

# Neurodiversity Guide to the NCMA



The North Carolina Museum of Art strives to welcome our neurodiverse visitors and offer them resources and information on how to make their Museum and Park experience comfortable and enjoyable. This guide introduces the two buildings that house the Museum's art galleries as well as the landscape of the Park. It helps visitors know where to park and how to get around.

## Contents

- 2 Getting to East and West Buildings at the NCMA
- 3 General Accessibility at the NCMA
- 4 West Building
- 6 East Building
- 7 Exploring the Museum Park
- 7 General Accessibility at the Museum Park
- 8 The Welcome Center
- 9 The Ellipse
- 10 The Amphitheater
- 11 Art in the Museum Park
- 12 The Pond

# Getting to East and West Buildings at the NCMA

The NCMA is located at 2110 Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh, North Carolina.

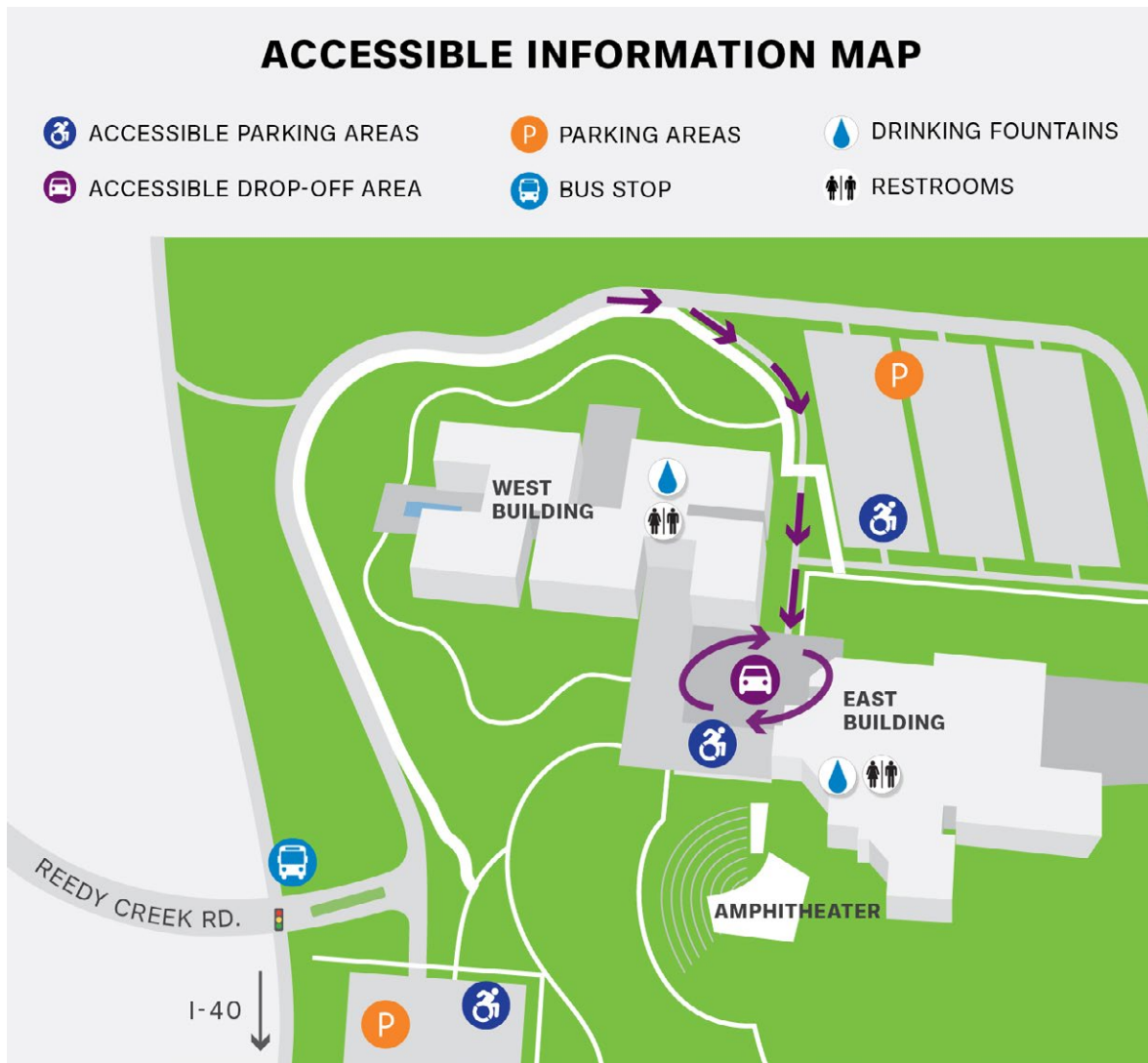
Visitor parking is free.

