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N.C. Museum of Art Opens SECU Auditorium, Education Spaces

SECU members via SECU Foundation provided \$1.9 million grant for technological renovation project

Raleigh, N.C.—The North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA) has opened a newly renovated auditorium, distance learning classroom, and an outdoor classroom, funded by a \$1.9 million grant from the State Employees' Credit Union (SECU) Foundation. The spaces are digitally connected and equipped with the latest technology to share the Museum's programs and resources with audiences across the state and beyond.



"We are thrilled to open these vibrant, state-of-the-art education spaces, and we are immensely grateful to the SECU Foundation for the generous grant that allowed us to do so," says Lawrence J. Wheeler, NCMA director. "These new spaces enhanced by contemporary technology will serve as a portal for accessing the Museum's world-class collections, special exhibitions, and award-winning educational programs both on-site and virtually throughout the state of North Carolina."

With the support of the SECU Foundation, the Museum has opened the following spaces:

- **SECU Auditorium:** The renovated auditorium features a technological upgrade that will enable the Museum to remotely reach thousands of communities—including K-12 students, universities, and educators—using video conferencing and live streaming. With the new technology, the Museum will now be able to host live broadcasts of renowned scholars, artists, and other professionals to viewers across the country.
- **SECU Distance Learning Center:** This upgraded meeting and workshop space is now digitally linked to the SECU Auditorium and the Museum's Education Studio 1 (described below), allowing students and other audiences to view live broadcasts from any of the three spaces or from remote locations.
- **Education Studio 1:** During the expansion and technological upgrade of this classroom, the space nearly doubled in size. The new classroom (pictured above) can now be divided into two separate rooms with an acoustical partition. One side of the room features an interactive touch screen that is digitally linked to the SECU Distance Learning Center and SECU Auditorium, while the other side includes sinks and space for art-making activities. Museum educators can choose to use the entire room or split the room into two sections for simultaneous programming.
- **SECU Courtyard:** This courtyard—the first outdoor classroom created at the Museum—encourages the Museum's philosophy of integrating art with nature. It is accessible from the Education Studio 1.
- **SECU Mobile Learning Cart:** This cart, which features video broadcast and live-streaming capabilities, enables curators, conservators, and NCMA educators to communicate with statewide schools from anywhere in the Museum.

"We're very excited that the SECU Auditorium and accompanying learning areas now open," said Jim Johnson, Chairman of SECU Foundation's Board of Directors. "SECU members are delighted to be part of sharing the Museum's vision of expanding their reach throughout the state for educators, students, and audiences of all ages to experience the world of art through its education programs and collections."

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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 South. 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 site-specific works of environmental art. The Museum offers changing national touring exhibitions, classes, lectures, family activities, films, and concerts.

The Museum opened West Building, home to the permanent collection, in 2010. 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, Pat McCrory, governor, and an agency of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Susan Kluttz, secretary.