

# Laumeiersculpturepark

ST. LOUIS

October 16, 2008

Contact: Mike Venso, Director of Communications  
Phone: 314-821-1209, ext. 20  
E-mail: mvenso@laumeier.org

Who: Glen Gentele, Laumeier Sculpture Park Director  
What: Appointed President and CEO of the Oklahoma City Museum of Art  
When: Effective December 31, 2008  
Where: Laumeier Sculpture Park and Oklahoma City Museum of Art

## Glen Gentele Appointed President and CEO of the Oklahoma City Museum of Art After Seven Years as Director of Laumeier Sculpture Park

**St. Louis, MO (October 16, 2008)** — Glen Gentele, Director of Laumeier Sculpture Park, has been appointed President & CEO of the Oklahoma City Museum of Art and will leave Laumeier at the end of December to assume his new post in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Gentele succeeds Carolyn Hill who is retiring at year end.

As Director of Laumeier Sculpture Park since 2001, Gentele dramatically revived the artistic direction of the institution through exhibitions, the collection, and education and outreach initiatives. He organized many exhibitions with international artists including Robert Chambers; Mark di Suvero; Franco Mondini; Christina Shmigel; Sol LeWitt; John Henry; Soo Sunny Park; Tobias Putrih; Joseph Havel; Karyn Olivier; and Tony Tasset; among others.

"We are so fortunate that Glen was at the helm of Laumeier during a critical time in our institution's evolution," said Laumeier Board Chairman John Wuest. "I cannot think of a better person to have overseen the growth of this fine institution over the past seven years. Matched with his teaching gifts as the Aronson Endowed Professor for Modern and Contemporary Art at the University of Missouri – St. Louis, he has had a significant impact in the St. Louis community and we wish him much continued success."

Gentele is credited with uniting staff members and the Board of Directors at Laumeier Sculpture Park around an updated institutional mission; successfully leading the museum through the museum reaccreditation process; establishing a long-term vision for the organization through the development of a strategic plan; strengthened corporate, foundation, and individual support; fostering relations with the academic community throughout the region; restoring seminal works in the permanent collection; growing the permanent collection through significant acquisitions; expanding public programs and educational opportunities; increasing visitation to over 300,000 annually; completing the construction of a new entry drive and accessible parking area for the museum; acquired an additional 7-acres of Park property; leading the on-going construction of a new pavilion in the Children's Sculpture Garden; and launching other important initiatives for the organization.

"The past seven years at Laumeier Sculpture Park have been invaluable and rewarding," Gentele said. "I am grateful to the museum, St. Louis County Parks, to the University of Missouri – St. Louis, and to the community for their support. I'm proud of the accomplishments we have made together during this fruitful and energetic period." Gentele continued, "Laumeier Sculpture Park is a cultural treasure and it has been a privilege to be a part of this institution's dynamic community. I look forward to Laumeier's future success."

The Laumeier Sculpture Park Board's Executive Committee, headed by Chairman John Wuest will form a committee to conduct a search for Gentele's successor.

--more--

# Laumeiersculpturepark

ST. LOUIS

## About Glen Gentele:

A native New Yorker, Glen Gentele brings over 15 years of museum and education experience to his new job at the Oklahoma Museum of Art, having served in important positions at The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art in Sarasota, Florida, the International Sculpture Center in Washington, D.C, the Art Museum at Florida International University (Frost Art Museum) in Miami, and most recently Laumeier Sculpture Park in St. Louis. In addition to his professional museum appointments, he has taught at Florida International University, the Ringling School of Art and Design, and is currently the Aronson Endowed Professor for Modern and Contemporary Art at the University of Missouri – St. Louis.

## About Laumeier Sculpture Park:

In 1968, Mrs. Matilda Laumeier bequeathed the first 72 acres of the future Laumeier Sculpture Park, together with a large story-and-a-half house of cut stone, to the people of St. Louis County in memory of her husband, Henry H. Laumeier, for the benefit of the greater St. Louis metropolitan area. In 1975, the park was proposed as a possible site for the exhibition of sculpture and the concept of Laumeier Sculpture Park emerged. Catapulted by a collaborative of citizen leaders in the arts, education and business communities, Laumeier Sculpture Park, 501(c)3, was incorporated in September 1977; over the years it has grown to 105-acres. Laumeier Sculpture Park has over 300,000 visitors annually.

Accredited by the American Association of Museums, Laumeier Sculpture Park is an institution of international significance. The institution itself is one of a handful of open-air museums around the world and a unique compliment to the cultural landscape of the St. Louis region. Laumeier provides high-quality learning experiences for the greater St. Louis community and for visitors from all over the world. The many changing exhibitions, concerts, educational programs, lectures and special events developed at Laumeier Sculpture Park for all to enjoy support the mission of the institution.

## About the Oklahoma City Museum of Art:

The Oklahoma City Museum of Art is located in the heart of Downtown Oklahoma City's Arts District. Accredited by the American Association of Museums, the Museum serves 170,000 visitors annually from all fifty states and over forty foreign countries and hosts special exhibitions drawn from throughout the world. The Museum is home to an extensive permanent collection of European and American art, including the most comprehensive collection of Dale Chihuly glass in the world, and the Midwest's premiere repertoire cinema, which presents the finest international, independent, and classic films.

## Attached Photo:



Glen Gentele / Photo by Mike Venso, Laumeier Sculpture Park

---

Laumeier Sculpture Park is located at 12580 Rott Road in St. Louis County, near Interstate 44 and Lindbergh Boulevard. The park is open daily from 8 a.m. until ½ hour past sunset. The museum is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 12 p.m. until 5 p.m. The museum is closed on Mondays and legal holidays. For more information, call 314-821-1209 or visit us at [www.laumeier.org](http://www.laumeier.org).

Laumeier Sculpture Park events and programs are made possible by operating support from St. Louis County Parks, the Regional Arts Commission, the Arts and Education Council and the Missouri Arts Council.

###