Accessible parking is available in Gipson Plaza, located between East and West Buildings. This plaza is also used for visitor drop-off.

If the plaza spots are full, there is accessible parking in the upper row of the lower lot.

General parking is available in the lower lots off Museum Drive and the upper lots adjacent to Blue Ridge Road.

*Note:* East and West Buildings are closed to the public on Monday and Tuesday.



## General Accessibility at the NCMA

Some signage includes braille on room doors as well as major navigation signs.

Accessible restrooms are available in West Building and on the top three levels of East Building.

Noise-canceling headphones and earplugs are available upon request at the Tickets/Information Desk.

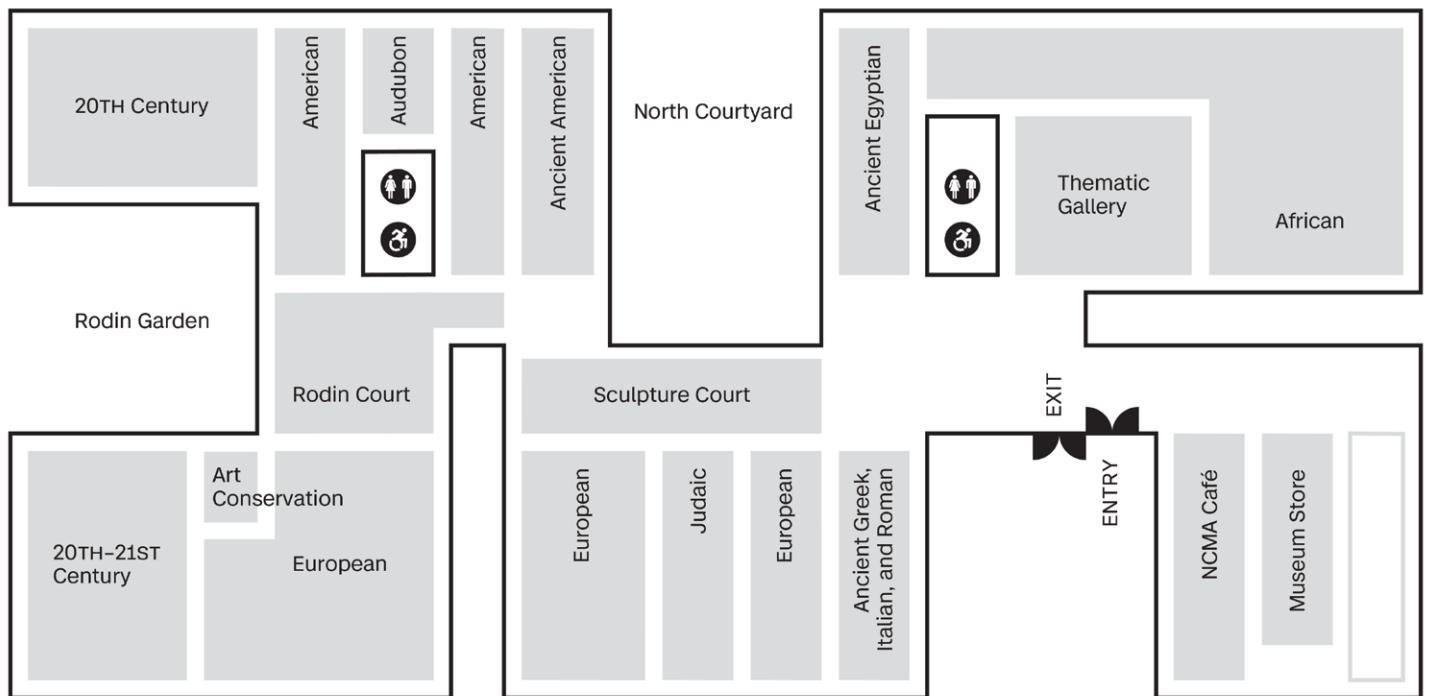
There is no designated quiet space in either building.

