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North Carolina Museum of Art's Statue of Bacchus Named as 2017 Art Conservation Project Grant Recipient by Bank of America

Historic statue to undergo multipart restoration that has been in the museum's collection for almost six decades

RALEIGH – The North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA) will receive a grant from the 2017 Bank of America Art Conservation Project to restore the statue of Bacchus – a historic work of art comprised of an ancient torso; a head from a different ancient statue; and limbs, hair locks, berries, and leaves that were put together in the late 16th or early 17th century to form one single statue. The grant funding will go towards the [Bacchus Conservation Project](#), a multi-series venture including the completion of the derestoration of Bacchus begun 30 years ago, scientific research to understand the sculpture's history and how Bacchus was put together more than 400 years ago and the recreation of Bacchus using the historical fragments and new replicas of the ancient head and torso.

The statue of Bacchus was donated to the museum in 1958, and the restoration was proposed shortly thereafter. However, NCMA had neither the staff nor a conservation lab for the project so Bacchus was put away in storage until the museum had the resources to commit to restoration.

"This is a long overdue project that will rehabilitate the ancient torso as well as the historical fragments that make up this composite statue. The torso is one of five of this type in the world, the only one outside of Europe, and deserves to be on display in the galleries." said Caroline Rocheleau, Curator of Ancient Art, North Carolina Museum of Art. "I'm very excited that Bank of America is helping us get Bacchus out of limbo! Through their Art Conservation Project, we have been given the opportunity to restore the statue of Bacchus and share its history with generations to come."

At the conclusion of the conservation phase, the museum will present an exhibition featuring the ancient head and torso, a full recreation of Bacchus, along with digital experiences so visitors can learn about the conservation project, including 16th/17th-century restoration methods and the sculpture's history. In addition, it will include interactive programs that will explore how the scientific method is used to solve real-world art challenges.

"We're excited to select the North Carolina Museum of Art's innovative restoration work on Bacchus through our Art Conservation Project to help preserve the culturally significant statue," said Kari Stoltz, Triangle Market President, Bank of America. "This project is unique in that it will help restore an ancient treasure and create an exceptional exhibit that crosses artistic and scientific boundaries to inform viewers for years to come."

The Bank of America Art Conservation Project provides grant funding to nonprofit cultural institutions throughout the world to conserve historically or culturally significant works of art that are in danger of deterioration. Since the Art Conservation Project began in 2010, Bank of America has provided grants for more than 120 projects in 30 countries on six continents to conserve paintings, sculptures, archaeological and architectural pieces that are critically important to cultural heritage and the history of art.

Twenty-one major art restoration projects across six countries and in 13 U.S. cities are receiving grant funding through the 2017 Bank of America Art Conservation Project. A selection of works in the U.S. benefitting from the 2017 grants includes "The Assumption of the Virgin" (1577-1579) by El Greco at The

Art Institute of Chicago; “Untitled (Three Dancing Figures, version C)” an outdoor 1989 sculpture by Keith Haring in Des Moines, Iowa; the Farnese Sarcophagus (circa 225 C.E.), a 7500-pound Roman Severan period piece at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston; 21 works by Romare Bearden and other African American artists, at The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York; the Mexican Cultural Institute’s Roberto Cueva del Río mural installed on three floors of the Mexican Embassy in Washington, D.C.; and five paintings by Wayne Thiebaud at the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento, Calif.

For full descriptions of the 2017 projects and to view images of the artwork, please [click here](#) to download the “Bank of America Art Conservation Project 2017 Recipients” brochure.

The Art Conservation Project is a key element of Bank of America’s program of arts support worldwide, and part of the company’s environmental, social and governance program. The support Bank of America provides for the arts is global in scope and diverse, spanning both the visual and performing arts. The program includes loans of its private art collection to museums at no cost, sponsorships, and grants to arts organizations for arts education, as well as the preservation of cultural treasures. For more information, please visit the [Art Conservation Project website](#).

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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 Ann and Jim Goodnight 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, Roy Cooper, governor, and an agency of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Susi Hamilton, secretary.