



NCMA Fact Sheet

PURPOSE AND HISTORY

The North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA) houses the art collections of the State of North Carolina. These collections had their beginnings in 1947 when the North Carolina General Assembly appropriated \$1 million for the purchase of works of art. With this appropriation, the General Assembly became the first state legislature in the United States to set aside funds for an art collection for its citizens.

The initial \$1 million appropriation was used to purchase 158 paintings, 2 sculptures, and 25 pieces of furniture and other decorative arts objects in February 1952. The Samuel H. Kress Foundation matched the appropriation with a gift of 71 works of art, primarily Italian Renaissance, in 1960 and 1962, adding the Museum to its program of endowing regional museums throughout the United States with works from the Kress Collection. The Kress gift to the Museum became the largest and most important of any except that given to the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC.

The Museum opened in April 1956 in a renovated state office building in downtown Raleigh, the state capital. In 1983 the Museum moved to a 181,000-square-foot building designed by Edward Durell Stone in west Raleigh off Blue Ridge Road. On April 24, 2010, the Museum celebrated the grand opening of a new 127,000-square-foot, light-filled gallery building designed to showcase the people's art collection. The single-story structure surrounded by landscaped sculpture gardens, reflecting pools, and courtyards was designed by New York architects Thomas Phifer and Partners.

Attendance: The NCMA welcomed 1,001,117 visitors in calendar year 2022.

Director: Valerie Hillings, PhD, as of November 1, 2018

Admission: Admission to the Museum and Museum Park is free. Fees are charged for some special exhibitions and programs. Parking is free.

Hours: Wednesday–Sunday, 10 am–5 pm. The Museum is closed on Monday, Tuesday, and some holidays. The Museum Park is open daily, including holidays, from dawn to dusk.

Website: ncartmuseum.org. The site contains specific information about the Museum, exhibitions, and programs, as well as a searchable database of the People's Collection. Visitors to the site can purchase tickets and become Museum members.

Street address: 2110 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh, NC 27607-6494

Mailing address: 4630 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4630

COLLECTIONS

The state's art collection spans more than 5,000 years with over 4,353 objects from ancient Egypt to the present, making the NCMA one of the premier art museums in the South.

The ancient collection includes Egyptian funerary art, important examples of sculpture and vase painting from the Greek, Italian, and Roman worlds, and artifacts from the Americas.

The collection of European paintings and sculpture from the Renaissance through impressionism is internationally celebrated, with important works by Giotto, Botticelli, Raphael, Lucas Cranach the Elder, Peter Paul Rubens, Pieter Aertsen, and Claude Monet. American art of the 18th and 19th centuries features works by John Singleton Copley, Thomas Cole, Albert Bierstadt, Winslow Homer, Mary Cassatt, and William Merritt Chase.

Art from the 20th and 21st centuries includes major works by American artists Marsden Hartley, Georgia O'Keeffe, Franz Kline, Frank Stella, Jacob Lawrence, Louise Bourgeois, Elizabeth Murray, and Joel Shapiro. European masters include Pablo Picasso, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Henry Moore, Anselm Kiefer, and Gerhard Richter. The Global Contemporary collection features works by Leonardo Drew, Mickalene Thomas, Kehinde Wiley, Beth Lipman, Hank Willis Thomas, Simone Leigh, Richard Mosse, and El Anatsui.

The Global African Arts collection includes sub-Saharan art from the 19th and 20th centuries, Islamic and Christian arts, full masquerade ensembles, a sculpture by a "Nok" artist, Yorùbá veranda posts by Lamidi Fakeye, and works by Skunder Boghossian, Omar Victor Diop, William Kentridge, and Wosene Kosrof.

A gallery is also devoted to Jewish ceremonial art—one of only two permanent displays of Judaic art in an American art museum.

In 2005 the Museum received a gift of 29 sculptures by Auguste Rodin from the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation. The Museum installed the collection in West Building and the adjacent courtyard. With this gift the Museum is the largest repository of Rodin sculpture in the American South.

In 2015 the Museum received an exceptional and transformative gift of works of modern and contemporary art from the private collection of Jim and Mary Patton. Amassed over a lifetime, the Pattons' collection includes seminal works by masters of mid- to late 20th-century American art: Milton Avery, Richard Diebenkorn, Jackie Ferrara, Helen Frankenthaler, Adolph Gottlieb, Hans Hofmann, Ellsworth Kelly, Robert Motherwell, David Park, George Rickey, Sean Scully, Frank Stella, and others. The gift includes paintings, sculptures, prints, drawings, and photographs.

