LAUMEIER SCULPTURE PARK
is one of the first and largest sculpture parks in the country, and considered to be one of the top ten in the world. Laumeier is an internationally recognized, nonprofit arts organization that is free and open daily. Dedicated to creativity, community connections, and the restorative benefits of art and nature, we serve 300,000 visitors of all ages each year with art exhibitions, education programs, and public events. Our 105-acre Park located in the heart of St. Louis County is home to more than 70 large-scale outdoor sculptures interwoven among woodlands and trails, enticing visitors with an immersive blend of art and nature.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As 2022 draws to a close, I’m taking stock and feeling grateful for a year that was imbued with an optimistic move towards normalcy. Despite the lingering presence of COVID, an uncertain economy, and a host of concerning global issues, I lean on trying to focus on what feels authentic, constructive and promising. This year, Laumeier’s theme for The Big Dinner was “Out of the Woods,” a leitmotif designed to reflect this very sense of optimism. Sure, we all know that we are not completely out of the woods yet, but there are glimpses of better things to come. As an organization, we are progressing in that direction and want to help create that kind of space for our community.

In 2022, Laumeier was able to bring back our most beloved programs, in some cases for the first time since the pandemic began. And when we did, we didn’t just see a return of pre-pandemic participation, we experienced an overwhelming outpouring of visitors, at times shattering previous attendance records. In November 2021, over 10,000 guests turned out in a single evening for Laumeier After Dark and this year’s version was no different. In May, we held our Annual Art Fair and a record-breaking 17,000 people attended. Seeing so many community members turn out is absolutely exhilarating and demonstrates how much St. Louisans love this park as a place for invigorating, communal experiences.

But this year wasn’t only about the triumphant return of the familiar, it was also a time for growth and change. Our staff size increased significantly this year, both through refilling existing positions and creating new ones. We also were able to launch some of our innovative new programs that we have been planning, including Opening Minds Through Art and STEAM at Laumeier. Our ability to pivot was in part due to a transformational bequest from a longtime visitor and supporter, Louetta Buechler. This gift, our new staff, and new programs are featured in these pages.

It is always re-energizing when our hard work gets noticed. This year we received press recognition and praise from outlets local (Best Public Park, Riverfront Times), regional (“Enchanting Sculpture Parks within Driving Distance of Chicago,” Chicago Tribune), and national (Best Sculpture Park, USA Today). Equally gratifying is when we hear from individuals. Recently, one of Henry and Matilda Laumeier’s few living descendants, who lives 800 miles away, emailed me to say, “It looks as though you are doing a great job making Laumeier better and better. I’m glad it is part of my family heritage.” It doesn’t get much more rewarding than that.

Lauren Ross
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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT
Many thanks to the 295 volunteers who provided nearly 1,400 hours of volunteer work!

Board of Directors: 25 volunteers contributed over 300 hours

Community Service Groups: 52 volunteers contributed 292 hours to sculpture site enhancements

Education Programs: Seven volunteers contributed 57 hours to Art Camp, Opening Minds Through Art, and STEAM at Laumeier

Garden Volunteers: 11 volunteers contributed 210 hours maintaining the manicured areas around the Museum Circle

Special Events: 200 volunteers contributed 633 hours to the Annual Art Fair, Discover Laumeier, and Laumeier After Dark
Laumeier honors the memory of Louetta A. Buechler (1940 – 2020), a longtime Laumeier member and frequent Park visitor. Louetta—or Lou, as her friends called her—filled her retirement years with her favorite activities: painting, gardening, and travel. Louetta bequeathed her entire estate to be split equally between three local arts organizations after her passing. She deliberately selected small to mid-sized organizations as recipients, believing her gift would have great impact to each. As one of the three recipient organizations, Laumeier received close to $1 million in 2022. Her remarkably generous gift will leave a lasting legacy for Laumeier and our visitors for many years to come.

If you would like to discuss a legacy or planned gift to Laumeier, please contact Development Director Jillian Patton at jpatton@laumeier.org.
WELCOME TO THE LAUMEIER TEAM!

