

**Letter from the President:**

Greetings:

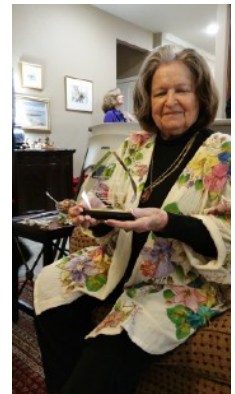
Upon completing my first year of a two-year term as president, I thank all of you who have worked so hard to make 2016 a great year for Texas Society of Sculptors. Our success is the result of contributions of many volunteers. This year three individuals were awarded Lifetime Memberships in recognition for achievements in sculpture and dedicated service to TSOS. We added new board members to help lead us into the future, and many new members joined. The year included upgrading the website, publishing regular Newsletters, an excellent exhibition at the Georgetown Library, arranging the placement of many sculptures in public settings in Central Texas, creating a program to purchase sculpture supplies for high school students in financial need, and expanding our collaborative initiative with organizations in the arts.

In 2017, TSOS has plans for the 25<sup>th</sup> SculptFest at the Oasis on Lake Travis, the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual TSOS Sculpture Exhibit at the Georgetown Public Library with increased financial support for awards from the Georgetown Arts and Culture Board, an Austin area high school sculpture student show, community-based Mosaic creation projects, establishing a scholarship program in conjunction with sponsors for SculptFest, and dissemination of information about opportunities for sculptors.

Joe Kenney  
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**Mary Thrasher Griffin receives "Lifetime Membership" Award**

Mary Griffin holds her "Lifetime Membership" trophy awarded Sunday, December 4, 2016 from the TSOS Board.



Mary Thrasher Griffin has been sculpting and studying sculpture since the young age of 72. Before that she had a career as a teacher, managed a catering business and raised her family. She explained her interest in sculpture as follows: "When I was small, my friends and I decided to dig a cave. Delightedly, we pulled the earth from an embankment with our bare hands. Suddenly I discovered a spot where the dirt felt different- smooth, pliable, the most wonderful feel\_ a vein of white clay. Never did I forget shaping that clay \_ thus began a life-long desire to sculpt."

One year before retiring as a band director and elementary music teacher, Mary had the opportunity to begin her career as a sculptor in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. She studied that summer at the Instituto Allende. "Sculpting", she says, "fired my imagination. I made up my mind to spend the first years of retirement studying this marvelous form of art. The feel of clay, the touch of bronze and working with fine instructors all combined to give me a new life of creativity."

Mary took classes every chance thereafter in San Miguel, Dallas and then Austin to work hard and become a fine sculptor. "I have made new friendships and formed alliances with amazingly inspiring artists," she said. Mary also found time to teach at the Austin Sculpture Academy, sharing her philosophy " With the right teacher, we can learn anything we desire."

Mary was a board member for the Texas Society of Sculptors until her recent retirement. She co-chaired its annual SculptFest event for the past ten

years. In addition to her SculptFest duties, Mary exhibited at the TSOS sponsored Georgetown Public Library Summer Show and demonstrated her direct sculpting in wax to interested patrons. She has exhibited in numerous other Central Texas sculpture shows and won several awards.

In March 2014, Mary hosted a one-woman retrospective of her sculptures at the E4 Gallery, 3307 East 4th Street, Austin, Texas. A book of her sculptures for the show was published on Shutterfly by Terry Wilemon.



Mary's recent retirement from the TSOS board and the SculptFest co-chair prompted the TSOS board to award her "Lifetime Membership" status for her service, enthusiasm, and inspiration to us all.



When asked her advice for helpful suggestions for other artists, Mary said, "If I had an opportunity to learn, I did not miss that opportunity. Learn from your teacher as well as the other students. I loved the esprit de corps we all had in class, and the board, and the school. It was so profitable to me in health, stimulation and having the ability to keep learning. It's been a wonderful adventure."

**25<sup>th</sup> SculptFest at the Oasis on Lake Travis  
May 5 – 7, 2017,  
Austin, Texas – Hill Country**

**Call for Entries** - Application and entry fees will be waived for this celebration, and there will be no commissions on sales.

