

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF ART ANN AND JIM GOODNIGHT MUSEUM PARK FACT SHEET**

#### **PURPOSE**

Among the largest of its kind in the world, the 164-acre Ann and Jim Goodnight Museum Park expands the traditional museum experience by connecting art, nature, and people in a sustainably managed landscape of gardens, forest, and meadows. Site-specific, temporary, and permanent works of art appear throughout the Park so visitors can explore sculpture informally out of doors on trails and paths. A variety of programs promoting performing arts, film, fitness and wellness, and community interactions activate every corner of the Museum Park throughout the year.

#### **BY THE NUMBERS**

- 164 acres
- 200,000 annual visitors
- 29 of works of art
- 3 miles of trails for cycling, walking, and running that connect to Raleigh's 100+ miles of the Capital Area Greenway system
- 2,800-person capacity outdoor amphitheater

#### **HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT**

Once the site of the Polk Youth Detention Center, the Museum's campus is now a unique cultural destination. After the prison was relocated to Butner, N.C., the North Carolina General Assembly granted clear use of the former prison site in 2005.

A master plan—produced in 1988 by conceptual artist Barbara Kruger, with architects Smith-Miller + Hawkinson and landscape architect Nicholas Quinnell—characterized the Park's natural, existing features into zones for future use. In 2000 the state legislature granted the Museum an adjacent site for the development of a museum park and trail system. In less than a decade, over a dozen works of art and two miles of trails have made the North Carolina Museum of Art one of a handful of museums in the world with both a renowned traditional art collection and a large outdoor art park. Its 164 acres make it the largest museum art park in the country.

In 2010 the Museum opened the Thomas Phifer-designed West Building for the collections, with garden courtyards, landscape, and ponds designed by Surface 678, of Durham, N.C. West Building's landscape connects seamlessly to a 2016 Park expansion, designed to unify the campus and create a new street frontage with tree-lined parking, contemporary gardens, a Promenade walk connecting Park and galleries, an elliptical-shaped community space, and a spectacular lawn overlooking the Park's long meadow. The NCMA enlisted the landscape architecture and urban design firm Civitas, Inc., of Denver, Colorado, to develop the plan, led by the Museum's Dan Gottlieb, director of planning, design, and the Museum Park.

A new Park amenity building with bathrooms, a small café, and a deck overlooking the big meadow will open in 2019. Other projects include development of a Sensory Garden, Festival Lawn, additional trails, and continued environmental restoration.

## RECREATION AND PROGRAMS

The Museum Park's three-mile trail system invites visitors to explore the landscape and works of art on foot or bike (on paved trails). With the support of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina, the Museum built the Blue Loop in 2013, a one-mile multiuse trail. Walking leashed (and picked up—after) dogs, exercising, or just strolling are popular pastimes in the Park, which is connected to Raleigh's 100+ miles of the Capital Area Greenway system. Visitors may head east—over North Carolina's longest pedestrian bridge—to Meredith College and downtown, via the Art to Heart trail, or west to Umstead State Park and even on to Cary.

Opened in April 1997, the Joseph M. Bryan, Jr., Theater in the Museum Park is a 500-seat outdoor theater, with lawn seating for 2,800 where visitors can picnic. It hosts outdoor films and musical performances throughout the summer. The Museum celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its summer concert series in 2017, breaking ticket sale records and hosting a number of sold-out shows including Sheryl Crow, Mandolin Orange, Belle & Sebastian, and more. Past performers include Tift Merritt, Earl Scruggs, Rosanne Cash, Los Lobos, Wilco, Celtic Wonders, Mahotella Queens, and many more. The facility spells out the phrase *PICTURE THIS* in 80-foot letters, designed by textual artist Barbara Kruger and a design team that included architects Henry Smith-Miller and Laurie Hawkinson and landscape architect Nicholas Quennell.

The Park also hosts a variety of other public programs throughout the year, including free Park tours.

## SELECTED WORKS OF ART

***Awilda & Irma, 2014, by Jaume Plensa:*** These portraits are of a mother and daughter. The enormous scale of the heads blurs and softens individual features, making it difficult to discern race or age or gender, resulting in more universal portraits. Plensa wants his sculptures to speak to a collective human identity, to an essential human existence, and to what we hold common as human beings.

***Ulalu, 2001, and No Fuss, 2003–8, by Mark di Suvero:*** Internationally renowned for the monumental steel sculptures he has created for more than five decades, Mark di Suvero employs the industrial tools of cutting and welding torches and cranes to create massive architectural works out of steel I-beams.

***Ernest and Ruth, 2015, by Hank Willis Thomas:*** Shaped like cartoon speech bubbles, these sculptures offer visitors a place to sit and interact with the works of art and with each other.

***Gyre, 1999, by Thomas Sayre:*** Three huge ellipses made of concrete, colored with iron oxide, reinforced with steel, and mottled with pebble residue from earth casting.

