

# AUSTIN WAY

*Viva Regina!*

Emmy Winner  
Regina King  
Shines in Her  
Newest Role: Director

*The New  
Humane  
Economy*

**Dining Buzz:**  
*Oh-so Intimate*  
**Otoko**

AUSTIN'S  
WOMEN  
*of*  
POWER

DIY WITH CAMIL  
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS R  
HOLLAND TAYLOR AS ANN R

WHAT'S  
AUSTIN FOOD + W

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UMLAUF SCULPTURE GARDEN T

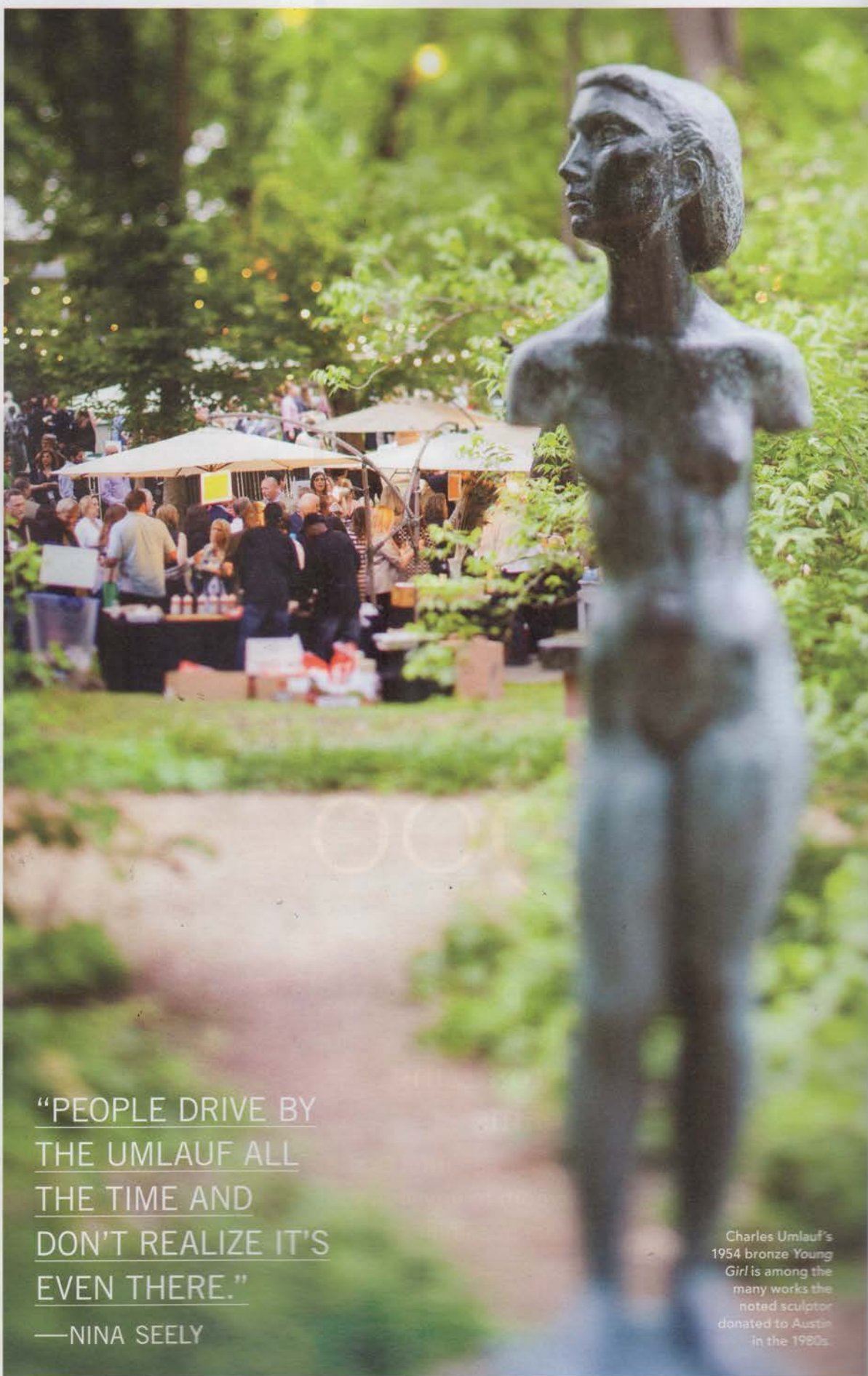
## URBAN OASIS

THE UMLAUF SCULPTURE GARDEN AND MUSEUM'S **NINA SEELY** AND **CARLA UMLAUF** CELEBRATE ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY WITH BIG EXHIBITS, THE ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY, AND GRAND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

BY KATHY BLACKWELL

For a quarter-century, the Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum has felt like a special secret. Tucked away just off bustling Barton Springs Road, the grounds are a quiet wonderland, complete with xeriscaping, waterfalls and ponds, footbridges, and captivating work by the late Charles Umlauf, the longtime UT art professor and noted sculptor who donated the land, his neighboring home and garden up the hill, and much of his work to the city in the 1980s.

"It's a peaceful, beautiful oasis in the heart of an urban capital city," says Executive Director Nina Seely. "People drive by it all the time and don't realize it's even there." Seely and Board President Carla Umlauf, the sculptor's granddaughter, are celebrating this year's 25th anniversary with an eye on what's next. In addition to the festive Garden Party fundraiser on April 28—one of the annual highlights of Austin's spring social calendar—two major exhibits are honoring Umlauf's work and legacy: In February, an installation called "From the Vault: Celebrating the Umlauf Sculpture Garden & Museum's 25th Anniversary" was erected at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport; and from April 22 through October 16, >>



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—NINA SEELY

Charles Umlauf's 1954 bronze *Young Girl* is among the many works the noted sculptor donated to Austin in the 1980s.



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Nina Seely and Carla Umlauf; *St. Michael & Lucifer*, 1985; *War Mother*, 1939; *Family*, 1960; *Mother & Child*, 1950; Umlauf and his famous student and muse, Farrah Fawcett, in his studio in 1970.

the Umlauf will move part of the sculptor's studio and reassemble it in the museum. An interactive section will walk visitors through his artistic process, allowing them to handle his tools and thumb

through his sketchbooks.

For Carla Umlauf, a successful real estate agent, the gardens are "a sacred space" where she spent her childhood exploring and spending time with her beloved grandparents (Charles Umlauf died in 1994; his wife, in 2012). She was 18 when the gardens opened to the public and has been on the board for the past eight years, becoming president in January, just in time for the milestone year. "The Umlauf has been part of my entire adult life," she says.

Seely, who joined the Umlauf in 2014, stresses that it's more than a museum. Although art education and appreciation are a cornerstone of its programming, it also

aims to be an urban retreat focusing on health and wellness. It offers popular outdoor yoga and meditation classes several times a week.

Both Seely and Umlauf are excited about the future. Plans include eventually doubling the garden in size from its current four acres by incorporating Charles and Angeline Umlauf's private garden and home up the hill. Carla Umlauf hopes to have a long-range plan in place by this fall, with a capital campaign set to start in 2018. "This is a big year for us," she says.

"I do think I'm the person to get us to the next place. This is my heart and soul." 605 Robert E. Lee Road, 512-445-5582; [umlaufsculpture.org](http://umlaufsculpture.org) ■