THE FACILITY AND SITE

Location: 2110 Blue Ridge Road, near the intersection of Wade Avenue and Interstate 40. The Museum is a 15-minute drive from downtown Raleigh and a 20- to 30-minute drive from the nearby university towns of Durham and Chapel Hill.

The Museum comprises two buildings, East and West, sited in a 164-acre park of rolling hills edged by native woods.

East Building (1983)

Size: 181,300 square feet (including approximately 20,000 square feet in the mechanical services building and tunnels).

Cost: \$15.75 million, including \$10.75 million in funds appropriated by the NC General Assembly and \$5 million in private gifts.

Architects: Edward Durell Stone and Associates, New York, and Holloway-Reeves, Raleigh

West Building (2010)

Size: 127,000 square feet

Cost: \$72.3 million from the NC General Assembly, City of Raleigh, and Wake County, and \$4.5 million in private gifts for courtyards and gardens.

Architects: Thomas Phifer and Partners, New York, and Pierce, Brinkley, Cease, and Lee, Raleigh

Ann and Jim Goodnight Museum Park: Encompassing 164 acres of gardens, fields, and woodlands, the Museum Park is a unique setting to explore the intersection of art and nature. Major works of sculpture and artist-conceived environmental projects are sited throughout this landscape, which also includes the Joseph M. Bryan, Jr., Theater in the Museum Park; the Welcome Center, picnic areas; trails for walking and biking; and a terraced pond that is at once beautiful and a key element of an innovative storm-water management system.

The Park originated in 1999, when the Museum opened the Museum Park Trail, developed in partnership with the NC Department of Transportation and City of Raleigh. The Park's paved trails connect the Museum to the Capital Area Greenway system and the community by way of a 750-foot pedestrian bridge to Meredith College and the House Creek Greenway.

The Museum began construction to expand the Museum Park in August 2015. It enlisted landscape architecture and urban design firm Civitas, Inc., of Denver, Colorado, to develop the plan, led by Dan Gottlieb, director of planning, design, and Museum Park.

To unify the campus, a 2016 expansion project introduced tree-lined parking, contemporary wave and parterre gardens, a promenade connecting the Park and galleries, and the Ellipse—a spectacular lawn overlooking the Park's rolling meadow. The Museum also installed significant sculptures by Mark di Suvero and Hank Willis Thomas in the new gardens, with others to follow.

The Park served as an essential respite during the pandemic, drawing more than 800,000 visitors per year (2020–21), and continues to engage over 500,000 visitors annually postpandemic (2022–23).

See the Museum Park fact sheet for a complete list of awards and honors the Park has received.

Welcome Center: The Welcome Center, designed by Raleigh-based in situ studio and built in 2022, is located adjacent to the upper Museum parking lots along Blue Ridge Road, near the smokestack. Restrooms, water fountains, food, and select retail items are available.

SECU Auditorium and education spaces: In 2015 the Museum opened a renovated auditorium, a distance learning classroom, and an outdoor classroom, funded by a \$1.9 million grant from the State Employees Credit Union (SECU) Foundation. The spaces are digitally connected and equipped with technology to share the Museum’s programs and resources with audiences across the state and beyond.

Conservation Center: In support of the Museum’s mission to preserve the state’s collection, the 3,400-square-foot Conservation Center is professionally staffed and organized to provide care, maintenance, repair, and restoration services for the priceless fine art collection of the Museum.

Art Reference Library: The Museum Library has grown to house over 40,000 volumes. It serves as a research-oriented, noncirculating collection, and its core holdings include the personal collection of the Museum’s first director, William Valentiner. The holdings reflect the Museum’s collection, the exhibitions held in the past and present, and the history of art.

Joseph M. Bryan, Jr., Theater in the Museum Park: A 500-seat outdoor theater, with lawn seating for 2,300, opened in April 1997. The facility, which spells out the phrase *PICTURE THIS* in 80-foot-long letters, hosts outdoor movies, musical performances, and other performing arts events. The Amphitheater was created by textual artist Barbara Kruger and a design team that included architects Henry Smith-Miller and Laurie Hawkinson and landscape architect Nicholas Quennell.

PROGRAMMING

The NCMA provides dynamic educational outreach programs for prekindergarten to college students as well as a robust educator professional development program, serving thousands of teachers on site, online, and across the state. Each year, thousands of visitors learn about cultures spanning 5,000 years through docent-led and self-guided tours.

