NC Museum of Art understands the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) as a unique technology to achieve the Museum’s goals of effectively communicating, researching, and educating the public about the arts. Laws, regulations, and best practices in the use of UAS are evolving. This policy seeks to ensure that any person using UAS on Museum property or for Museum business purposes complies with existing laws and regulations. For the purpose of this policy, UAS includes drones and any other unmanned airborne device, including balloons and gliders.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation establishes the State training and standards for the use of UAS as http://ncdot.gov/aviation/uas. The Federal Aviation Administration provides links to the federal laws and regulations at https://www.faa.gov/uas/. NCGS 15A-300.2 (a) states that “no unmanned aircraft system may be launched or recovered from any State or private property without consent.”

The NC State Parks policy states the following: “Park visitors are prohibited from ascending or taking off within or upon any state park area or state park water surface of any airplane, flying machine (includes drones, UAS, quadcopters), balloon, parachute, glider, hang glider (except with permit at Jockey’s Ridge State Park), or other apparatus for aviation. In some limited circumstances, these machines may be operated after obtaining a special activity permit from the Park. Additionally, State Law prohibits persons from launching or recovering any unmanned aircraft systems from state property without consent.”

Flights of unmanned aircraft systems on Museum property are restricted to uses that serve the Museum’s educational mission or business needs unless preauthorized for recreational purposes.

No commercial use of UAS is permitted on Museum property except as permitted above and with the consent of the Museum’s Director of Security.

No unauthorized UAS may be operated within 1000 feet of the Museum’s Plaza; this includes the use of UAS in the Amphitheater during performing arts events.

The approved users must comply with the regulations issued by the NCDOT and the FAA; these regulations are as follows:

- No flying over people.
- No flying above 400 feet.
- No flying outside daytime hours, defined as 30 minutes before official sunrise to 30 minutes after official sunset.
• No flying in an unsafe manner.
• No flying close to another aircraft as to create a collision hazard.
• No photography of spaces where an individual has a reasonable expectation of privacy. Consent is required from individuals when photos will be published or otherwise publicly disseminated, except for newsgathering, newsworthy events, or events or places to which the general public is invited.
• Infrared sensors or other thermal imaging technology is not permitted without the consent of the Museum of Art.

Requests for the use of UAS on Museum property are to be submitted to the Director of Security by the staff person who will be overseeing its use and assuming responsibility for ensuring that its use complies with the policy:

• Approved users must have the required permit on their person while operating the UAS.
• Approved users must submit a certificate of liability insurance coverage on an occurrence basis in the minimum amount of $1,000,000 Combined Single Limit, naming both the State of North Carolina and The North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation, Inc. as insured.
• Approved use of UAS on Museum property must be accompanied at all times by the requesting staff to govern its flight and destinations.