***Wind Machine, 2002, by Vollis Simpson:*** A 35-foot-tall kinetic work constructed from found objects including bicycle wheels, propellers, candleholders, and a model airplane, and featuring a whirligig atop a red, white, and blue pole.

***Cloud Chamber for the Trees and Sky, 2003, by Chris Drury:*** Stone, wood, and turf structure. A *camera obscura* (an oversize pinhole camera) inverts an image of the sky inside the chamber.

***Lowe's Park Pavilion, 2007, by Mike Cindric and Vincent Petrarca:*** An Art as Shelter project whose shimmering panels mimic the iridescence of a dragonfly's wings. The structure provides seating and shelter and is often used as an outdoor classroom.

***Collapse I, 2000, and Untitled, 2007, by Ledelle Moe:*** Large-scale human-figure sculptures constructed of welded steel bars, construction mesh, and concrete.

***Wind Sculpture II, 2013, by Yinka Shonibare MBE:*** A 20-foot-tall sculpture featuring bright colors and distinctive textile patterns.

***You & Me, 2010, by Maria Elena González:*** An interactive sculpture installation that requires the active involvement of the viewer. Visitors are encouraged to collaborate with one another by standing on bright red paired platforms throughout the Park.

**Park Pictures:** Three 5 x 12 ft. art billboards located along the trails in the Park. The art displayed on the billboards changes two times per year and features rotating artists, university class projects, or college student competition winners.

**Moede Music Project:** This free app, an interactive artwork that creates a soundtrack for the Park experience, creates audio “zones” of original compositions that change how visitors view the landscape and art around them. To download, search Moede NCMA in the App Store for iPhone, and the Google Play Store for Android devices.

## **SUSTAINABILITY**

The Museum is committed to preserving its 164 acres for public recreation, for environmental and art education, and for unique collaborations among artists, designers, and environmental researchers. The Park is a uniquely positioned open space in the heart of a region that is being intensively developed by city planners. Since 2005 the Museum has been environmentally managing Museum and Park development with great success.

The NCMA reconstructed its retention pond—with support from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund—into a series of terraces planted with native perennials and ornamental grasses to control and filter storm water before it enters North Carolina’s streams and rivers. Pollutants are filtered from the water via plant roots and soil particles. Complementing the 2016 Park expansion, the Pond renovation is part of a comprehensive storm-water management initiative for the extensive Museum campus, including a 90,000-gallon cistern, rain gardens, drought-tolerant plantings, and fescue lawn.

Wherever possible, the horticulture program in the Park supports native plantings. Park volunteers meet every week to augment the horticulture staff on various projects in the landscape. The Park also hosts a 15-hive aviary, pollinator, and fruit gardens, and will soon feature a Sensory Garden in a formerly neglected forest area. Integrating public use, art, and environmental awareness, future projects will restore health to House Creek, remove invasive species from forests, and expand meadows.

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

2017

American Institute of Architects North Carolina  
Top 25 Must See Architecture for North Carolina – West Building

American Society of Landscape Architecture National Honor Award, Merging Culture + Ecology  
West Building Landscape (Surface 678, landscape architect)

City of Raleigh Sir Walter Raleigh Award  
Jury’s Choice Award, Ann and Jim Goodnight Park

Triangle CREW Champion Award  
Best public development, Park Expansion Design

Triangle CREW Champion Award, Best Public Development

*Triangle Business Journal* Award, Park Expansion

Lifetime Achievement Award, North Carolina State University College of Design  
Museum Campus and Park

2016

*Architectural Record*, West Building  
List of Best 125 buildings in 125 years

2011

Triangle CREW Champion Award  
Best Land Use Solution, Sustainability

Triangle CREW Champion Award, Best Development: West Building

Triangle Chapter, American Institute of Architects: Isosceles Award  
Community Development

Sir Walter Raleigh Award, Sustainable Design  
Integrated Storm-water Design

*Triangle Business Journal* Space Awards  
Top Sustainable Project: Hospitality Development

2010

New York Chapter, American Institute of Architects Honor Award  
NCMA West Building (Dan Gottlieb, design director, Thomas Phifer, architect)

*ArchDaily* Building of the Year, Museum and Libraries category  
West Building, (Dan Gottlieb Project director, Thomas Phifer, architect)

American Institute of Architects National Honor Award  
One of ten buildings selected worldwide

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Admission and hours:** The Park is open during daylight hours and entry is free. The Park is patrolled by State Capitol Police, Park staff, and Museum security. Admission may be charged for performances in the Park Theater.

Restrooms, water fountains, and snacks are available inside the Museum and during events in the Park Theater. Trail entrances are located at the top of the Museum driveway, via the Reedy Creek Pedestrian Bridge and at the rear of the Museum parking lot.

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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, Roy Cooper, governor, and an agency of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Susi Hamilton, secretary.