SARA EATON / Private Events Manager
A DeSoto, MO native, Sara is a veteran in the events industry, and she comes to Laumeier with over 12 years of experience. Sara handles private events at the Park such as weddings, corporate gatherings, celebrations of life, and nonprofit events. In her free time, Sara likes to take walks with her dog, play frisbee golf, and see live music and shows. You might also find her enjoying a craft beer at Heavy Riff in Dogtown, one of her favorite St. Louis spots.

Sara’s favorite sculpture: Jenny Holzer, Ten Untitled Plaques from the series Living

RYAN McCARTNEY / Chief Preparator
Ryan is responsible for the safety and upkeep of the artworks here at Laumeier, both outside in the Park and inside the Aronson Fine Arts Center. Originally from a small town in southern New Jersey, Ryan now calls St. Louis home. Ryan enjoys cooking in his free time, and he also likes to eat out at restaurants in Tower Grove South.

Ryan’s favorite sculpture: Dan Graham, Triangular Bridge Over Water

JILLIAN PATTON / Development Director
Jillian was drawn to development work because she enjoys building meaningful connections with passionate and caring people who are looking to make a difference. Equitable access to public spaces and the arts is very important to her. Jillian has spent almost half of her career working at organizations that are similar to Laumeier, ones invested in providing restorative green space and cultural experiences for their communities. She is responsible for working with the staff and board to raise the funds that make everything at Laumeier possible. In her free time, Jillian loves to travel and hike. One of her favorite things to do in St. Louis is attend Cardinals games.

Jillian’s favorite sculpture: Mark di Suvero, Bornibus

RACHEL THOMPSON / Special Events Coordinator
Rachel refers to herself as the “Park Party Planner.” She was born and raised in St. Louis and worked as an intern at Laumeier in 2017. Outside of helping plan Laumeier’s fun events such as the Annual Art Fair, Laumeier After Dark, and Holiday Pop-Up Shop—Rachel likes to spend time at the Science Center, as she loves to learn about outer space and other planets. She is a big advocate for St. Louis-style food, and her favorite restaurant in town is O+O Pizza.

Rachel’s favorite sculpture: Donald Lipski, Ball? Ball! Wall? Wall!

DARREN SNEAD & DENNIS STEGMANN are both part-time Visitor Experience Team Members. You’ll find them working inside the Aronson Fine Arts Center and helping at Laumeier events.

2022 FELLOWS AND INTERNS

TOLA PORTER
In the first half of 2022, Tola Porter worked with Laumeier’s curatorial department, thanks to receiving the 2021-22 Mark S. Weil and Joan Hall Weil Professional Development Fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis. During her six month fellowship, Tola helped with collections research and development of future programs, but her main focus was researching and writing a 10,000 word essay on the emergence of post-war sculpture parks, which will be published as part of Laumeier’s 50th anniversary in 2026. Tola plans to complete her PhD in December of this year.

MARKETING INTERNS
Leah Ramspott, a senior at the University of Ohio-Dayton, joined Laumeier over the summer as a graphic design intern. She helped create social media graphics and signage, as well as the invitation and other graphic elements for this year’s Big Dinner. She also was part of our 2022 summer Art Camp staff.

Patrick Maus, a senior at Webster University, joined Laumeier’s marketing department during the fall. He helped create social media content and e-blasts and worked onsite during Laumeier After Dark.
EXHIBITIONS

2022 Exhibitions are supported by Alison and John Ferring, Ken and Nancy Kranzberg, Joan and Mitchell Markow and Two Sisters Foundation, Emily Rauh Pulitzer, and Mary Ann and Andy Srenco.

