlights our ongoing commitment to collecting and caring for artwork. Highstein’s *Old Temple* is a cylindrical form made from western cedar. Highstein’s influences range from stone-age tools and ceremonial objects to ancient deities.

*Jene Highstein: Laumeier and Legacy*, a book chronicling the artist’s work in our collection, is available for purchase in the Emerson Visitor Center’s Gracie’s Shop.
LOOKING FORWARD

There are many special events happening next year, including the 40th anniversary of *The Way*, the introduction of a new Visiting Artist In Residence program, and an entire year exploring the global impacts of climate change.

KEY EVENT DATES TO NOTE

**MARK DION: FOLLIES**
February 15–May 24

**33rd ANNUAL ART FAIR**
May 8–10

**VISITING ARTIST IN RESIDENCE: ODILI DONALD ODITA**
June 14–September 29

**THE FUTURE IS PRESENT: INGENUITY AND GLOBAL CHANGE**
August 29–December 27

**THE BIG DINNER**
September 26

CREDITS


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