



For Immediate Release

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Laumeier Sculpture Park Honors Missouri Lives Lost Due to COVID-19 with *Rose River Memorial* Installation

(ST. LOUIS, MO) – Laumeier Sculpture Park is hosting an opening reception and dedication on Sunday, March 6 for its installation of *Rose River Memorial*, a grassroots, community art movement led by artist Marcos Lutyens that uses hand-crafted red roses to honor and grieve the many lives lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Laumeier’s installation of the memorial will be located on the outside of the Aronson Fine Arts Center and will reflect on the tens of thousands of lives lost specifically in Missouri. This is the final piece to come on view for Laumeier’s spring exhibition, *Salutary Sculpture*.

Rose River Memorial was initiated in August 2020 and has since been displayed in cities across the country from Los Angeles to Washington D.C. For an installation in Kansas City during the fall of 2021, Lutyens worked with the Girl Scouts of NE Kansas NW Missouri to create 10,000 roses in partnership with Scraps KC, utilizing upcycled and recycled felt when possible. At the time, this number was an approximate representation of the COVID-19 deaths in Missouri. For Laumeier’s installation, the Park will use the 10,000 roses created in Kansas City and is working with the Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri, Perennial STL, and Park visitors to make at least another 6,000 roses out of eco felt, a product made from 100% recycled plastic bottles.

“It has been an honor for Girl Scouts to contribute to the *Rose River Memorial* display, in remembrance of the many lives lost during the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States,” said Bonnie Barczykowski, CEO of Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri. “As with so many people across our country, our Girl Scouts and their families have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This project enabled our girls to give back to the community in a very meaningful way. We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with Marcos Lutyens, *Rose River Memorial*, and Laumeier Sculpture Park on this very special display.”

The *Rose River Memorial* opening reception is scheduled for March 6 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. It will include a dedication ceremony at 11:30 a.m., featuring:

- A virtual message from artist Marcos Lutyens
- Comments from *Salutary Sculpture* co-curator Dana Turkovic and Nicole Dalton, Director of Program and Partnerships at Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri
- An interfaith prayer led by Rev. Jim Poinsett, Executive Director at Interfaith Partnership STL

The dedication will be hosted outside in view of the *Rose River Memorial*, weather permitting. Visitors are also invited to make roses throughout the day. A rose-making station will be located inside the Aronson Fine Arts Center from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. as well as in the Kranzberg Education Lab from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Laumeier plans to add additional roses to the installation later this spring.



"*Rose River Memorial* is such an important and timely public artwork, and we are so glad to be involved in exhibiting this project by Marcos and helping to contribute to this commemorative sculpture that has such a universal presence," said Dana Turkovic, Curator at Laumeier.

The timing of Laumeier's opening reception coincides with a proposed national COVID-19 Memorial Day. In collaboration with an organization called [Marked By COVID](#), Representative Greg Stanton (D-AZ 9th) introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives expressing support for the designation of the first Monday in March to be COVID-19 Victims and Survivors Memorial Day. On Monday, March 7, Marked By COVID will co-host a national COVID Memorial Day Virtual Vigil that will showcase events and programs from across the country, including the *Rose River Memorial* installation at Laumeier. [Learn more about the virtual event.](#)

Marcos Lutyens is one of eight artists featured in Laumeier's spring exhibition, *Salutary Sculpture*, which explores art's capacity as a therapeutic tool for adaptation, recovery, and rehabilitation. In addition to the *Rose River Memorial*, Lutyens has work on view inside the gallery. The Whitaker Foundation Gallery will be open from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on March 6 and is free 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 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.

2022 Exhibitions are supported by Ken and Nancy Kranzberg, Joan and Mitchell Markow and Two Sister's Foundation, Emily Rauh Pulitzer, Mary Ann and Andy Srenco.

Salutary Sculpture is supported by the Whitaker Foundation. Basil Kincaid 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.

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

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