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**Laumeier Sculpture Park’s Executive Director Stepping Down**

(ST. LOUIS, MO)—Laumeier Sculpture Park announced today that Executive Director Marilu Knode is stepping down to pursue other projects, effective December 2, 2016. Knode served as the organization’s Executive Director for seven years, during which time she oversaw Laumeier’s first period of growth in its 40-year history. Knode also served as the Aronson Endowed Professor of Modern and Contemporary Art History at the University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL), where she will complete her final class in December 2016.

“I am very proud of what I have been able to accomplish during my time at Laumeier, working with Board, staff and community to rebuild one of the country’s great legacy sculpture parks,” said Knode. “I have been successful in setting standards for future success in the organization, and I look forward to where my successor will take the organization.” Board Chair Ramsey Maune applauds Knode’s efforts to stabilize the organization after the economic shift of 2008, and to establish new levels of professional practice in its programming and governance.

Knode’s most notable accomplishments during her tenure at Laumeier (2009–16) include:

* Completion of Laumeier’s $10 million *Sculpting the Future* Capital Campaign, including the construction of the Adam Aronson Fine Arts Center
* Reestablishment of the visibility of Laumeier’s 40 years of outdoor public art commissions
* Development of new national partnerships with the Park
* Development of new education programs to serve the changing demographics of the region
* Receipt of three grants from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), for the restoration of a major artwork by artist Donald Judd, a Collections Assessment and a project with artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer (Mexico / Canada) in celebration of Laumeier’s 40th Anniversary
* Establishment of *Archaeology of Place* and *New Territories: BRICS* exhibition themes
* Curation of the fall 2016 exhibition by South African artist Mohau Modisakeng, who was recently selected as one of two artists to represent South Africa at the 2017 Venice Biennale
* Commission of artworks by artists Sam Durant (United States), Pearl Fryar (United States), Ken Lum (Canada), Tea Mäkipää (Finland), Jenny Price (United States), Bernard Williams (United States) and Kim Yasuda (United States), among others
* Addition of artworks to Laumeier’s Permanent Collection by artists Jonathan Borofsky (United States), Alexandre da Cunha (Brazil / United Kingdom), Mark di Suvero (United States), Barbara Hepworth (United Kingdom), Ken Lum (Canada) and Ahmet Ӧğüt (Turkey)
* Receipt of a grant from the International Programs Division of the University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL), adding Laumeier to the international collaboration between UMSL and the University of Western Cape, South Africa
* Service on the Western State Art Federation’s Public Art Archive Senior Advisory Committee
* Service on the American Alliance of Museum’s on-site committee for the 2017 conference in St. Louis
* Service on grant panels for the NEA, Missouri Arts Council and the Regional Arts Commission

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Laumeier Sculpture Park is a living laboratory where artists and audiences explore the relationship between contemporary art and the natural environment. Founded in 1976, Laumeier is one of the first and largest dedicated sculpture parks in the country, making it an institution of international significance as well as a unique complement to the cultural landscape of the St. Louis region. Laumeier is a nonprofit, accredited art museum that operates in partnership with St. Louis County Parks. Projects and programs are supported by the Mark Twain Laumeier Endowment Fund, the Regional Arts Commission, the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Missouri Arts Council and the Arts and Education Council of St. Louis. Laumeier presents 60 works of large-scale outdoor sculpture in a 105-acre park available free to the public year-round, and serves 300,000 patrons annually through temporary exhibitions, education programs, public events and sculpture conservation.