**SALUTARY SCULPTURE** February 12–May 15, 2022
Co-curated by Lauren Ross and Dana Turkovic

Thomas J. Condon / Hope Ginsburg / Basil Kincaid / Marcos Lutyens / Guadalupe Maravilla / Dario Robleto / James Sterling Pitt / Lauryn Youden

SALUTARY (adjective): “Producing a beneficial effect” or “promoting health”

_Salutary Sculpture_ gathered eight artists who use their practices to soothe, heal, and work through individual and collective trauma. Steeped in requirements of body and mind, their works point toward the human need for integrated and holistic wellness. Addressing a range of individual experiences and research interests that span across scientific and spiritual inquiries, these artworks reinforced the power of art as a therapeutic tool, both for makers and viewers. Among the many personal and powerful artworks presented was Marcos Lutyens’ _Rose River Memorial_, an installation memorializing lives lost to COVID in the form of handmade, red felt roses (pictured on the cover). Many of these roses were made by the Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri and Park visitors.

_Salutary Sculpture_ was supported by the Whitaker Foundation. Basil Kincaid (pictured bottom right) was one of two 2022 Kranzberg Artists. This fund, generously provided by Ken and Nancy Kranzberg, supports the presentation of new work by one or more St. Louis area artists per year.

FOR CAPTIONS ON ARTWORK: See page 17.
In art and in poetry, the beauty and power of trees is an alluring subject matter with infinite possibilities. The exhibition *Forest Through the Trees* pulls together a group of artists whose observations range from representation through landscape to conceptual experimentation where the tree is treated as both subject and object.

Whether literally carved from a tree trunk, cut from paper, planted in mass, compiled from thousands of carefully layered paint splotches or recreated with computer data, *Forest Through the Trees* celebrates and, in some cases, further complicates our relationship to nature.

*Forest Through the Trees* is supported by the Whitaker Foundation. Rachel Youn is one of two 2022 Kranzberg Artists. This fund, generously provided by Ken and Nancy Kranzberg, supports the presentation of new work by one or more St. Louis area artists per year.
New York state-based artist Jean Shin’s engagement with Laumeier focuses on North American ash trees, which are under threat from the Emerald Ash Borer. She aims to draw awareness to this issue, as well as related topics around climate change and conservation, by highlighting the ash tree’s connection to the all-American sport of baseball.

Shin’s site-responsive installation figures an alternate baseball diamond, one where a salvaged stump of a dead ash tree from Laumeier’s grounds was fashioned into the shape and size of a home plate. First, second, and third bases were reimagined as sculptural seats or benches created from ash trees from Laumeier as well as blemished ash baseball bats donated by Rawlings. Shin endeavors to foreground the connection between nature and culture, specifically between a nationally treasured game and our beautiful forests, observing: “What affects the game, affects the environment, and more importantly, what affects the environment, affects the game.”
COMMUNITY ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

The Community Artists In Residence program provides opportunities for local artists to engage with the community through workshops, events, and discussions.

Tamara Eberle
Tamara Eberle is an artist and art therapist who has been practicing art therapy for 10 years and exhibiting art work for 20 years. Her early experiences teaching art began through Art Camp at Laumeier Sculpture Park. Her work ranges from fibers to photography, drawing, and sculpture. Tamara led an activity at Discover Laumeier, worked with the summer Teen Art Program artists, and hosted a Makers Night.

Mee Jey
Mee Jey is a multidisciplinary Indian artist concerned with lived experiences. She focuses on collective politico-cultural identity and experiences as well as community engagement through her immersive installations, performances, relational art projects, and time-based media. Mee Jey’s artmaking process relies on being resourceful while repurposing a variety of materials. Mee Jey led the creation of a collaborative community art installation at Discover Laumeier, worked with the summer Teen Art Program artists, and hosted a virtual Conversation Series program.
EDUCATION / CLASSES, WORKSHOPS + MORE

Laumeier offers a range of education programs that engage participants of all ages in art and nature. Programs are taught by local, experienced Artist-Instructors and are designed to encourage artistic development, self-expression, and life-long learning. In 2022, our multi-week Clay Classes for ages 7-9, 10-15, and 16+ remained popular. We also introduced a new clay class for adults called Mindfulness and Mud that focused on connecting art-making to overall wellness. Monthly programming included our one-day Family Workshops, as well as our adults-only Night Out Workshops.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAMS

This year, we leaned into exploring the health and wellness benefits that come from blending art and nature. We partnered with community members in the health and wellness field, artists, therapists, and naturalists to bring new perspectives to our programming.

