Dedication

Replica of Olmec Head
San Lorenzo Monument 1

November 19, 2008

LLILAS/Benson Breezeway
Sid Richardson Hall
The University of Texas at Austin
In 2006, the Universidad Veracruzana, one of Mexico’s most prominent public universities, presented as a gift to The University of Texas at Austin this exact replica of San Lorenzo Monument 1, also known as El Rey. The original, one of seventeen colossal heads still in existence, dates from 1200–900 BCE and was discovered at the Olmec site of San Lorenzo, Veracruz. It is now housed at the Museo de Antropología de Xalapa, Veracruz.

The artwork, sculpted from stone by artist Ignacio Pérez Solano, is believed to depict an unknown Olmec ruler. Weighing 18 tons and measuring approximately 10 feet tall, it represents a unique opportunity for the UT and Austin communities to learn about the Olmec, an ancient Mesoamerican culture that flourished in southern Mexico 1500–400 BCE.