Join us in celebrating the Texas Society of Sculptor's 25<sup>th</sup> SculptFest! This major invitational show will include approximately 90 sculptors in an outdoor event at the Oasis—the well-known "**Sunset Capitol**

**of Texas."** Celebrating sunset at the Oasis is a tradition in Austin that dates back to the 1960's and the 25<sup>th</sup> SculptFest will be held outdoors in the parking area at the entrance to the acclaimed Oasis Restaurant.

It is our goal to build on this time honored event by offering guests the opportunity to experience a wealth of art, culture, and creativity during their visit—and to take a piece of art home with them to treasure that memory.

In addition, Deep in the Heart Art Foundry will host live bronze pour demonstrations throughout the event and sculptors are encouraged to demonstrate works-in-process as well.

This venue also features the Oasis Texas Brewing Company, various upscale retail stores, and live music performances. We hope you can join us.

Admission for visitors will also be FREE!

Valet parking is offered in the multi-story parking garage and ground level parking with golf cart transportation is also available.

For Application and information go to - <http://tsos.org/sculptfest/>

**Contact Person:**

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***SculptFest 2017, Twenty-five Years in the Making*** by Marla Ripperda

This coming May 5-7, 2017 at the Oasis on Lake Travis, Austin, Texas the Texas Society of Sculptors will host its 25<sup>th</sup> SculptFest. The event has been spelled different ways, held in different seasons but has been sponsored by the Texas Society of Sculptors over the past 25 years. SculptFest is an outdoor festival celebrating the wonders of 3-dimensional art. This event features all kinds of sculpture (most is available for purchase) in many different mediums, such as stone, cement, terra-cotta, and bronze. Many of the sculptors demonstrate their techniques and all exhibiting artists are on-site to answer questions or explain how a certain work of art came into being.

The first "Sculpt Fest 91" (also spelled "Sculp Fest" on the invitation) was held April 27, 1991 on the grounds of the Elisabet Ney Museum from 10 am to 7 pm. Twenty-two professional members of TSOS showed up to five of their newest creations. Michael Hall of "Studio Foundry" with his assistant Daniel Butler staged two bronze casting pours at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. They also made the medals that were awarded the competition's winners. An estimated 1,000 persons attended.

The 1993 event was spelled "Sculp\*Fest" and coordinated by TSOS president Cindy Debold. Nearly 1,000 people attended to enjoy 20 artists exhibit and demonstrate on the grounds of the Elisabet Ney Museum on a cold November day and were served hot chocolate and hot apple cider. Awards were presented to both Professional Members and Associate/Student Members categories.

Billie Caselli Clark headed up Sculp\*Fest 94 and 95, and there were balloons and popcorn to create a festival atmosphere.

Herb Long organized Sculp\*Fest in 1996 and 1997. The 1997 event moved to the Umlauf Sculpture Garden & Museum. The October 4<sup>th</sup> event recorded 750 attending. Doug Pogue did a bronze patina demonstration and Cindy Debold made a face casting of TSOS member and avid Umlauf docent Bob Brooking.

In 1998, Nancy Cardozier coordinated a Silent Auction event. It was also the first time the group had received public funding for the celebration from the City of Austin Cultural contracts and the state's Commission on the Arts thanks to the efforts of Herb Long! Herb continued to apply and get funding until the event moved from November to September in 2003 at the Umlauf Museum's suggestion to coordinate with its participation in Austin Museum Day. This afforded TSOS visual presence and advertising opportunities it had previously been paying for with its public funding.

The annual event also saw its attendance and reputation growing over the years. The 2000 SCULPT-fest (note spelling change) had 1,200 persons visiting the 36 artist exhibitors, while the 2001 Sculpt-fest's event saw 33 artists and 2,000 persons attending. In 2002, the event was video-recorded, but the attendance shrunk due to rain and cold weather. But, in 2004 SculptFest (current spelling) had a record 51 artists sign up and 2,830 persons attending! More recent shows have averaged 25 exhibitors and 1,500 attendees.

Last year, the Umlauf Sculpture Garden & Museum had to schedule a wedding the evening of Austin Museum Day which created a conflict with our plans for the event. The Oasis venue was already under development for a three day show and was determined by the SculptFest committee and TSOS Board to postpone the 25<sup>th</sup> SculptFest until 2017.

