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## **Background: UMLAUF Sculpture Garden & Museum**

### *Who was Charles Umlauf?*

Charles Umlauf (July 17, 1910 – November 19, 1994) was an American sculptor and educator born in South Haven, Michigan. His family moved to Chicago when he was six. At age 11, Charles began taking summer school classes at the [Art Institute of Chicago \(AIC\)](#). In 1929 he finished high school and began full-time at the AIC. For two years (1932-33), Umlauf was an assistant to Viola Norman, founder of the Chicago School of Sculpture. He exhibited two works, *Fawn* and *Satyr*, and modeled animals and figures for the 1933 World's Fair, the "Century of Progress International Exposition". Umlauf next spent a year working at the once-famous atelier of Illinois native, Lorado Taft (1860–1936). Returning to AIC in 1934, he studied three years under Czech-American sculptor Albin Polasek (1879–1965). Umlauf married fellow Art Institute student Angeline Allen in 1937. He became a supervisor for the Federal Art Project in 1939 and created sculpture for the Cook County Hospital and Lane Technical High School. During those years, European figurative and abstract sculpture caught his attention and he incorporated its influence into his work. Umlauf was hired in 1941 to shape the new Art Department at the [University of Texas \(Austin\)](#) by teaching courses in life drawing and sculpture. He retired as Professor Emeritus four decades later. In 1985 Charles and his wife Angeline donated their home, his studio, and 168 sculptures to the City of Austin; the [UMLAUF Sculpture Garden & Museum](#) opened to the public in 1991. In 2016 the iconic Garden & Museum will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and a recently signed lease between the City and UMLAUF promises a model private/public partnership for 100 years at its current — highly enviable — location.

*Where is the Sculpture Garden?* Umlauf lived with his wife, Angeline, and six children near what is now the heart of Austin's thriving downtown business and growing cultural arts district. Comprised of eight acres of land at the intersection of Barton Springs and Robert E. Lee, the UMLAUF permanently displays over 50 outdoor sculptures by Umlauf on a network of paths surrounding a central pond and waterfall in a shady garden of native Texas plants. This natural oasis is situated only blocks away from an urban capital city. The Museum varies its exhibitions to display work by Umlauf and other 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century artists. The UMLAUF is an active place of play, recreation, and restoration for people of all ages.

*Touch Points.* Visitors are encouraged to touch and feel dozens of Umlauf's outdoor bronzes in an unusually "hands on" experience. In fact, scientists now suggest that this is precisely the type of dynamic interaction that enhances both cognitive and physical wellbeing. Yoga is offered three days per week on the museum grounds.

# UMLAUF sculpture garden & museum

*Path to the future:* The UMLAUF Sculpture Garden & Museum now occupies two separate tracts of land. The visitors' area is a six-acre site lying below the original location of the Umlauf home/studio, which occupies approximately two acres. "A massive project is underway to connect the two separate areas via broad steps that will allow all visitors to easily negotiate the steep terrain that now separates public and private areas," notes Executive Director, Nina Seely. This Master Plan will be orchestrated over the next several years by Seely and the Board of Directors and seeks contributions from individuals and companies alike to help propel the Museum into the future and ensure that the legacy of the most well known and collected bronze sculptor in Texas remains at the forefront of the Austin art scene.

*"The Umlauf is the jewel in the violet crown of Austin."* — Roberta Crenshaw, Civic Pioneer and Austin Parks Advocate

*Events, hours and address:* The UMLAUF hosts a variety of exhibitions, educational programming, and fundraising events throughout the year. It is also available as a venue to rent for events, classes, meetings, corporate gatherings, family occasions and weddings. Address: 605 Robert E. Lee Road, Austin, Texas, 78704; Phone: 512-445-5582  
Museum Hours: Tuesday – Friday 10 am – 4 pm, Saturday – Sunday Noon – 4 pm. Closed Monday.

## About the UMLAUF:

The UMLAUF is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded around a vast collection of work by American sculptor Charles Umlauf. The UMLAUF Sculpture Garden & Museum exhibits the work of Charles Umlauf and other contemporary sculptors in a natural setting and provides educational experiences that encourage the understanding and appreciation of sculpture.

Website: [UmlaufSculpture.org](http://UmlaufSculpture.org)

Twitter: [@UmlaufSculpture](https://twitter.com/UmlaufSculpture)

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