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N.C. Museum of Art Awarded \$149,614 Grant by Institute of Museum and Library Services Grant will be used toward project to research and improve art-integrated learning across disciplines

Raleigh, N.C.—Today the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) awarded \$149,614 to the North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA). The Museum will use the grant funds to launch a two-year investigation into the changing needs of classrooms and students across the state, and into the unique role of art museums in today's educational environment.

During the project, titled *Museum Solutions for Tomorrow's Learners*, the NCMA will collaborate with a community of educators, students, and a national panel of experts to understand the changing needs and instructional methodologies of tomorrow's classrooms. The Museum will develop, test, and evaluate resources that support teachers as they gain skills in using STEM- (Science, Technology Engineering, and Math) based and art-integrated strategies to improve student learning across the disciplines in preschool through college. The findings will be shared with the museum community at large to forge new conversations about the role of art museums in a changing educational environment.

"Our grants are highly competitive. The Institute of Museum and Library Services enlists hundreds of library and museum professionals throughout the United States to review grant applications and make recommendations on projects most worthy of funding," said IMLS Director Susan H. Hildreth. "Receiving a grant from IMLS is a significant achievement, and we congratulate the NCMA for being among the 2014 IMLS museum grantees."

IMLS museum grants support a variety of projects that create learning experiences, strengthen communities, care for collections, and provide broad public access.

"We are extremely grateful to the IMLS for awarding us this grant, which will allow the Museum to continue to create vivid and out-of-the-ordinary art education experiences in the Museum, in classrooms, and around the state," says Lawrence J. Wheeler, director of the NCMA. "Not only will the grant help us to collaborate with students and teachers in developing art-based learning programs, but it will also promote the NCMA as a welcoming place that values creativity and encourages imaginative thinking."

A complete list of museum recipients is available on the <u>IMLS website</u>. For information about IMLS museum grant programs, see <u>here</u>.

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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 Cultural Resources, Susan Kluttz, secretary.

About the Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums. Our mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Our grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. To learn more visit imls.gov and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.