



North Carolina Museum of Art

STREET 2110 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh, NC 27607

MAIL 4630 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4630

TEL (919) 839-6262 **FAX** (919) 733-8034 | **WEB** ncartmuseum.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 10, 2024

MEDIA CONTACT

Lizzie Newton | lizzie.newton@dn-cr.nc.gov

The North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation Hires Lela Urquhart as Chief Advancement Officer

Raleigh, NC —

The North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA) announces the hiring of Lela Urquhart as the chief advancement officer of the North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation. Most recently, Urquhart was the director of development and membership at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) Denver.

“Lela joins the NCMA at an incredibly exciting time, as the Museum continues to expand its impact and outreach across the state of North Carolina in support of the arts,” said Valerie Hillings, Museum director and Foundation CEO. “A native North Carolinian, Lela returns to her home state with a wealth of experience leading museum advancement teams. Her love of the arts is inspiring, and I look forward to partnering with her to engage our members, visitors, and donors in supporting the mission and vision for the NCMA and NCMA, Winston-Salem.”

During her tenure at MCA Denver, Urquhart oversaw a multimillion-dollar fundraising campaign and secured multiple six- and seven-figure gifts to name spaces and endow new staff positions. Prior to this time, she was the head of development and external affairs and acting head of programming for the Getty Research Institute, supporting the launch of several prominent initiatives, including the Ed Ruscha Streets of Los Angeles project, the African American Art History Initiative, the Archives of the Woman’s Building project, and the Johnson Publishing Company Photographic Archive project in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of African American History and Culture.

As of July 1, 2024, Urquhart will lead in developing and executing the Museum’s fundraising and membership visions in alignment with the Museum’s strategic plan. She states, “I’m thrilled to join the team at the NCMA because it is an opportunity to both serve the institution that first inspired me to study the arts and humanities and invite more North Carolinians to be a part of the philanthropic community that helps make the NCMA such a state treasure. At the heart of the NCMA’s mission is making the arts accessible to all, and I’m so excited to help make that happen.”

Urquhart holds a BA in classics from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, a PhD in classics and archaeology from Stanford University, and a certificate in fundraising and development from the University of California, San Diego. She was a Rome Prize Fellow at the American Academy in Rome, an ACLS Postdoctoral Fellow, and a Stanford Humanities Fellow.

The executive search for this role was facilitated by North Carolina nonprofit consulting firm moss+ross.

###

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.

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.

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.