

## NEWS RELEASE

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## North Carolina Museum of Art Received \$2.5 Million Gift from Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation *Largest Grant in the Institution's History*



**RALEIGH, N.C.**—At a meeting of the 22 city boards of Wachovia Tuesday, Jack Clayton, Regional President of Triangle East Community Banking for Wachovia, a Wells Fargo Company, together with Museum Director Lawrence J. Wheeler and Secretary of the Department of Cultural Resources Linda Carlisle, announced a **\$2.5 million grant from the Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation to support statewide educational initiatives and on-site educational programming**—an unprecedented gift to the Museum.

"This significant, multi-year grant demonstrates our commitment to serving our mission to build strong and vibrant programs for use in the schools to help in educating the children of North Carolina," said Clayton. "By providing long-term funding for educational programming that will reach children and adults across North Carolina, the Foundation's partnership with the North Carolina Museum of Art will provide school children the opportunity to view and directly learn about the wonderful art collection at the museum."

The mission of the Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation is to build strong and vibrant communities, improve the quality of life, and make a positive difference.

NCMA educational programming has several components that will be supported by the grant, including in-gallery self-guided tours and distance-learning courses (planned for fall 2010). The most extensive program that will be funded by the grant is **Art of Collaboration, a program that supports integrated instruction of math, science, English, social studies, and visual arts at the middle school level across the state.** Conceived and implemented by the NCMA, Museum educators support teams of art and non-art teachers as they collaboratively plan and implement integrated curriculum.

(more)

Art of Collaboration programming has served approximately 2000 N.C. middle school students and 85 teachers since 2007. The year-long program is open to middle schools across the state; priority is given to reaching historically underserved counties. Students have shown marked improvement in learning, engagement, self-esteem, and peer interaction (verified by independent evaluation). Counties participating in the program in the coming school year are: Alamance, Bertie, Caldwell, Columbus, and Greene. Schools in Asheboro City, Lee, Chatham, Johnston, Guilford, Randolph, Pitt, and Wayne counties have previously participated in the program.

"Our educational programming has been recognized nationally for its innovation and positive impact in the communities we serve," said Lawrence J. Wheeler, NCMA Director. "This major gift from the Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation will allow the Museum to more expansively carry out our mandate of serving people across the state; we are grateful to the Foundation for their commitment to this shared vision."

The gift is part of a recently-announced \$50 million campaign to support the endowment, Museum programming, grounds, and general operations. To date, it is the largest corporate gift made to the campaign.

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**Note to Editor: A photo from the announcement is attached.**

From left to right:

Linda Carlisle, Secretary, Dept. of Cultural Resources; Stan Kelly, Lead Regional President Wachovia; Jack Clayton, Regional President (Wachovia) and Lawrence Wheeler, NCMA Director

#### **About Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation**

The Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation is a private foundation that provides grants to eligible 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations to support the following focus areas: Education, Community Development, Health/Human Services, Arts/Culture, Civic and Environment. The mission of the Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation is to build strong and vibrant communities, improve the quality of life, and make a positive difference.

#### **About the North Carolina Museum of Art**

The North Carolina Museum of Art's permanent collection spans more than 5,000 years, from ancient Egypt to the present, making the institution one of the premier art museums in the Southeast. The Museum's collection provides educational, aesthetic, intellectual, and cultural experiences for the citizens of North Carolina and beyond. The 164-acre Museum Park showcases the connection between art and nature through monumental works of environmental art. The Museum offers changing national touring exhibitions, classes, lectures, family activities, films, and concerts.

The Museum recently opened its new gallery building, home to the permanent collection. The North Carolina Museum of Art, Lawrence J. Wheeler, director, is located at 2110 Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh. It is the art museum of the State of North Carolina, Beverly Eaves Perdue, governor, and an agency of the Department of Cultural Resources, Linda A. Carlisle, secretary. For information call (919) 839-NCMA, or visit [www.ncartmuseum.org](http://www.ncartmuseum.org)