We hosted Conversation Series programs all about growing and using herbs. Discover Laumeier featured four health and wellness community partners: Citra Fitness & Movement, Forest & Meadow Herbal Shop and Clinic, Sports Medicine & Training Center, and St. Louis City Fitness. We continued our partnership with Citra Fitness by hosting five yoga classes in the second half of the year. Nine Mindful Reminders, developed by local art therapist Laura Greenwood, were also placed throughout the Park encouraging visitors to search, pause, reflect, and practice mindfulness techniques that can contribute to a positive sense of well-being.
EDUCATION / SUMMER ART PROGRAMS

In 2022, we were excited to bring our beloved summer Art Camps and Teen Art Program back to full capacity, welcoming more than 800 young artists throughout the summer. We held eight weeks of half day camps for ages 4-6 and full day camps for grades 1-8. Additionally, we hosted four, two-week sessions of our Teen Art Program, which helps teens in grades 9-12 develop artistic skills and knowledge through hands-on projects and mentorship. The summer culminated in the Teen Art Show, giving the teen artists an opportunity to display their work inside the Aronson Fine Arts Center.

A special thank you to the 18 special guests and visiting artists who joined us this summer. And thanks to generous donors, we were able to provide tuition assistance to 100% of the qualifying families who applied for financial assistance.
Laumeier Sculpture Park has a long history of working with older adults, from partnering with the Alzheimer’s Association to our more recent EngAGING Arts program. During the pandemic, we paused to consider how we could better serve these populations. Research brought us to Opening Minds Through Art (OMA), a proven program that aligns beautifully with our own resources and objectives. Laumeier is the first sculpture park to become OMA-certified. The development and launch of OMA at Laumeier was made possible through the Ann & Hank Bauer Fund for Senior Arts Programs.

OMA is an award-winning, research-based art program for people living with dementia, developed at the Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University, Ohio. Intergenerational partnership is a cornerstone of the program, pairing each elder with a volunteer, usually a college student seeking a career in healthcare. The volunteer provides guidance and support during 10 weekly art-making sessions, and the program concludes with a culminating art show.

In 2022, we facilitated two OMA cycles with Delmar Gardens West, which engaged 20 artists living with dementia and 16 Maryville University Pre-Occupational Therapy students.

“This experience gives undergraduates the opportunity to actually apply what they have learned in classes to real-life situations. Having the hands-on experience with OMA has affirmed that I do want to be an occupational therapist and that this is the right path for me.”

-Maryville University student who participated in the spring 2022 OMA cycle
In the fall, we relaunched our STEAM at Laumeier learning experience for fourth grade students and welcomed 181 students from Trautwein Elementary (Mehlville School District) and Halls Ferry Intermediate (Ferguson-Florissant School District).

These unique, full-day experiences get students out of the classroom and into a naturally creative environment, sparking their imagination and helping them become more innovative, multi-disciplinary thinkers. Led by Laumeier’s education team, students explore and examine selected contemporary sculptures; are guided through activities that help them learn how to creatively approach science, technology, arts, engineering, and math challenges; and participate in a hands-on project. Seen below are students designing, building, and measuring their own monochromatic sculptures with repeating geometric shapes.

Created in partnership with Maryville University’s STEM faculty, the STEAM at LAUMEIER curriculum is designed to support learning objectives that meet both Missouri and National learning standards.
THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS, MEDIA PARTNERS + IN-KIND DONORS

35TH ANNUAL LAUMEIER ART FAIR
Presented by Emerson / May 6-8, 2022

After two years online, we were incredibly excited to host our beloved Mother’s Day weekend Art Fair in person again! And the community was excited too, as we broke previous attendance records with more than 17,000 visitors joining us over the weekend. The 2022 Annual Art Fair featured nearly 150 juried artists from across the country, local food and beverage vendors, hands-on activities for kids, and live music all weekend long.
With the Park normally closing 30 minutes after sunset, Laumeier After Dark gives visitors a unique opportunity to experience the sculptures and explore the trails at night!