Quiet hours are held during special exhibitions. Learn more at [ncartmuseum.org/accessibility](https://ncartmuseum.org/accessibility) or by signing up for our [Accessibility Newsletter](#).

You can find more accessibility information about the galleries on the Museum's website, [ncartmuseum.org/accessibility](https://ncartmuseum.org/accessibility).

Please ask a security guard or visitor experience associate if you need assistance during your visit.

# West Building



There are 17 galleries featuring artworks spanning the globe, including Ancient Egyptian, Ancient American, European, Judaic, and modern and contemporary art.

Artwork by a featured North Carolina artist enlivens a lounge area to the left of the main entrance to West Building. Accessible bathrooms are located behind this lounge area and at the other end of the building, in the Rodin Court.

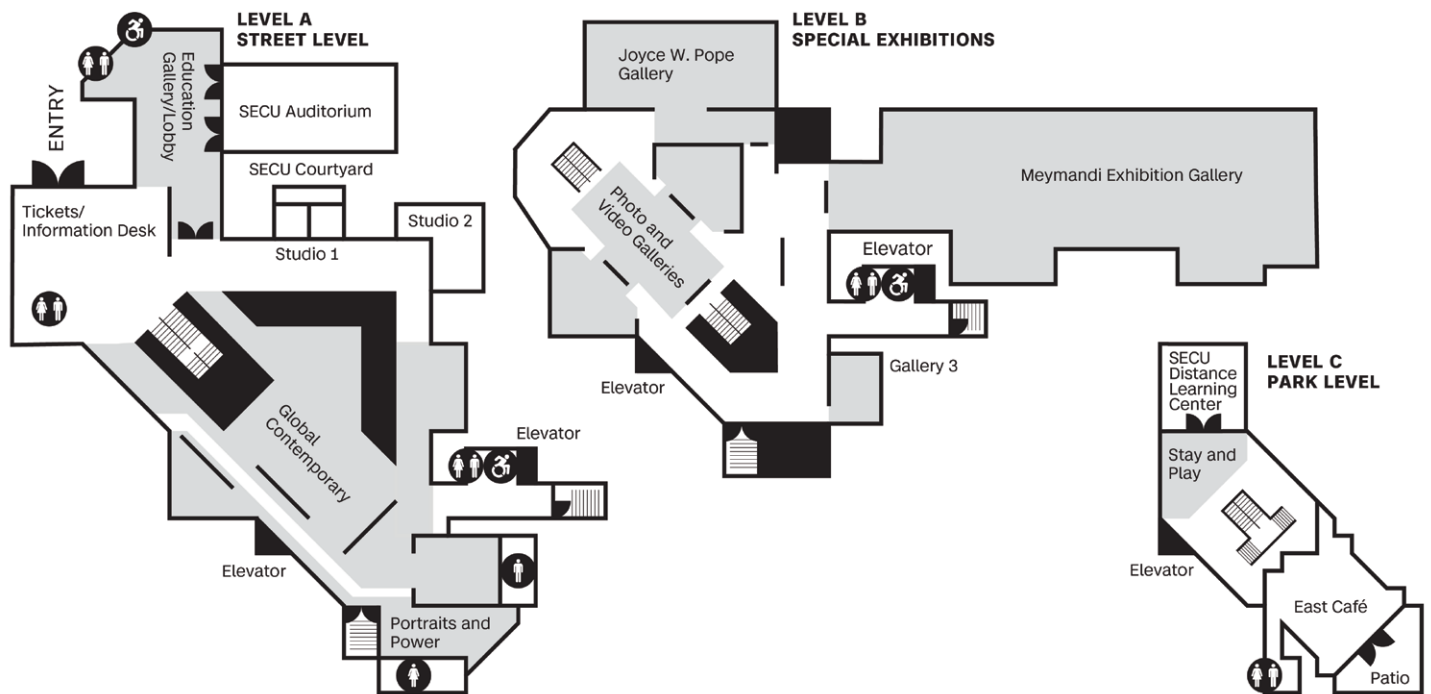
The NCMA Café and the Museum Store are located to the right of the entrance.

