



For more information

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Introducing *Discover Laumeier*

This new series of free public programs will begin in April

At a Glance

WHAT: A new series of day-long celebrations of art and nature. *Discover Laumeier* features FREE offerings for visitors of all ages, including hands-on art activities, ways to explore Laumeier’s 105-acre campus, and opportunities to learn about art and the world around us.

WHEN: Three *Discover Laumeier* programs are scheduled for 2021: Saturday, April 17 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Sunday, June 6 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.; and Saturday, September 25 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

WHERE: Laumeier Sculpture Park, 12580 Rott Road, St. Louis, MO 63127

WHY: Being in nature and being creative are both important to a person’s overall health and well-being. Recent studies have shown that time spent outdoors and time spent making art can reduce stress and anxiety, improve mood, and have positive impacts on healing.^{1,2} The *Discover Laumeier* series will provide opportunities for visitors of all ages to engage in outdoor and creative activities, allowing people to explore the range of benefits from connecting with art and nature. Additionally, this new series is part of Laumeier’s continued commitment to provide programs to the public free of charge.



Detailed release follows

1. Robbins, Jim, “[Ecopsychology: How Immersion in Nature Benefits Your Health](#).” *Yale Environment* 360, January 9, 2020.
2. Gharib, Malaka, “[Feeling Artsy? Here’s How Making Art Helps Your Brain](#).” *NPR.org*, January 11, 2020.



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Laumeier Sculpture Park to Launch *Discover Laumeier* in April 2021

The first event in the series will focus on an ongoing thematic initiative of Art and Global Change

St. Louis, MO – Discover--or re-discover!--Laumeier Sculpture Park through a new series of day-long celebrations of art and nature called *Discover Laumeier*. These free, public programs are scheduled to take place in spring, summer and fall, on April 17, June 6, and September 25. *Discover Laumeier* will feature opportunities for visitors of all ages to create, explore, and discover through art activities, demonstrations, and self-guided scavenger hunts. *Discover Laumeier* is supported by a grant from the Windgate Foundation.

The first *Discover Laumeier* program is April 17 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and will focus on Art and Global Change, a thematic initiative that Laumeier began in 2020 to explore the global impacts of climatic and environmental changes through the lens of contemporary art. Visitors will be encouraged to rethink their habits and help reshape the world by participating in activities that range from upcycled art making to learning about invasive species and the benefits of trees.

Online reservations are requested for the April 17 event. Some activities require additional registration, as indicated below. RSVP at laumeier.org/discover-laumeier.

The day's highlights include:

CREATE

Recycled Papermaking

Try your hand at papermaking—shred and blend recycled paper into pulp and use traditional mold and deckles to create a sheet of handmade paper. Visit Hannah Chalew's *Becoming with: A Rhizomatic Solar Cart*, 2019, to see how she cultivates a new use for upcycled paper with her futuristic, wandering garden.

Fused Plastic Pouches

Reuse plastic grocery bags by transforming them into a fun and functional pouch. Design your pouch by layering multiple bags to create interesting effects, fuse them together, and top it off with a unique closure.

Upcycled Windchimes

Enjoy the sounds of sustainability in your own backyard! Learn how to construct eco-friendly wind chimes from discarded CDs, chains, cans, beads, honeysuckle branches, and more.

EXPLORE

Visitors will be able to view Laumeier's current exhibition *The Future is Present: Art and Global Change*, which explores the innovation of artists from around the globe and their commitment to



understanding humankind's material impact on nature and technology's role in understanding global climate change.

Artist-led Tour of *Van McElwee: Time Fork*

10:30 a.m. and 12 p.m. / Reservation required

Tour attendees will use a free, interactive app to navigate Van McElwee's augmented reality environment that incorporates the existing landscape of Laumeier with new imagined structures placed virtually by the artist. 9 person limit per tour. [RSVP here.](#)

Video Screening: Calum Stirling

Artist Calum Stirling has a way of making the invisible miracles of nature, visible through sound. Journey out to Laumeier's shelters to watch a short interview with Stirling and learn how he monitors and records the sounds made from real-time changes in a tree's plant cells. Then, visitors will be able to listen to part of his work *Sitka Spruce versus Larch Pole Pine*, 1999, a recording from a performance held in Grizedale Forest, United Kingdom.

Self-guided Scavenger Hunts

Explore Laumeier's grounds while learning about the upcycled materials used in some of Laumeier's large sculptures as well as the natural environment at the Park.

DISCOVER

In partnership with Forest ReLeaf of Missouri, the region's only nonprofit community-assisted tree nursery, April *Discover Laumeier* participants can learn all about the importance of trees. Stop by this education station to find out how trees keep us healthy, how they help the environment, and see the positive impacts they can have on our community and economy.

ENJOY

A variety of food trucks will also be available for visitors to purchase refreshments during *Discover Laumeier*. Picnic tables, benches and patio seating will be well spaced throughout the Park to provide socially-distanced and shaded eating areas for household groups.

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

- Laumeier is requesting that visitors who plan to participate in the *Discover Laumeier* activities reserve an entry time online. This will help the Park manage visitor capacity throughout the day. Reservations for April 17 can be made at laumeier.org/discover-laumeier.
- Masks and social distancing will be required within designated activity areas and while purchasing food. For art-making activities (recycled papermaking, fused plastic pouches, and upcycled wind chimes), socially-distanced stations will be pre-set with materials. Stations will be disinfected and re-stocked between participants. No more than 50 people will be allowed in any one area at a time. Each activity area will have maximum capacities posted.
- Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the Park.

About Laumeier Sculpture Park

Founded in 1976, Laumeier Sculpture Park is one of the first and largest sculpture parks in the country. Laumeier presents more than 70 works of large-scale outdoor sculpture throughout its



105-acre campus. It serves 300,000 visitors of all ages each year, with a world-class art collection, indoor and outdoor temporary exhibitions, education programs and public events. Laumeier is an internationally recognized museum, accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. The 501(c)3 nonprofit organization operates in partnership with St. Louis County Parks.

Laumeier Sculpture Park's ongoing operations and programs are generously supported by St. Louis County Parks; Regional Arts Commission; Missouri Arts Council; Arts and Education Council; 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.

2020-21 exhibitions are supported by Ellen and Durb Curlee, Alison and John Ferring, Jan and Ronnie Greenberg, Nancy and Ken Kranzberg, Joan and Mitchell Markow and Two Sister's Foundation, Emily Rauh Pulitzer, Mary Ann and Andy Srenco.

The Future is Present is also supported by the Windgate Foundation and the Whitaker Foundation. *Van McElwee: Time Fork* is supported by and Mid-America Arts Alliance, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the state arts agencies of Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas. Van McElwee is Laumeier's 2020 Kranzberg Artist. This fund, generously provided by Ken and Nancy Kranzberg, supports the presentation of new work by one St. Louis area artist per year.

Discover Laumeier is supported by the Windgate Foundation.

For more about Laumeier Sculpture Park, please visit www.laumeier.org

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