

# LANDMARKS

## PRESS RELEASE

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### LANDMARKS CELEBRATES 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY WITH ART AND ANIMALS

*Paws for Public Art Pairs Petting Zoo Animals with Iconic Works from Landmarks' Collection*



AUSTIN, Texas—February 27, 2023— Landmarks, the public art program of The University of Texas at Austin, will celebrate its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the launch of *Paws for Public Art*, a new program pairing art and animals to promote wellness. Hosted March 8 from 10 AM – 1 PM, the program brings miniature goats, hedgehogs, bunnies, chicks, and piglets to campus, with petting zoos stationed at four iconic works from Landmarks' collection: *Clock Knot*, *Monochrome for Austin*, *Circle with Towers*, and *Sentinel IV*. The program will highlight the ways in which mental health breaks with art and animals can alleviate stress and will be especially helpful to students as they prepare for mid-term exams. At 6 PM that evening, Landmarks will host a sound bath meditation with Sonic Starchild inside James Turrell's Skyspace, *The Color Inside*. Both events are free and open to campus and the broader community.

*Paws for Public Art* is organized in celebration of Landmarks' 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Launched in 2008 with a long-term loan of 28 works from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Landmarks' collection has expanded to nearly 50 works of art by some of the most influential artists of our time. The program is the recipient of several national awards and is recognized as one of the country's top three university public art programs. A museum without walls, Landmarks provides students and the community free access to great works of art, along with engaging public programs that foster personal growth and curricular connections across campus.

In partnership with the Longhorn Wellness Center, *Paws for Public Art* joins other Landmarks programs focused on wellbeing and mental health. In 2020, at the height of the pandemic, Landmarks developed an online meditation inside James Turrell's Skyspace. This past fall [Wellness Wednesdays](#) was launched, a month-long series of sound bath meditations led by Sonic Starchild. In partnership with the Fitness Institute of Texas, Landmarks also developed a fitness tour that coupled exercises with select works of art, which will be expanded and launched on Landmarks' [mobile app](#) later this year.

At the March 8 event, local petting zoo companies Tiny Tails to You and Wild Things Zoofari will offer opportunities to engage with animals, while Landmarks staff and volunteers will share insights about the works of art at each station. Representatives from The Longhorn Wellness Center will be on site to provide resources related to student well-being, including sleep, social connections, mindfulness, self-care, and more. They will also highlight the services offered through The Counseling and Mental Health Center and University Health Services.

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#### **ABOUT LANDMARKS**

Landmarks is the award-winning public art program of The University of Texas at Austin and the College of Fine Arts. Landmarks' collection of modern and contemporary art celebrates diverse perspectives, featuring commissioned projects alongside sculptures on long-term loan from the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Landmarks inspires thought and growth by making great art free and accessible to all. For more information: [landmarksut.org](http://landmarksut.org)