



North Carolina Museum of Art

MEDIA CONTACT

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NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF ART FACT SHEET

PURPOSE AND HISTORY

The North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA) houses the art collections of the State of North Carolina. These collections had their beginnings in 1947 when the North Carolina General Assembly appropriated \$1 million for the purchase of works of art, making North Carolina the first state in the nation to use public funds to buy art.

The initial \$1 million appropriation was used to purchase 139 European and American paintings and sculptures. The Samuel H. Kress Foundation matched the appropriation with the gift of 75 works of art in 1960, adding the Museum to its program of endowing regional museums throughout the United States with works from the Kress Collection. The Kress gift to the Museum became the largest and most important of any except that given to the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

The Museum opened in April 1956 in a renovated state office building in downtown Raleigh, the state capital. On April 5, 1983, the Museum moved to West Raleigh off Blue Ridge Road, where it opened an 181,000-square-foot building designed by Edward Durell Stone. On April 24, 2010, the Museum celebrated the grand opening of a new 127,000-square-foot, light-filled gallery building designed to showcase the permanent collection. The single-story structure surrounded by landscaped sculpture gardens, reflecting pools, and courtyards was designed by New York architects Thomas Phifer and Partners.

Attendance: The NCMA welcomed 718,102 visitors in calendar year 2019.

Director: Valerie Hillings, PhD, as of November 1, 2018

Admission: Admission to the Museum and Museum Park is free; however, fees are charged for some special exhibitions and programs. Parking is free.

Hours: Tuesday–Sunday 10 am–5 pm. East Building is open until 9 pm on Fridays during ticketed special exhibitions. The Museum is closed on Mondays. The Museum Park is open daily, including holidays, from dawn to dusk.

Website: ncartmuseum.org. The site contains specific information about the Museum, exhibitions, and activities, as well as a searchable database of the permanent collection. Visitors to the site can purchase tickets and become Museum members.

Street address: 2110 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh, NC 27607-6494

Mailing address: 4630 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4630

COLLECTIONS

The state's art collection spans more than 5,000 years from ancient Egypt to the present, making the NCMA one of the premier art museums in the Southeast. The ancient collection includes Egyptian funerary art and important examples of sculpture and vase painting from the Greek and Roman worlds.

The collection of European paintings and sculpture from the Renaissance through impressionism is internationally celebrated with important works by Giotto, Sandro Botticelli, Raphael, Anthony van Dyck, Peter Paul Rubens, Antonio Canova, and Claude Monet. American art of the 18th and 19th centuries features paintings by John Singleton Copley, Thomas Cole, Winslow Homer, Thomas Eakins, and William Merritt Chase.

Modern art includes major works by such American artists as Marsden Hartley, Georgia O’Keeffe, Franz Kline, Frank Stella, Jacob Lawrence, Elizabeth Murray, and Joel Shapiro. Modern European masters include Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Paul Delvaux, Henry Moore, Anselm Kiefer, and Gerhard Richter. Galleries are also devoted to African, ancient American, and Jewish ceremonial art—one of only two permanent displays of Jewish art in an American art museum.

In 2005 the Museum received a gift of 29 sculptures by Auguste Rodin from the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation. The Museum installed the collection in the new gallery building and surrounding courtyards. With this gift the Museum is the largest repository of Rodin sculpture in the American South.

In February 2010 the Museum announced a promised gift of four paintings by Pablo Picasso, Alfred Sisley, Maurice de Vlaminck, and Emil Nolde from the collection of Josie and Julian Robertson of New York.

In 2015 the Museum received an exceptional and transformative gift of works of modern and contemporary art from the private collection of Jim and Mary Patton. Amassed over a lifetime, the Pattons’ collection includes seminal works by masters of mid- to late-20th-century American art: Milton Avery, Richard Diebenkorn, Jackie Ferrara, Helen Frankenthaler, Adolph Gottlieb, Hans Hofmann, Ellsworth Kelly, Robert Motherwell, David Park, George Rickey, Sean Scully, Frank Stella, and others. The gift included paintings, sculptures, prints, drawings, and photographs.

In June 2017 the Museum opened an expanded African Gallery in East Building where visitors can explore African creativity spanning 16 centuries. The gallery’s new space is three times as large as the previous space, allowing the Museum to display more works, including a masquerade area, a contemporary art section, an interactive space to engage with the art, and a wall highlighting North Carolina collections. It also features improved lighting controls, meaning light-sensitive textiles and costumes can be on view for longer than before. The gallery also includes Threads of Experience, an interactive area where visitors can explore weaving, embroidery, reading, and pattern making in relation to the works in the gallery. Threads of Experience is updated periodically to provide new and intriguing ways for the public to engage with the African Gallery.