Benches are positioned throughout the building.

There are videos and interactives such as digital labels and maps, touchable stations, and games installed in various galleries.



# East Building



There are two major gallery spaces referred to as “Global Contemporary” and “Portraits and Power,” located on Level A, which is the entrance level.

Special exhibitions are installed on Level B.

Restrooms are opposite the Tickets/Information Desk. Accessible restrooms are in the Education Lobby of East Building as well as behind the Global Contemporary Gallery.

Elevators are available to access all floors.

Benches are positioned throughout the building.

There are interactives such as digital labels, videos, and touchable stations installed in various galleries.

An immersive artwork, *KABOOM!*, is playing in an enclosed room next to the Portraits and Power Gallery.

If you would like to ensure you have the right accommodations to fully engage with the People's Collection while at the NCMA, contact [help@ncartmuseum.org](mailto:help@ncartmuseum.org) to share your needs. They will be happy to support you.

## Exploring the Museum Park

The upper parking lots can be accessed via the Reedy Creek or District Drive entrances.

Accessible parking is located outside the Welcome Center and near sidewalks. The campus [map](#) is a useful resource for finding these spots.

## General Accessibility at the Museum Park

The Park is open and free to the public, from dawn to dusk.

Trails are frequented by bikers, walkers, runners, families, and dog walkers.

Paved trails follow the natural landscape, resulting in some grades steeper than the ADA's 1:12 maximum recommendation.

# The Welcome Center



This building is located adjacent to the upper parking lots near Blue Ridge Road and the Smokestack.

Water fountains, food, and select retail items are available.

Accessible, individual restrooms, located behind the building, are open daily from dawn to dusk.

The building is open Wednesday to Sunday, from 10 am to 5 pm.

Tables and chairs are positioned outside the entrance on the concrete patio. They are shaded by an overhang.



# The Ellipse



The Ellipse is a large, oval-shaped patch of grass surrounded by a wooden frame that also serves as a place to sit down.

Two drinking fountains are located nearby.

There is a concrete patio in front of the Ellipse. It hosts tables and chairs that overlook a vast meadow. In the warmer months, the tables have umbrellas.

# The Amphitheater



This outdoor space is used for concerts and film screenings from May to October.

Select films are audio described. Please check the [events calendar](#) for the most up-to-date information.

Accessible seating is available. A user is permitted one extra guest. It is recommended to bring camping chairs.

Reserved, ticketed seating options include seats with and without backs. Unreserved, ticketed seating options are available on the lawn. If you have purchased lawn seating, we recommended you bring blankets or camping chairs to sit on.

Restrooms are located at the bottom of the main stairs, to the left. Please note that these restrooms are closed during the winter. For accessible restrooms, please visit the Welcome Center or East Building when we are open.



## Art in the Museum Park



There are over 30 works of art throughout the Museum Park.

A number of artworks are positioned near the paths, while others are off the trail and less accessible.

Please observe signs that ask you not to touch or climb on the art.

Mindful Museum: A Sensory Journey through Art and Nature is offered in the spring and fall. This program is intended to be accessible for all, including those who would benefit from a sensory-style learning experience. Audio description and ASL interpretation are available.

Throughout the year, programming for all ages is offered in the Museum Park. Please check the NCMA [events calendar](#) for the most up-to-date information related to events in the Park.



# The Pond



A paved path encircles the pond, which includes a bridge that has raised barriers on either side. There is no formal railing.

There are picnic tables located beside the path underneath the pine trees. These picnic tables are not on a paved path.

Please be aware that various animals live in the pond and throughout the Park. As “guests” in their home, please be mindful where you walk.

We look forward to your visit.