A VISIT TO THE MUSEUM PARK
—
A SOCIAL NARRATIVE

Guide for first-time visitors, families, and visitors with autism or intellectual disabilities
INTRODUCTION

We are going to visit the North Carolina Museum of Art. You can call it the NCMA for short. The NCMA is located on the largest art campus in North America. It is 164 acres in all. You can get an idea of how big it is from this picture, taken from above the Museum!
PARKING

There is a parking lot in front of the Museum and one behind the Museum. The one in front of the Museum is closest to the Park. We can tell we’re getting close to the Park when we see the Ellipse. Lots of people like to meet friends in the Ellipse to play on the flat green grass or have a picnic under the bright red umbrellas.
ARRIVAL AND ACCESSIBLE PARKING

We can find accessible parking in both of the parking lots. Once we park, we can go explore the Park!

We can pick up a Park map along the trail that shows which sculptures we can see. Here is a park map.
THE PARK

The Ann and Jim Goodnight Museum Park is named after two people who have supported the Museum for many years.

There are two types of trails in the Park: paved (asphalt) and unpaved (mulched). We can move and play throughout the park, but the paved trails are better for strollers, wheelchairs, and bikes. Dogs are allowed only on the paved trails.
THE ART

The NCMA has many sculptures outdoors. A sculpture is a figure or design made in three dimensions. A sculpture can be made from metal or wood or any other hard material. We will see many sculptures in the Park! Signs will tell us if we can touch the art. If it says do not climb, it’s to keep us safe!
BLUE LOOP

The Blue Loop is a paved trail that is one mile long and a little hilly. It starts at the Ellipse.
The Discovery Garden is a fun place to explore. We will see lots of native plants and wildflowers. There is even a sculpture called Sculpt. C that looks like a pig with red and white stripes. If we want to, we can climb up the steps and go down the slide!
THE POND

On the Blue Loop, we will pass the Pond. The Pond is full of natural wildlife. We may see ducks, turtles, and dragonflies on a sunny day.
If we need to use the restroom, get a drink, use a locker, or borrow a wheelchair or stroller, we can go to one of the two Museum buildings. East Building is brick on the outside. West Building is metal and glass on the outside.
When we enter East Building or West Building, we will be in a lobby where we will see volunteers, Box Office attendants, and security guards. All of these people are happy to see us and glad to answer questions. We might see school groups and other visitors, too!

The restrooms, lockers, water fountains, strollers, and wheelchairs are behind the information desk.
PARK PACKS

At the East Building Box Office, we can check out a Park Pack—a small backpack filled with activity guides and materials to use on our outdoor adventure. It even has binoculars. And when we return the pack, we’ll get an “ABCs of the Park” booklet.
HELPFUL PEOPLE

There are helpful people in the Museum buildings who are happy to meet us. When we have questions, we can ask a security guard, a volunteer, or a Box Office associate. We can ask them questions about the Museum, and they will help us find an answer.

If we can’t find our family or friends, we should look for a security guard. The guards are happy to help us find our family or friends if we ask for help.
ACCESSIBILITY AT THE NCMA

ACCESSIBLE RESTROOMS

• Accessible restrooms are available in West Building and on the top three levels of East Building.
• Family restrooms are available in the Education Lobby of East Building. Please ask a guard for assistance to access the family restrooms in West Building.

WHEELCHAIRS AND STROLLERS

• Motorized and regular wheelchairs of standard size as well as rollators are available free of charge and may be checked out at the information desk in either building.
• Strollers are available free of charge and may be checked out at the information desk in either building.

PARKING AND NAVIGATION

• Free ADA-compliant parking is available.
• Curb cuts are located at all entrances to the Museum.
• Elevators are available to all floors of East Building. West Building is a single story.
• Museum entrances have automatic doors.

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ACCESSIBILITY AT THE NCMA

SERVICE ANIMALS
• Service animals are welcome to visit the Museum. We follow the ADA definition of service animals.

LARGE PRINT AND VISION
• Braille is on all Museum directional signs and elevators.
• Large-print label text is available at the entrance to special exhibitions.
• Audio description is provided for select outdoor films by Arts Access, Inc.
• Large-print labels for selected works in the permanent collection are available at the West Building Information Desk.

HEARING
• Assistive listening devices are available from audiovisual staff in the SECU Auditorium and available for docent-guided tours at the West Building Information Desk.
• A written transcript of the Cell Phone Tour is available at the West Building Information Desk.
• The SECU Auditorium features a hearing loop to provide improved accessibility for visitors with telecoils. The hearing loop is available for films, lectures, and other programs in the auditorium.

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ACCESSIBILITY AT THE NCMA

ACCESSIBILITY TOURS AND ACCOMMODATIONS
• School and public docent-led tours including American Sign Language (ASL) are available upon request with at least four weeks notice. Contact Jen Coon, (919) 664-6820.
• Docent-led tactile tours are available for visitors with vision loss. Please request these tours at least four weeks in advance. Contact Beth Shaw McGuire, (919) 664-6778.
• Patrons requiring accessible seating for events in the amphitheater and wishing to purchase tickets online should buy general admission tickets, including any necessary companion tickets. When you arrive at the amphitheater, a guard at the entrance gate will show you to your designated seating area.

FOOD AND DRINK
• Food and drink are not permitted in the galleries.

LOCKERS AND WATER FOUNTAINS
• Coat check is available free of charge and is located behind the information desk in both buildings.
• Lockers are available free of charge and are located behind the information desk in both buildings.
• Drinking fountains are located behind the West Building Information Desk and on the top three levels of East Building.
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Please check the Museum calendar to see if there’s anything happening that might affect your visit. The museum may be busy during special exhibitions, public events, and Art in Bloom. During Art in Bloom, tickets are required to visit West Building.

Please contact us if you have any questions or feedback about your visit: (919) 664-6743 or robert.mlodzik@ncdcr.gov.

North Carolina Museum of Art
2110 Blue Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27607-6494
ncartmuseum.org

*Admission to the Museum’s permanent collection and Museum Park is free.*
REGULAR HOURS

GALLERIES AND MUSEUM STORE
Tuesday–Thursday 10 AM–5 PM
Friday 10 AM–9 PM
Saturday–Sunday 10 AM–5 PM
Closed Mondays and some holidays

MUSEUM PARK
Open daily, including holidays, from dawn to dusk

IRIS RESTAURANT, WEST BUILDING
Tuesday–Saturday 11:30 AM–2 PM
Friday evening 5:30–8:30 PM
Sunday 10:30 AM–2:30 PM

SIP COFFEE BAR, WEST BUILDING
Tuesday–Sunday 10 AM–4:30 PM