

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (March 28, 2022)

## **Latino Artist Alex Paul Loza Makes History by Creating Sculpture of Civil War Abolitionist and the Father of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment Thaddeus Stevens**

**Chattanooga, TN** – The Thaddeus Stevens Society will unveil its first commissioned monument of Pennsylvania’s Representative and father of the 14th Amendment, Thaddeus Stevens in a celebration commemorating Stevens 230<sup>th</sup> birthday from April 1 – April 4, 2022, in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The celebration will debut the life-size bronze monument on Saturday, April 2, 2022, in its permanent home outside of the Adams County Courthouse (NRHP - National Register of Historic Places) located at 111 Baltimore Street, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. *“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 Thaddeus Stevens Society. *“The statue is a magnificent work capturing the spirit of the Great Commoner by a magnificent artist,”* he said.

Stevens, who lived from 1792 to 1868, was the most powerful congressman during and after the Civil War and was instrumental in liberating the slaves and then defend them after the war. He is also the father of the 14th Amendment, the single most important Constitutional amendment requiring equal treatment—including former enslaved people—under the law and extending civil liberties to the state level. Stevens is buried in Lancaster, PA, where he lived from 1842 to 1868.

What makes this monument historical is not only the legacy of Stevens, but the artist who was chosen to complete this project from a nationwide search by the Thaddeus Stevens Society in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Alex Paul Loza, a Latino artist born in Lima, Peru who resides in Tennessee is known as a multidisciplinary artist and for the many works where he incorporates history and equity in each of his pieces. From creating 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, Loza embraces history and celebrates change.

*“Stevens utilized his knowledge and political influence to serve, defend and empower oppressed communities to bring equality and justice. I want everyone who sees my sculpture of Stevens not only see his tenacity and admirable beliefs but to be inspired in making change in their communities. I can relate with Stevens because as an artist, I use my artistry and voice to serve and empower my community and other unrepresented communities through storytelling. And the more I read about Stevens and spoke to Ross Hetrick, it made it easy to name the sculpture, “Men in Pursuit of Justice Must Never Despair”, a quote from his 1866 speech fighting for the 14th Amendment,”* said Loza.

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### **About the Artist, Alex Paul Loza**

Alex Paul Loza, a multidisciplinary artist born in Lima, Peru based in Chattanooga, TN has a heart for social advocacy and a deep appreciation for figurative narrative art. Loza had produced portraits, murals and sculptures which includes historical monuments that are exhibited throughout the world and for private art collectors. To learn more about the artist and his works, visit, [www.alexpaulloza.com](http://www.alexpaulloza.com).

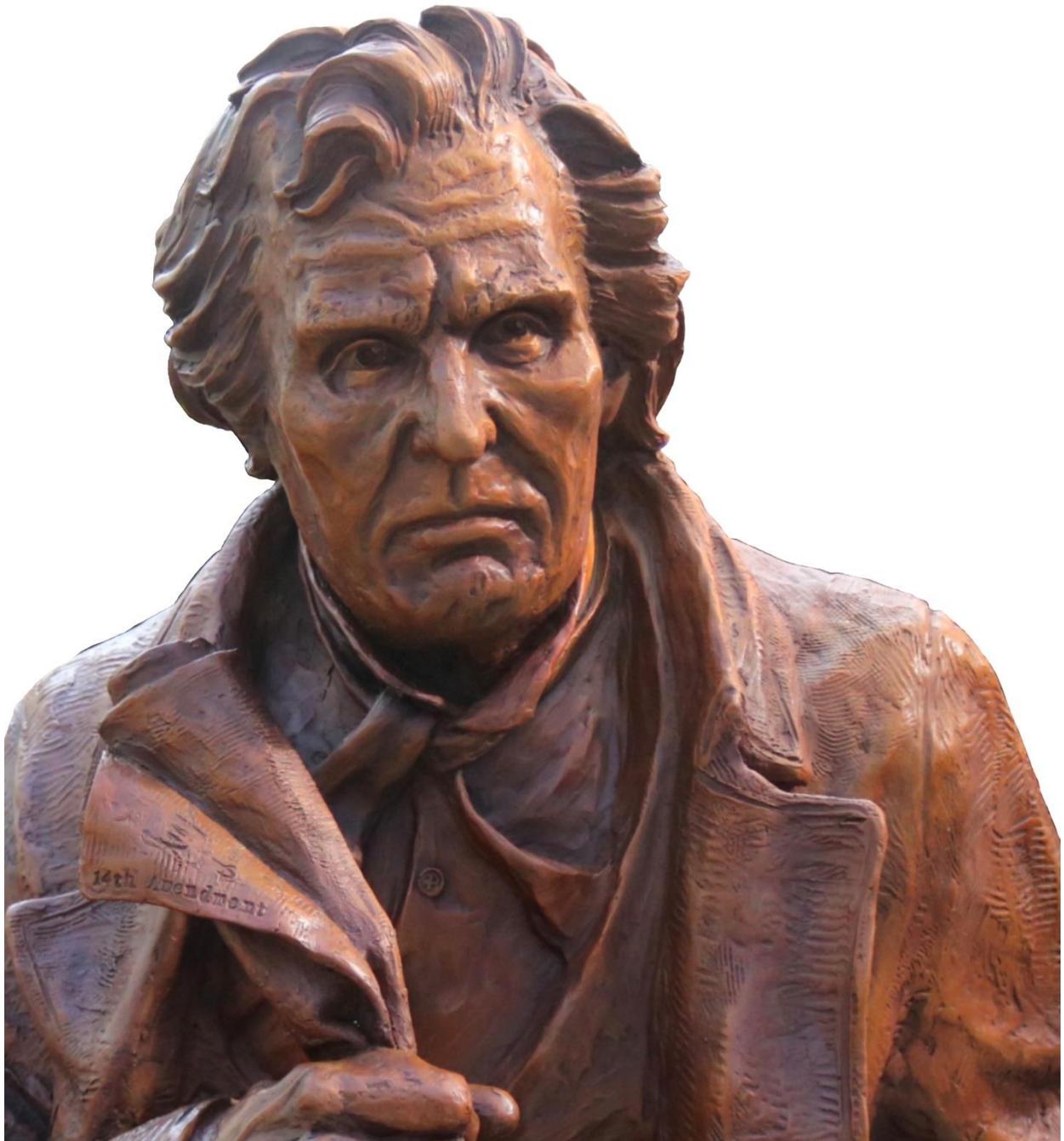
### **About The Thaddeus Stevens Society**

The Thaddeus Stevens Society is a non-profit group started in 1999 to promote the memory of Thaddeus Stevens, the most powerful congressman during and after the Civil War and a champion of freedom and equality. We hold seminars, have trips to historic places associated with Stevens and support efforts to restore sites related to Stevens. To learn more, visit [www.thaddeusstevenssociety.com](http://www.thaddeusstevenssociety.com).

Images:



Artist Alex Paul Loza in his studio in Tennessee working on Pennsylvania's Representative Thaddeus Stevens monument. 2021.



Bronze life-size monument of Civil War Abolitionist and the Father of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment Pennsylvania's Representative Thaddeus Stevens. 2022.



Artist Alex Paul Loza in his process of completing the monument of Pennsylvania's Representative Thaddeus Stevens, 2020.