



For Immediate Release

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LAUMEIER SCULPTURE PARK ANNOUNCES 2021 BOARD CHANGES

New Executive leaders and board members bring national and international thought leadership in building diverse community connections, technology and innovation, and art education

St. Louis, MO – Laumeier Sculpture Park is excited to announce recent changes to its board of directors. This spring, a new board President–Travis Sheridan–and Treasurer–Stephanie Copp Martinez–were elected. They join current Vice President Alison Ferring and Secretary Kerrin Kowach, who were elected in 2016 and 2020 respectively, to create a refreshed Executive Committee for the sculpture park located in St. Louis County.

Travis Sheridan succeeds Matt Harvey, who served as Laumeier’s Board President from spring 2018 to spring 2021. Matt’s three years of leadership encompassed a highly impactful time of change that included the search and hire of current Executive Director Lauren Ross in 2018, and the navigation of the organization through the many uncertainties and challenges that came with the arrival of COVID-19.

In addition to changes at the Executive Committee level, Laumeier has elected three new members to the board: Amy Hauff, Kelley McCarthy, and Carlos Zamora.

Each of these board leaders brings unique expertise and commitment to supporting Laumeier’s short and long-term goals as outlined in its new 2021-22 strategic plan. Laumeier has launched efforts to make the Park more equitable and inclusive, improve messaging and outreach, and enhance operations for both board and staff. All board members help Laumeier excel at programs and community engagement, and ensure the sustainability of overall organizational health.

“We are thrilled to welcome new members and salute the passing of the torch to new Executive officers,” says Laumeier Executive Director Lauren Ross. “We could not do what we do as an organization without the energy and efforts of our board members – those who have served for a long time as well as those who have joined more recently. This cohort brings an incredible array of knowledge, experience, and expertise.”

As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, Laumeier is led by a board of directors consisting of dedicated community members who are passionate about the organization. Board composition changes as new members join and some opt to cycle off, while Executive officer positions have



renewable two-year terms. Laumeier Sculpture Park's board now has a total of 22 voting members.

Meet the Executive Officers

Travis Sheridan, Board President: Travis is Senior Vice President and Chief Community Officer at Wexford Science & Technology, LLC. He is passionate about entrepreneurship as a driver for economic development and believes innovation is a process to improve the human condition. Travis earned an undergraduate degree in psychology with a minor in conflict & peacemaking, a master's in organizational behavior, and he completed the coursework toward a doctorate in organizational leadership. He joined Laumeier's board in 2019. Travis and his wife Gina, manager of the Lewis & Clark Branch of St Louis County Library, live in Old North St. Louis in the city's first home made out of shipping containers.

Travis states, "I grew up near Fresno, California and at the base of three amazing National Parks, so spending time outside has always been important to me. Laumeier combines my love of art and the outdoors. Additionally, it is a jewel of our region and has a story worth telling. Art causes people to think, connect and question. If we are going to heal our community, art will play a major role."

Alison Ferring, Board Vice President: Alison is Director of the Ferring Family Foundation. Alison and her husband John are deeply committed to philanthropy, volunteerism and service throughout St. Louis, with a special emphasis on supporting arts and culture and early childhood education. Their leadership has had a transformative impact on the region. Alison has served on the Laumeier board since 2005 and has served as Vice President since 2016.

Stephanie Copp Martinez, Board Treasurer: Stephanie is Attorney and Founding Member of The Estate Planner, a Sunset Hills-based law firm devoted to helping people navigate the seasons of life through Estate Planning and Elder Law. Stephanie received her law degree from the University of Texas and has practiced law in Houston, Boston, New York and Palo Alto before landing in St. Louis. In her free time, Stephanie practices Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and is both a Masters' World Champion and Pan American Champion. She was recently featured in the book *Owning Your G.R.I.T.*

Stephanie first got to know Laumeier through the experience of exploring the park with her three sons and their family dogs. She joined the board in 2020 and will also now serve as the Chair of the Finance Committee.

Kerrin Kowach, Board Secretary: Kerrin is Associate Professor at St. Louis University School of Law. She has seventeen years of experience in the private practice of law at firms in Washington DC and Pittsburgh. Kerrin graduated magna cum laude and Order of the Coif from the Georgetown University Law Center. She received her B.A. in sociology and political science,



magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, from Villanova University. She is a member of the bars of Missouri and Pennsylvania and is licensed to practice in various federal courts.

Kerrin is active in a number of community organizations and serves on the Board for the Central Institute for the Deaf and Voices for Children. She and her husband David live in Ladue with their two children. She joined Laumeier's Board in 2018 and is especially keen about how the Park can engage families.

Meet the New Board Members

Amy Hauft is a sculptor who creates architectural-scale installations. She has presented her work in museums and galleries worldwide. A dedicated and accomplished educator, Amy serves as Director, College & Graduate School of Art and Jane Reuter Hitzeman and Herbert F. Hitzeman, Jr. Professor of Art at Sam Fox School of Art & Design at Washington University. Amy earned a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art from the University of California, Santa Cruz and a Master of Fine Arts in Sculpture from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She lives with her husband Jack Risley, also a sculptor and Professor at Sam Fox, and their two standard poodles in Souldard.

As a cultural institution dedicated to contemporary visual art, artists like Amy play an extremely important role on the board, contributing their creative thinking and ensuring an "artist-centric" philosophy and approach to programs and initiatives.

Kelley McCarthy served on the staff of Laumeier from 2017 to 2020, primarily as Director of Learning and Engagement. In that role, she spearheaded the summer art programs, including camp and the Teen Art Program, as well as EngAGING Arts, which provides art education opportunities for seniors. She also served as the liaison for the docent corps and tour programs. Prior to that, Kelley worked as an art instructor for youth ages K-12 in the Clayton School District and at Ladue Horton Watkins High School. She has studied at Washington University in St. Louis, University of Michigan, and Central Michigan University. Kelley is also an avid photographer, a community volunteer at various organizations, and a proud mother of two.

Kelley is an ardent advocate for education at Laumeier and has played a central role in shaping and delivering many of its programs. She will serve on the Education Committee that is conceptualizing and planning future direction for education and community outreach at the Park.

Carlos Zamora is a celebrated designer and illustrator. He is a Partner & CCO of CARTEL Strategies, LLC, a strategy-led, venture capital design firm specializing in aligning business, brand, and marketing strategies through iconic illustration, impactful storytelling, and typographic excellence. His work has been published by *The New York Times*, the *New York Observer*, *The Boston Globe*, *Advertising Age*, *American Lawyer*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Alive*, and *St. Louis Magazine*.



Carlos has a close relationship with Laumeier: his first poster in the United States was commissioned for the Laumeier Art Fair in 2006, shortly after he immigrated from Cuba; he created a second Art Fair poster in 2014 that was featured at the 3x3 Magazine Illustration Annual; and in 2019, he presented a new commission at Laumeier entitled *cART*, in which he transformed the park's fleet of 3 working golf carts into kinetic sculptures. He is excited to work with the Laumeier board on making the Park a meaningful place for all visitors.

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 is free and open daily year-round from 8 a.m. – 30 minutes past sunset.

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.

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

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