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THE CONTEMPORARY AUSTIN

The Contemporary Austin reflects the spectrum of contemporary art through exhibitions, commissions, education, and the collection. The museum has two distinct yet complementary locations, the Jones Center downtown and Laguna Gloria, a fourteen-acre site on Lake Austin, which is home to the Driscoll Villa, Gatehouse Gallery, the Art School, and the Betty and Edward Marcus Sculpture Park at Laguna Gloria.

Jones Center

1851

The first three-story brick building in Austin is constructed on the corner of 7th Street and Congress Avenue.

1877

Tobin's Drug Store opens at 700 Congress Avenue.

1911

Texas Fine Arts Association (TFAA) is formed.

1926

700 Congress Avenue becomes the Queen Theater, featuring a balcony and proscenium stage.

1956

Lerner Shops moves into 700 Congress and renovates by adding storefront windows, a second floor, and a new front elevation on Congress, including an awning over the sidewalk.

1995

Texas Fine Arts Association purchases the vacant building at 700 Congress and renovates the first floor.

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1998

TFAA / The Jones Center for Contemporary Art opens to the public.

2002

TFAA changes its name to Arthouse at the Jones Center.

2008

Arthouse unveils the renovation and expansion plans for the Jones Center, designed by Lewis.Tsurumaki.Lewis Architects.

2010

Arthouse at the Jones Center reopens.

2011

Arthouse at the Jones Center and the Austin Museum of Art (AMOA) celebrate 100 and 50 years, respectively. At the same time, the two institutions formalize a merger under the temporary name AMOA-Arthouse, rejoining the two primary organizations that constituted the Texas Fine Arts Association.

2013

AMOA-Arthouse debuts its new name – The Contemporary Austin – and new mission to reflect the spectrum of contemporary art through exhibitions, commissions, education, and the collection.

Laguna Gloria

1911

Texas Fine Arts Association (TFAA) is formed.

1943

Texas legend Clara Driscoll donates her lakeside, 1916 estate in west Austin to be used “as a Museum to bring pleasure in the appreciation of art to the people of Texas.”

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1961

TFAA splits into two separate entities. Laguna Gloria Art Museum is created with the purpose of owning and operating the museum and grounds, and presenting exhibitions and educational programs in the Driscoll Villa.

1983

The Art School's 4,100-square foot facility is constructed on the grounds of Laguna Gloria.

1996

Laguna Gloria Art Museum changes its name to Austin Museum of Art (AMOA) and moves its primary exhibition space to 823 Congress Avenue.

2003

The Driscoll Villa and gardens and key features of the Art School complex are refurbished and restored through a successful \$3.6 million Laguna Gloria Renewal Project.

2008

The historic Gatehouse is restored and the Art School studios expanded by 2,500 square feet of new ceramics and painting space.

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