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North Carolina Museum of Art Receives \$500,000 Grant from John William Pope Foundation to Name Gallery in Memory of Joyce W. Pope

Raleigh, N.C.—The North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA) has received a grant from the John William Pope Foundation for \$500,000 to name one of the Museum’s gallery spaces. The Museum’s Gallery 2, a 2,800-square-foot multipurpose temporary exhibition gallery, will now be named the Joyce W. Pope Gallery in memory of the late Joyce W. Pope.

“We are incredibly grateful for the generous support from the John William Pope Foundation,” says Museum Director Lawrence J. Wheeler. “With Joyce W. Pope’s passion for and support of the arts, this is the perfect way to honor her memory.”

Joyce W. Pope was president of the Pope Foundation from 1986 to 1992. She was a fixture in Raleigh as she supported her husband, John, while he grew Variety Wholesalers, Inc., from five stores into one of the largest retailing chains in the Southeast. Joyce was a dedicated patron of arts, serving as a founding member of the Raleigh Fine Arts Society.

“This is a wonderful way to honor my mother’s dedication to the arts,” says John William Pope Foundation Chairman Art Pope. “She would be humbled. But I also think she would be delighted to know that many visitors, particularly student visitors, will continue to enjoy fine works of art during their Museum trips in a gallery that bears her name.”

The first exhibition to be presented in the new Joyce W. Pope Gallery is [*American Impressionist: Childe Hassam and the Isles of Shoals*](#), which opens on March 19. Past exhibitions presented in the gallery space include *Leonardo da Vinci’s Codex Leicester and the Creative Mind*, *Edvard Munch: Symbolism in Print*, and *Object of Devotion: Medieval English Alabaster Sculpture from the Victoria and Albert Museum*.

Naming opportunities provide unrestricted general operating support to the Museum to offer a wide variety of exhibitions, concerts, lectures, and educational programming to the people of North Carolina. Seventy percent of the Museum’s budget used for operations and programming is provided to the Museum through private contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations. The remaining 30 percent is provided through appropriations from the State.

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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 Natural and Cultural Resources, Susan Kluttz, secretary.

About the John William Pope Foundation

The John William Pope Foundation is a Raleigh grantmaker whose giving has totaled more than \$100 million since 1986. Most of the foundation’s giving is directed to North Carolina nonprofits in the areas of human services, education, arts, and public policy. The Pope Foundation receives its support from the Pope family, owner and operator of the Henderson-based Variety Wholesalers, Inc.