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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Media Contact:** Nicole Chism Griffin, PR – The Contemporary Austin  
[ncgriffin@thecontemporaryaustin.org](mailto:ncgriffin@thecontemporaryaustin.org) / 512 458 8191 x 142 (P) / 206 947 2312 (C)

### **Austin Parks and Recreation Department Announces Collaboration with The Contemporary Austin and Friends of Perry Park to Establish Perry Art Park**

Austin, Texas –Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PAR), The Contemporary Austin, Friends of Perry Park and Austin Parks Foundation are pleased to announce the official ribbon-cutting of the Perry Art Park project, at Perry Neighborhood Park, 4900 Fairview Drive, Austin Texas, 78731. The first such collaboration between The Contemporary Austin and the City of Austin, the launch of the new program will be celebrated at a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 4 pm on January 15, 2016.

The collaboration between The Contemporary Austin, Austin Parks and Recreation Department, and Friends of Perry Park, with funding from Austin Parks Foundation, the Perry Art Park project at Perry Neighborhood Park launches with the installation of Jim Huntington's *Dayton* (1977). The large granite and steel sculpture stands at 96 x 60 x 37 inches and is on loan from The Contemporary Austin, where it was added to the collection as part of the "Seven Sculptors" commissions in the late 1970s and early 1980s when the institution was known as the Laguna Gloria Art Museum.

"Part of the joy of working with the outdoor sculpture collection at The Contemporary Austin is having the opportunity to highlight a rich history of commissions and site-specific pieces at Laguna Gloria," said Louis Grachos, Ernest and Sarah Butler Executive Director of The Contemporary Austin. "We're dedicated to keeping the sculpture collection active and alive, and have embarked on strategic loans of outdoor sculptures to local institutions and parks, such as Perry Neighborhood Park. I am excited to see *Dayton* in a new context, and look forward to sharing it with new audiences."

District 10 Austin City Council Member Sheri Gallo will be attending the Perry Neighborhood Park Ribbon Cutting and stated, "I am so excited about this upcoming event, not only to represent District 10, but also because I grew up in the Highland Park neighborhood and my great-grandfather, Edgar H. Perry, donated the land that is now Perry Park."

Other long-term loans currently in place from The Contemporary Austin's outdoor sculpture collection include pieces at the Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum and St. Michael's Catholic Academy. The museum is pursuing subsequent phases of collaboration with Perry Park, additional projects with the Austin Parks and Recreation Department, and partnerships with other public and private entities in the city.

"The Parks and Recreation Department enjoys partnering with the community and organizations who can help bring a whole new perspective to our parks," said Sara Hensley, Director of the Austin Parks and Recreation Department. "With the generosity we received from the Austin Parks Foundation, donations from neighborhood families and businesses, and the hard work and determination of Friends of Perry Park, partnering with The Contemporary

Austin is elevating the landscape when it comes to adding a new dimension to our Perry Neighborhood Park. We are looking forward to many more collaborations with community organizations in the future.”

Austin Parks Foundation is dedicated to improving and strengthening the quality of life for people living in Austin through Austin’s incredible green space. "At Austin Parks Foundation we are committed to bringing people together for the benefit of our parks," said Ladye Anne Wofford, Programs Director for Austin Parks Foundation. "We are proud to bring art to the parks through our ACL Music Festival Grants Program, and we are thrilled with the outcome at Perry Neighborhood Park. This collaboration is a perfect example of coming together to make Austin's parks and public spaces more enjoyable for everyone."

Friends of Perry Park, a small group of volunteers whose mission is to enhance Perry Neighborhood Park, has worked on this project for several years. "We are thrilled that our vision of a neighborhood art park is becoming a reality. The Perry Art Park project has transformed this lightly-used area into a peaceful spot where the community can enjoy art in a natural setting," according to Juliee Beyt and Jessica Winslow, FOPP leaders.

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### **FRIENDS OF PERRY PARK**

Founded in 2005, Friends of Perry Park is a volunteer group interested in the overall preservation and improvement of Perry Neighborhood Park in Austin, TX. Past projects include installing of nature trails, a Learning Circle and fitness stations and re-surfacing tennis courts. Friends of Perry Park collaborates with Highland Park Elementary School and Highland Park West Balcones Area Neighborhood Association to enhance the recreational and cultural uses of Perry Neighborhood Park, which is becoming a vibrant hub in the neighborhood. More information is available at [www.friendsofperrypark.org](http://www.friendsofperrypark.org).

### **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 in downtown Austin at 700 Congress Avenue, and Laguna Gloria, a 14-acre site on Lake Austin at 3809 W. 35th Street, which is home to the Driscoll Villa, the Art School, the Gatehouse Gallery, and the Betty and Edward Marcus Sculpture Park at Laguna Gloria.

In 2013 the museum received a generous \$9 million grant from the Edward and Betty Marcus Foundation to help create an unparalleled arts destination at Laguna Gloria—now named the Betty and Edward Marcus Sculpture Park—with the majority of the funds committed to commissioning and acquiring sculpture and permanent outdoor installations by some of today’s leading artists. In April 2014, the museum announced the selection of Reed Hilderbrand Landscape Architecture to design the master plan for the historic site. Reed Hilderbrand is now charged with reconceiving the entire 14-acre estate—including the woods, meadow, waterfront, and Italianate 1916 Driscoll Villa—to create an unparalleled art-in-nature experience. Initial plans for the complex project are under way, and the museum looks forward to sharing the progress of the master plan soon.

More information about the museum, its exhibitions and programs, and its plans for growth can be found at [www.thecontemporaryaustin.org](http://www.thecontemporaryaustin.org).



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### **AUSTIN PARKS FOUNDATION**

Austin Parks Foundation (APF) is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people living in Austin and across Travis County by strengthening the region's parks system, which spans more than 27,000 acres. A non-profit established in 1992, APF fosters innovative public/private partnerships to develop, maintain and enhance the area's 300+ parks, trails and open spaces. APF is known for its annual flagship volunteer event, It's My Park Day, which takes place the first Saturday in March each year, and is a presenting partner of the popular Austin City Limits Music Festival at Zilker Park. For more information, please visit [www.austinparks.org](http://www.austinparks.org).

### **CITY OF AUSTIN PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) has been the trusted steward of the City of Austin's public lands since 1928, protecting and maintaining parkland and our urban forest, preserving trails, and offering a variety of sports, recreation, educational enrichment, arts programs, cultural opportunities, nature and aquatic activities. The Department continually strives to honor the past while embracing the challenges of the future, and to serve an entire community while maintaining meaningful connections with individual participants.

As part of its commitment for continuous improvement, the Parks and Recreation Department has achieved national accreditation twice (in 2007 and 2012) from the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). CAPRA recognizes park and recreation agencies for excellence in operation and service, and is the only body that accredits park and recreation agencies at a national level. More information about PARD can be found at [www.austintexas.gov/department/parks-and-recreation](http://www.austintexas.gov/department/parks-and-recreation).

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