(Marla Ripperda participated in SculptFest since 1995. She has served as Volunteer Coordinator, Artist Liaison, Co-Chair and Chair until her "retirement" in 2015.)

## C. D. Weaver - Austin Tx

Here is one of my recent pieces. In these pics I am making tools to carve a limestone relief of the **Pelican in Her Piety**.



My architectural piece is a stone slab about 35 inches long and two inches thick.



This pre-Christian symbol of the pelican said that in times of austerity, famine and hunger, the mother pelican would peck her own breast to feed her chicks with her own life-blood to keep them alive. It became a symbol of the self-sacrificing Christ and appeared frequently in the paintings, sculpture, mosaics and stain-glass art of the Middle Ages and High Renaissance as a symbol of faithfulness and sacrifice.



I also remembered that there is a portrait of Queen Elizabeth I in a British museum, painted in about 1557, and it shows the Queen Elizabeth I wearing her court finery, including her favorite necklace - the pelican in her piety. For that reason, this painting has always been known as the "Pelican Portrait."

## Joe Kenney - Georgetown Tx



Joe Kenney's sculpture "Jesus the Good Shepherd - Feed My Sheep" was dedicated at St. Luke's on the Lake Episcopal Church, Austin, on September 11, 2016. The 4-ft. bronze statue placed on a 2-ft. tall limestone base was commissioned in thanksgiving for The Reverend Roland A. Timberlake who served as Rector of St. Luke's for twenty years, 1982-2002 .

The statue is located in a garden area in front of the church on Lake Travis near the Mansfield Dam on Hy 620.

The sculptures will be on loan to the program for a one year period so there is plenty of time to day trip to lovely Marble Falls to enjoy these new additions.

Click on titles of work to enlarge and go to the **Highland Lakes Creative Arts** web-site.



[Awakening](#) by Peter Mangan



[Bull's Eye](#) By Candyce Garrett



[Spirit Bear](#) by Cat Quintanilla

## Cat Quintanilla and Perter Mangan

Sculpture on Main is one of the original supporting venues for public artists in Texas with their long standing annual completion and yearly Main Street exhibition in Marble Falls, Texas.

This years juried completion yielded its newest batch of larger scale sculptures and added a day long "table top" pop up gallery element at the city's jewel exhibition space known as The Pavillion. The day long event culminated in a "meet the artist" gala banquet with wine, jazz, fire cooked paella in a formula that promises to grow the program and its patronage though the Highland Lakes Arts folks ([www.hlarts.com](http://www.hlarts.com)) .

Best of show went to an architectural style piece "[Bull's Eye](#)"By Artist: Candyce Garrett. The sculptures varied greatly in the selections both stylistically and in materials.

## Liberty Hill 40th Celebration



Master carver Bob Ragan of Texas Carved Stone works on a sculpture to donate to the Liberty Hill International Sculpture Park during Saturday's 40th anniversary celebration of the 1976 Liberty Hill International Sculpture Symposium. Ragan has been a stone sculptor for 35 years. (Rebecca Canfield Photo)

Taken from article from the October 21, 2016 edition of the **The Independent newspaper, Liberty Hill**

By Rebecca Canfield

“The festival celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Liberty Hill Sculpture Symposium was “Saturday’s festival, is only the beginning of what is to become an annual festival leading up to the 50th anniversary of the original symposium. “ said Larry Nicholson, president of the Liberty Hill Development Foundation.

The original International Sculpture Symposium, which was held in October 1976. It took sculptors over two months to complete the sculptures. Williamson Museum Curator Ann Evans said the Liberty Hill symposium was the first international symposium in the southern United States and the sculptures today are appraised at \$1.6 million.

“We’re focusing on exposure of the artwork,” Nicholson explained. “We want to create an appreciation for sculptures. That’s why we brought in these local sculptors so people can see that. The sculptures are still a secret. We’ve got to open the doors and get people to come out and see them.”

