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For Release Immediately

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The Thaddeus Stevens Society has contracted with Alex Paul Loza of Chattanooga, TN to sculpt a statue of Thaddeus Stevens, one of the greatest statesmen in United States history. The monument is to be located in Gettysburg, PA.

“This is a giant step in honoring a man who did so much for Gettysburg, the state of Pennsylvania and the nation,” said Ross Hetrick, president of the Stevens Society. “The statue will be a magnificent work capturing the spirit of the Great Commoner.” he said.

The 6-foot bronze monument is expected to be completed in late 2021 or early 2022, in time for its dedication in April 2022, which will also mark the 230th birthday of Stevens. When completed, the sculpture will be only the second Stevens statue in existence. The first statue is at the Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology in Lancaster. The Stevens Society is currently investigating various locations for the Gettysburg statue.

Stevens, who lived from 1792 to 1868, was the most powerful congressman during and after the Civil War and was instrumental in freeing the slaves and then trying to protect them after the war. He is also the father of the 14th Amendment, the single most important Constitutional amendment requiring equal treatment under the law and extending civil liberties to the state level.

Living in Gettysburg, PA, from 1816 to 1842, he helped found Gettysburg College and served on its board for 34 years. He is also known as the Savior of Public Education in Pennsylvania for an 1835 speech in the state legislature that turned back a repeal effort of the one-year old state education system. He is buried in Lancaster, PA, where he lived from 1842 to 1868.

“My goal with the monument is to highlight Stevens’s determination and never-ending stance to fight for the less fortunate,” said sculptor Loza. “To visually and emotionally communicate this message I decided to place his body weight on his club foot and walking stick while his right foot is set to take another step forward. His left hand clings to his cane to reinforce his drive to always move onward, while the other hand is very close to his heart protecting and holding his legacy, the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments.” he said.

Loza, 41, is a native of Lima, Peru, and has lived in Tennessee since August 2010. A graduate of the American Academy of Art in Chicago, he has 20 years of experience in using clay and paint to immortalize people and their stories. His goal is to bring diverse communities together and reveal the profound inter-connectedness of all people. He was selected as the sculptor after a nation-wide search that involved 20 submissions.

Loza’s best known works are Chattanooga’s first Latino public mural called “Dreaming Forward/Soñando,” and the first and only life-size bust of Dr. Emma Rochelle Wheeler, Chattanooga’s first African-American physician.

The Thaddeus Stevens Society, a 20-year-old non-profit group dedicated to promoting Steven’s legacy of equality and education, began fund-raising for the statue in November 2015. A large contributor to the effort is Michael Charney, a retired educator and teachers’ union vice president in Ohio. “I am happy to make a major donation to fund the statue of Thaddeus Stevens so that we can continue to seize the narrative of historical memory from those who would diminish the power of Thaddeus Stevens and other elected officials committed to racial equality,” Charney said.



Alex Paul Loza's 12" maquette submitted for the Thaddeus Stevens monument.



On August 28, 2019 Thaddeus Stevens Society President Ross Hetrick visited Alex Paul Loza's studio.

To view more works by Loza please visit:
Website: www.alexpaulloza.com
Instagram: [@alexpaulloza](https://www.instagram.com/alexpaulloza) #alexpaulloza