Laumeier After Dark 2022 featured temporary art and light installations by St. Louis artists Raven Fox, Ann Johnson, Stephanie Keil, and TOMAS; live music by We Are Root Mod, The Maness Brothers, and Sean Canan’s Voodoo Mixtape; a Night Market with more than 25 local makers; and some of St. Louis’ best food and beverage vendors.

Thousands of people joined us for this community-favorite event!
THE BIG DINNER / September 17, 2022
Laumeier's annual fall fundraiser is a chic evening of outdoor libations, fine dining, and live music. This year’s theme, Out of the Woods, celebrated the concurrent fall exhibition Forest Through the Trees and artwork by Visiting Artist In Residence Jean Shin. The theme was also inspired by our collective desire to put difficult challenges behind us and emerge into the light of hope and optimism. All proceeds from The Big Dinner support Laumeier's dedication to creativity, community connections, and the restorative benefits of art and nature. The evening’s emcee was special guest Jade Harrell from St. Louis Public Radio.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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SCHULBERG
LOOKING FORWARD

2023

KEY EVENT DATES

36th ANNUAL ART FAIR
May 12-14

DISCOVER LAUMEIER
August 26

THE BIG DINNER
September 23

LAUMEIER AFTER DARK
November 4

HOLIDAY POP-UP SHOP
December 9

2023 EXHIBITIONS

YAYOI KUSAMA: Narcissus Garden
February 11–May 14, 2023
Yayoi Kusama’s Narcissus Garden is an immersive installation consisting of 1,200 spheres with highly polished, reflective mirrored surfaces. First presented in 1966, this piece has been reconfigured anew. This noteworthy and historically important work is a prime example of Kusama’s signature motifs of repetition and mirroring to create a sense of infinite space.


VAUGHN DAVIS JR.
August 26 - December 17, 2023
St. Louis-based artist Vaughn Davis Jr. rips, tears, and drapes pigmented canvases to transcend traditional notions of painting and push them into the realm of shape-shifting objects. As the 2023 Kranzberg Artist, Davis will present a solo exhibition inside the Aronson Fine Arts Center as well as create two new flags for our Northern Grove flag pole.


2023 VISITING ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

Laumeier’s 2023 Visiting Artists In Residence are Pittsburgh-based artists Lenka Clayton and Phillip Andrew Lewis. They will create a new work titled Permanent Flying Kite, a soaring diamond kite affixed to a hill in our outdoor galleries that will appear in perpetual flight. Clayton and Lewis’ sculptural kite, while fixed in space, still suggests motion, and expresses the amusement and creativity that lie in the intersection between us and the natural world. During their residency, Clayton and Lewis will develop several programs inspired by their installation, including a collaborative kite fly open to all Park visitors.


Dario Robleto, *Sparrows Sing to an Indifferent Sea*, 2019 and *Unknown and Solitary Seas (Dreams and Emotions of the 19th Century)*, 2018. Courtesy of the artist, Houston.

Various chemigrams on fiber paper by Thomas Condon. Courtesy of the artist, Richmond.


(right, middle) Marcos Lutyens, *Olfactory Haptic Form 1*, 2021 and *Olfactory Haptic Form, 2 and 3*, 2021. Courtesy of the artist, Los Angeles.


Laumeier Sculpture Park’s ongoing operations and programs are generously supported by St. Louis County Parks; Regional Arts Commission; Missouri Arts Council, a state agency; among other corporations, foundations, individual donors, and members.

Additional funding related to COVID-19 relief has been provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Windgate Foundation, the U.S. Small Business Administration, and the St. Louis County Small Business Relief Program.