

CONTACT: Nicole Chism Griffin, PR – The Contemporary Austin
ncgriffin@thecontemporaryaustin.org / 512 453 5312 x 119 (P) / 206 947 2312 (C)

THE CONTEMPORARY AUSTIN ANNOUNCES THE LATEST INSTALLATION IN ITS MUSEUM WITHOUT WALLS PROGRAM, FEATURING 22-FOOT TALL SCULPTURE BY FORMER UT FACULTY MEMBER DAVID DEMING INSTALLED AT PEASE PARK

The public is invited to celebrate the installation of David Deming's Mystic Raven in Pease Park, made possible through the financial support of the Edward and Betty Marcus Foundation and a partnership with Pease Park Conservancy.

The Artist will be in attendance, along with City of Austin officials, executives from the Edward and Betty Marcus Foundation, The Contemporary Austin and Pease Park Conservancy, Pease Park neighbors, and art lovers from across the city.

WHAT Public Celebration of The Contemporary Austin's Museum Without Walls installation of David Deming's *Mystic Raven* at Pease Park.

The event formally celebrates the recent installation with remarks from city officials and refreshments for all attendees.

Guests may meet the artist and learn more about this monumental work that has been previously exhibited in downtown Austin and at Laguna Gloria.

The installation at Pease Park was approved by the City of Austin Arts Commission following careful review and a community engagement meeting. The piece will be on long term loan to Art in Public Places.

WHEN Saturday, December 16, 2017
9 am – 11:00 am

WHERE Pease Park, 29th Street and North Lamar Boulevard

WHO The public is invited to celebrate with the artist, city officials, and others

In attendance:

David Deming, Artist

Alison Alter, Austin City Council Member, District 10

Kimberly McNeeley, Acting Director, Austin Parks and Recreation Department

Louis Grachos, Executive Director and CEO, The Contemporary Austin

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HOW

The event is free and open to the public.

Parking available on the street or at the Lamar Senior Activity Center at the southeast corner of Lamar and 29th Street

The location is also served by Capital Metropolitan bus #338 on North Lamar Boulevard.

ABOUT MYSTIC RAVEN

A pivotal figure in the Austin arts scene, sculptor David Deming created *Mystic Raven* during his two-decade tenure as a professor of sculpture, drawing, and design at The University of Texas at Austin. Referencing both a human figure and “the spirit of a bird,” as the artist says, this abstracted form depicts a bird in the corvid family, which includes grackles, crows, and ravens, common in large cities around the world. The shapes atop *Mystic Raven*’s tripod of columns suggest a beak and wings. Originally commissioned in the 1980s for an office building in downtown Austin, this totemic sculpture exemplifies Deming’s interest in formal construction and industrial materials like welded steel. For Deming, a longtime Austin resident who currently lives in Cleveland, Ohio, this dynamic monument symbolizes the influx and migration of new residents to Austin that began in the 1980s, and the subsequent development, growth, and change throughout the city.

Mystic Raven was previously installed downtown on Congress Avenue and later at Laguna Gloria. It was deinstalled in 2013 for conservation reasons. In consultation with the artist, it has recently been restored and repainted by The Contemporary Austin, to be installed in Pease Park as part of its Museum Without Walls program.



THE CONTEMPORARY AUSTIN AND THE MUSEUM WITHOUT WALLS PROGRAM

As Austin’s only museum solely focused on contemporary artists and their work, The Contemporary Austin offers exhibitions, educational opportunities, and events that start conversations and fuel the city’s creative spirit. Known for artist-centric projects and collaborations, The Contemporary invites exploration in both its urban and natural settings—downtown at the Jones Center on Congress Avenue, lakeside at the Laguna Gloria Campus (including the Betty and Edward Marcus Sculpture Park, the Art School, and the historic Driscoll Villa).

Since its inception in 2013, the museum has also been building its Museum Without Walls program—an initiative that brings art to visitors in new ways and in diverse venues. Current Museum Without Walls projects include a partnership with neighborhood groups and the City of Austin’s Parks and Recreation Department to create a small-scale “art park” in Austin’s Perry Park, individual works on long-term loan to museums including the Umlauf Sculpture Garden & Museum and the Elisabet Ney Museum, and an ongoing partnership with the Waller Creek Conservancy to bring significant public art projects by national and international artists to the developing string of

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parks along Waller Creek in downtown Austin. The Current Museum Without Walls project on view at Waller Creek is *Forever Bicycles* by artists Ai Weiwei.

More information about The Contemporary Austin can be found at thecontemporaryaustin.org.

ABOUT PEASE PARK CONSERVANCY

Pease Park Conservancy was formed in 2008, and is dedicated to the rehabilitation, beautification and support of Pease Park, one of Austin's oldest public parks and iconic greenspaces. Unfolding across 84 acres, Pease Park is a series of connected greenspaces running along Lamar Boulevard from West 15th to West 31st Streets, providing residents and visitors alike with an intimate, yet sprawling, natural amenity. Owned by the City of Austin, Pease Park is a public park maintained, operated and programmed by Pease Park Conservancy, in partnership with the Austin Parks and Recreation Department. More information about Pease Park Conservancy can be found at peasepark.org.



ABOUT ART IN PUBLIC PLACES

Art in Public Places is a program within the Cultural Arts Division of the Economic Development Department, City of Austin. Established by the City of Austin in 1985, the Art in Public Places (AIPP) program collaborates with local & nationally-known artists to reflect the history and values of our community through cultural landmarks that have become cornerstones of Austin's identity. The City of Austin was the first municipality in Texas to make a commitment to include works of art in construction projects. By ordinance, 2% of eligible capital improvement project budgets are allocated to commission or purchase art for that site. Austin's Public Art Collection includes commissioned, donated and loaned artworks, and is found at sites such as the airport, convention center, libraries, parks, police stations, recreation centers, and streetscapes, enhancing public spaces for all residents and visitors to our City.