THE FACILITY AND SITE

Location: 2110 Blue Ridge Road, near the intersection of Wade Avenue and Interstate 40. The Museum is a 15-minute drive from downtown Raleigh and a 20- to 30-minute drive from the nearby university towns of Durham and Chapel Hill.

The Museum comprises two buildings, East and West, sited in a 164-acre park of rolling hills edged by native woods.

East Building (1983)

Size: 181,300 square feet (including approximately 20,000 square feet in the mechanical services building and tunnels).

Cost: \$15.75 million, including \$10.75 million in funds appropriated by the N.C. General Assembly and \$5 million in private gifts.

Architects: Edward Durell Stone and Associates, New York, and Holloway-Reeves, Raleigh

West Building (2010)

Size: 127,000 square feet

Cost: \$72.3 million from the N.C. General Assembly, City of Raleigh, and Wake County, and \$4.5 million in private gifts for courtyards and gardens.

Architects: Thomas Phifer and Partners, New York, and Pierce, Brinkley, Cease and Lee, Raleigh

Ann and Jim Goodnight Museum Park: Encompassing 164 acres of gardens, fields, and woodlands, the Museum Park is a unique setting to explore the intersection of art and nature. Major works of sculpture and artist-conceived environmental projects are sited throughout this landscape, which also includes the Joseph M. Bryan, Jr., Theater; picnic areas; trails for walking and biking; and a terraced pond that is at once beautiful and a key element of an innovative storm-water management system.

The Park originated in 1999, when the Museum opened the Museum Park Trail, developed in partnership with the N.C. Department of Transportation and City of Raleigh. The Park's paved trails connect the Museum to the Capital Area Greenway system and the community by way of a 750-foot pedestrian bridge to Meredith College and the House Creek Greenway.

The Museum began construction to expand the [Museum Park](#) in August 2015. It enlisted landscape architecture and urban design firm [Civitas, Inc.](#), of Denver, Colorado, to develop the plan, led by the NCMA's Dan Gottlieb, director of planning, design, and Museum Park.

To unify the campus, a 2016 expansion project introduced tree-lined parking, contemporary wave and parterre gardens, a promenade connecting Park and galleries, and the Ellipse—a spectacular lawn overlooking the Park's rolling meadow. The Museum also installed significant sculptures by Mark di Suvero and Hank Willis Thomas in the new gardens, with others to follow.

The Park draws more than 150,000 annual visits from art, nature, and recreation enthusiasts. Future plans include expanded trails, environmental restoration, additional works of art and programs, and an amenity and restroom building serving snacks.

See the [Museum Park fact sheet](#) for complete list of awards and honors the Park has received.

SECU Auditorium and education spaces: In 2015 the Museum opened a renovated auditorium, a 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 technology to share the Museum's programs and resources with audiences across the state and beyond.

Conservation Center: In support of the Museum's mission to preserve the state's collection, the 3,400-square-foot Conservation Center is professionally staffed and organized to provide care, maintenance, repair, and restoration services for the priceless fine art collection of the Museum.

Art Reference Library: The Museum Library has grown to house over 40,000 volumes. It serves as a research-oriented, noncirculating collection, and its core holdings include the personal collection of the Museum's first director, William Valentiner. The holdings reflect the Museum's permanent collection, the exhibitions held in the past and present, and the history of art.

Joseph M. Bryan, Jr., Theater in the Museum Park: A 500-seat outdoor theater, with lawn seating for 2,000, opened in April 1997. The facility, which spells out the phrase "PICTURE THIS" in 80-foot-long letters, hosts outdoor movies and musical performances. The theater was created by textual artist Barbara Kruger and a design team that included architects Henry Smith-Miller and Laurie Hawkinson and landscape architect Nicholas Quennell.

PROGRAMMING

The NCMA provides dynamic educational outreach programs for prekindergarten to college students as well as a robust educator professional development program, serving 25,000 teachers onsite, online, and across the state. Each year, more than 30,000 visitors learn about cultures spanning 5,000 years through docent-led and self-guided tours. In 2018–19 the NCMA served more than 35,000 students and visitors in this capacity.

Teacher programs: In 2018–19 the Museum delivered professional development workshops to more than 1670 North Carolina teachers onsite and offsite and continues to enhance access to its collections through the use of information technologies such as online courses and videoconferencing for outreach to schools. Downloadable high-resolution images, lesson plans, videos, and activity ideas are available on the award-winning teacher resource NCMA Learn, which reaches over 40,000 educators annually.