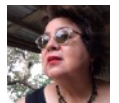
One part of the day that was particularly special, Nicholson said, was seeing the thrill people got while watching the sculptors at work. Throughout the day, the artists worked on a special sculpture that they later donated to the Liberty Hill Development Foundation. The pieces were auctioned off to help raise money for the conservation and repair of the current sculptures in the sculpture garden. Between the donated sculptures and the silent auction, Nicholson said that \$5,113 was raised. Nicholson also said that the City of Liberty Hill was a tremendous support and even bought two of the donated pieces themselves. The artwork will be displayed at the new City Administration Building as a way to showcase the heritage of the community.

“We’re out here showing people what stone carving is all about,” said sculptor Stuart Simpson of Austin Stone Carving, who spent the day creating a sculpted mask. “We’re really loving it.” The Friday before Saturday’s 40th Celebration, Liberty Hill students got the opportunity to come out early and learn about sculpting from the sculptors and craftsmen. “The kids were just so fascinated by it,” Nicholson said. “To me that made all these hours that we put in worthwhile. When you create an interest, you’ve done a lot.”

Mary Morse, a member of the Board of Directors for the Texas Society of Sculptors, stated that the Development Foundation will be seeking grants in order to accomplish some of these tasks. “We’re trying to clean up and repair the art,” said Morse. “There’s also a need to climatically house the archives and Mel Fowler’s small sculptures, and maybe one day to even expand the collection. The story of the sculptures is part of the story of the town.”

The Liberty Hill Development Foundation has now taken on the responsibility for the preservation and restoration of the sculptures.

## February Art Retreat in Mexico with Stone Carver Cat Quintanilla



Imagine yourself in WARM beautiful costal Puerto Vallarta, Mexico for a full week of art talk, art making and art exploring. (Feb 15-21, 2017). We will have an entire villa to ourselves that



is owned by a famous sculptor family located downtown near the coast and all the fun.

The mornings will be filled with carefully instructed sessions on working with creamy soft alabaster and soapstone. Expect to produce small scale precious 1-3 lb sculptures such as fetishes, intention stones, tiny abundance/Buddha vessels, maquette or any other creation of significance to you.

The basics of hand carving will all be covered but the scope is much much more with exercises in visualization techniques and seeing the world with an awakened set of artists eyes. A carving kit with small stones cuts is supplied to you ahead of time.



Cost \$175 per day double occupancy covers room and board (two meals), maid service and all instruction. (travel not included) Deposit \$250 plus materials fee of \$50.00.

We can arrange airport pick up door to door. Space limited to 14.

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**Texas Museum Links - check out the latest exhibits at these great art museums!**

**Austin - Blanton - <http://www.blantonmuseum.org/>**

**Austin - The Contemporary - <http://www.thecontemporaryaustin.org/exhibitions>**

**San Antonio - San Antonio Museum of Art - <https://www.samuseum.org>**

**San Antonio - McNay Museum - <http://www.mcnayart.org/exhibitions/current>**

**Houston - Menil Collection - <https://www.menil.org/exhibitions>**

**Houston - Museum of Fine Arts - <http://www.mfah.org>**

**Houston - Contemporary Arts Museum - <http://camh.org>**

**Fort Worth - Kimbell Museum - <https://www.kimbellart.org/exhibitions>**

**Fort Worth - Amon Carter Museum of American Art - <http://www.cartermuseum.org>**

**Fort Worth - The Modern - <http://themodern.org>**

**Dallas - Dallas Museum of Art - <https://www.dma.org/art/exhibitions>**

**Dallas - Nasher Sculpture Center - <http://www.nashersculpturecenter.org/>**

**San Angelo - San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts - <http://www.samfa.org/>**

**Smaller Contemporary Spaces:**

**Austin - Umlauf Sculpture Garden - <http://www.umlaufulsculpture.org>**

**Austin - Sam Z. Coronado Gallery-ESB-MACC -**

**<http://www.austintexas.gov/page/emma-s-barrientos-macc-exhibitions>**

**San Antonio - Blue Star Contemporary - <http://bluestarart.org>**

**Houston - Lawndale Art Center - <http://lawndaleartcenter.org>**

**Albany - Texas - Old Jail Art Center - <http://theojac.org/exhibitions/>**

**Marfa - Chinati Foundation - <https://www.chinati.org/>**