



North Carolina Museum of Art

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NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF ART CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

Raleigh, NC — This year the North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA) celebrates the 100th anniversary of the founding of the North Carolina Art Society, a group of citizens who developed and led an ambitious plan to build a public art collection and museum for the people of North Carolina. On April 5, 1947, their grassroots vision was supported by a public appropriation of \$1 million from the North Carolina General Assembly and later matched with a gift of 70+ works of art from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation. This philanthropic dynamic reflected one of the nation's early public-private museum partnerships, building the NCMA's People's Collection, a permanent collection of art that belongs to all North Carolina's citizens, and establishing the North Carolina Museum of Art as one of the premier art museums in the South.

Since that time the Museum has expanded its collection from 158 paintings to 4,353 objects in multiple mediums, created one of the largest public art museum parks in the nation, delivered thousands of educational resources and public programs across all one hundred NC counties, added the North Carolina Museum of Art, Winston-Salem (SECCA) to the NCMA family, and diversified its program to encompass the arts plural, all while continuing to provide **free** entry for all visitors to the People's Collection. In 2023 the Museum welcomed 1.1 million visitors to its Raleigh campus and offered 797 arts programs locally and throughout the state.

To commemorate this historic anniversary, the Museum worked with NC Poet Laureate Jaki Shelton Green, Durham-based Two Dots Studio, and NC writer Courtney Napier to create a video celebrating the history of the NCMA.

LEARN MORE

- [100th anniversary video](#) (2024)
- [History of the NCMA](#)
- [Annual Impact Report](#) (2023)

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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.

About the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

The NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) manages, promotes, and enhances the things that people love about North Carolina—its diverse arts and culture, rich history, and spectacular natural areas. Through its programs, the department enhances education, stimulates economic development, improves public health, expands accessibility, and strengthens community resiliency. For more information please visit ncartmuseum.org.

The Department manages over 100 locations across the state, including 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, five science museums, four aquariums, 35 state parks, four recreation areas, dozens of state trails and natural areas, the NC Zoo, the NC Symphony, the State Library, the State Archives, the NC Arts Council, the African

American Heritage Commission, the American Indian Heritage Commission, the State Historic Preservation Office, the Office of State Archaeology, the Highway Historical Markers program, the NC Land and Water Fund, and the Natural Heritage Program. For more information please visit ncdcr.gov.