Teacher programs: In 2022–23 the Museum delivered professional development workshops to more than 1,100 North Carolina teachers on site and off site and continues to enhance access to its collections through the use of information technologies such as online courses and videoconferencing for outreach to schools. Downloadable high-resolution images, lesson plans, videos, and activity ideas are available on the award-winning teacher resource NCMA Learn.

NCMA Learn: learn.ncartmuseum.org. The NCMA’s teacher resource website, NCMA Learn, features more than 330 of the Museum’s works of art plus lesson plans relating objects in the Museum’s collection to North Carolina curriculum standards in science, English, technology, and more. The website also features distance learning programs, school tours, and professional development opportunities for educators. The website reaches over 143,000 users annually.

Distance learning programs: The NCMA is a leader in distance learning in museums, providing access to the arts to students and teachers across North Carolina and the United States. Museum educators bring rich and interactive virtual experiences with works of art to

K–12 classrooms, whether students are in person, learning remotely, or both. During the 2022–23 school year, we engaged 4,122 students with live virtual field trips and 4,300 students asynchronously through recorded programs with Streamable Learning. The NCMA’s distance learning program also includes online courses for educators and students. In partnership with North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS), the NCMA reaches hundreds of middle and high school students from across the state each year. A new immersive digital resource, NCMA Explore, gamifies learning around ancient civilizations and releases to middle school classrooms in fall 2023.

Family programs: Every year thousands of family visitors of all ages discover hands-on studio art workshops, multisensory tours of the collection, festive family days, and other activities and programs inside the Museum and outdoors in the Museum Park.

Teen and college programs: With its rapidly growing teen and college program, the Museum serves thousands of teens and college students annually through dedicated exhibitions, workshops, and events (Teens Sketch the Galleries, College Night, College Conversations); community outreach; and two specialized ambassador programs, the Teen Arts Council and the College Advisory Panel.

Adult programs: The Museum’s adult programs allow lifelong learners to engage in education in the arts through artist demonstrations, studio workshops, and lectures. The NCMA also offers outdoor and indoor films, concerts, performances, mindfulness programs, as well as social events in the galleries and the Park, welcoming thousands each year.

Annual events: The NCMA organizes annual events such as the fundraiser Monster Drawing Rally, featuring artists drawing live in the galleries and auctioning off their work to the crowd. The yearly Art in Bloom fundraiser transforms West Building galleries into a fragrant garden, featuring floral works of art by florists from around the state and beyond. Along with its related events, Art in Bloom is a visitor favorite; in 2023 it attracted close to 20,000 visitors over five days.

Ticketed exhibitions: In addition to numerous free exhibitions throughout the year, the NCMA hosts ticketed exhibitions, including traveling exhibitions and other specially curated installations. Recent popular exhibitions include *Ruth E. Carter: Afrofuturism in Costume Design*, *A Modern Vision: European Works from The Phillips Collection*, *Fault Lines: Art and the Environment*, *Alphonse Mucha: Art Nouveau Visionary*, and *Golden Mummies of Egypt*.

OTHER SERVICES

Museum membership: The Museum has approximately 16,000 member households. Member benefits include free admission to special exhibitions and outdoor films; discounts in the Museum Store; subscriptions to publications; and discounts on education programs, travel opportunities, and special events. (919) 664-6754 or membership@ncartmuseum.org

Museum Store: Located in three locations on the NCMA campus, the Museum Store sells art-related merchandise by North Carolina artists and artisans, books, exhibition catalogues, posters, jewelry, branded items, and educational gifts, including games and toys.

NCMA Café and East Café: Partner Catering Works offers a wide variety of on-site food and beverage options and is committed to bringing you a great dining experience at the

NCMA. Menus emphasize locally sourced ingredients and include unique dishes that are inspired by the latest exhibition and the People’s Collection.

SOURCES OF INCOME

The NCMA receives an annual state appropriation that supports personnel and operations. Exhibitions and programs are supported by earned revenue, contributions, and grants administered by the North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation, Inc. The Museum’s main source of funds for acquisitions to the collections is investment income from the \$5 million Robert F. Phifer Fund, an endowment overseen by the North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation, Inc.

Staff: Approximately 170 employees.

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About the North Carolina Museum of Art

The North Carolina Museum of Art’s collection spans more than 5,000 years, from antiquity 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 special exhibitions, classes, lectures, family activities, films, and concerts.

The Museum is located at 2110 Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh and is home to the People’s Collection. It is the art museum of the State of North Carolina, under the auspices of Governor Roy Cooper; an agency of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, guided by the direction of Secretary D. Reid Wilson; and led by Director Valerie Hillings. For more information please visit ncartmuseum.org.

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