NCMA Learn: The NCMA's teacher resource website, [NCMA Learn](#), features more than 225 of the Museum's works of art plus lesson plans relating objects in the Museum's collection to North Carolina curriculum standards in science, English, technology, and more. The website also features distance learning programs, school tours, and professional development opportunities for educators. The website reaches over 40,000 users annually.

Distance learning programs: The NCMA is a leader in distance learning in museums, providing access to the arts to students and teachers across North Carolina. Using state-of-the-art mobile videoconferencing technology in the galleries, Museum educators provide interactive virtual experiences to students who are unable to travel to the Museum in person. Virtual programs feature scholars, artists, and other special guests, bringing cultural enrichment into the far reaches of the state. In 2019, more than 3100 students were engaged through videoconferencing programs. The NCMA's distance learning program also includes online courses for educators and students. In partnership with North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS), the NCMA reaches nearly 500 middle and high school students from across the state each year.

Family programs: Every year, over 8,000 family visitors of all ages discover hands-on studio art workshops, multisensory tours of the collection, festive family days, and other activities and programs inside the Museum and outdoors in the Museum Park. Families also enjoy the award-winning African Textile Lab and encounter interactive activities that bring works from the African collection to life.

Teen and college programs: With its rapidly growing teen and college program, the Museum serves over 8,000 teens and college students annually through dedicated exhibitions and events (College Night and ArtScene); onsite and virtual college tours; community outreach; and two specialized ambassador programs, the Teen Arts Council and the College Advisory Panel.

Adult programs: The Museum's adult programs also allow lifelong learners to engage in education in the arts through thought-provoking discussions, symposia, seminars, artist-led studio workshops, and lectures. The NCMA also offers outdoor and indoor films, concerts, performances, as well as a number of social events in the galleries and the park. In 2017-18 the NCMA engaged over 60,000 visitors through its adult programs.

Annual events

The NCMA hosts annual events such as the fundraiser Monster Drawing Rally, featuring artists drawing live in the galleries and auctioning off their work to the crowd. Both years the event has been held have sold out, allowing nearly 600 people the chance to see local artists in action and support the Museum. The yearly Art in Bloom fundraiser transforms West Building galleries into a fragrant garden, featuring floral works of art by florists from around the state and beyond. Along with related events, Art in Bloom is a visitor favorite; in 2019 it attracted more than 21,000 visitors over four days.

Ticketed exhibitions

In addition to numerous free exhibitions throughout the year, the NCMA is host to ticketed exhibitions, including traveling exhibitions and other specially curated installations. Popular exhibitions in the past include *Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera, and Mexican Modernism from the Jacques and Natasha Gelman Collection*; *You Are Here: Light, Color, and Sound Experiences*; *Ansel Adams: Masterworks*; *Rolling Sculpture: Art Deco Cars from the 1930s and '40s*; and *The Worlds of M. C. Escher: Nature, Science, and Imagination*.

OTHER SERVICES

Museum membership: The Museum has approximately 20,048 members. Member benefits include discounts in the Museum Store and Iris restaurant; free admission to special exhibitions; subscriptions to publications; and discounts on education programs, travel opportunities, and special events. (919) 664-6754.

Museum Store: Located in West Building, the Museum Store sells art-related merchandise, books, exhibition catalogues, posters, jewelry, and educational gifts, including games and toys.

Iris restaurant: Located in West Building, Iris is a sophisticated, full-service restaurant featuring contemporary American cuisine with regional and international flavors in a distinctly modern setting. Iris is open for lunch Tuesday–Saturday and brunch on Saturday and Sunday. (919) 664-6838

Box Office: The Box Office is located in East Building and is open during Museum hours. (919) 715-5923.

OPERATING BUDGET AND SOURCES OF INCOME

Operating budget: Approximately \$22.39 million in operating funds for fiscal year 2018–19. Of that amount, approximately 48 percent is appropriated by the State of North Carolina, and the remainder is provided from earned revenues and contributions administered by the North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation. Operating expenses do not include costs related to art acquisition or capital improvement.

Sources of income: Exhibitions and programs are supported by earned revenue, contributions, and grants administered by the North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation. The Museum's main source of funds for acquisitions to the collections is investment income from the \$5 million Robert F. Phifer Fund, an endowment overseen by the North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation.

Staff: Approximately 200 employees including seasonal staff.

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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 Ann and Jim Goodnight 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 North Carolina Museum of Art is led by Director Valerie Hillings, PhD. Located at 2110 Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh, the NCMA is the art museum of the State of North Carolina and an agency of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, serving under the leadership of Governor Roy Cooper and the direction of Secretary Susi Hamilton, DNCR.

Last updated: January 2020