

news release

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NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF ART BREAKS GROUND FOR NEW BUILDING

Expansion begins this winter, building opens to public spring 2009

RALEIGH, N.C.—Today North Carolina Governor Michael F. Easley and First Lady Mary P. Easley broke ground for a major expansion initiative at the North Carolina Museum of Art. The expansion project includes construction of a new 127,000 square foot building to house the Museum's permanent collection of more than 5,000 objects that span antiquity to the present day. The project will also create gardens and outdoor galleries in a landscape for commissioned site-specific outdoor art projects and transform the NCMA's existing 1983 Edward Durrell Stone building into a center for temporary exhibitions, collections management, education, and administration.

"The Museum is an important component of our North Carolina's past, present and future," said Governor Easley. "The expansion is another way our state and local governments and private supporters have worked together to continue the State's long-standing tradition of supporting the arts."

Scheduled to open to the public in Spring 2009, the new NCMA building is designed by noted architect Thomas Phifer of Thomas Phifer and Partners, New York. Local

executive architect for the project is Pearce Brinkley Cease + Lee Architects of Raleigh, N.C. The landscape architect for the expansion project is Peter Walker of Peter Walker and Partners, Berkeley, Ca., which is working in collaboration with the local firm of Lappas + Havener, Durham, N.C.

"The new and expanded North Carolina Museum of Art will be a place of inspiration and reflection," said First Lady Mary Easley. "It will be a place for the young to dream and wonder at what they see, and to have their horizons broadened as a result of time spent here. A place for renewal and learning for us all."

"With this new building, the Museum will expand its education programs, its collections, and most importantly, its significance as a community gathering place that welcomes North Carolinians and cultural travelers from across the globe," said Secretary of the Department of Cultural Resources, Lisbeth C. "Libba" Evans. "This new gallery space and the art it will house will continue the Museum's positive impact on the cultural and economic well-being of our citizens."

The new single-story Phifer pavilion—a long, low rectangular volume clad in a seamless skin of satin finished stainless steel with a flying carpet-like roof plane and a revolutionary lighting system within—will provide the Museum with 45 percent more exhibition space for presenting works from its permanent collection, including a group of more than two-dozen Auguste Rodin sculptures donated to the Museum in 2005 by the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation. In addition to expanded exhibition space, the new building will offer a Museum store, a café, and a garden entry plaza.

The NCMA expansion initiative includes construction of the new building, adaptive re-use of the existing Stone building, creation of the new gardens, significant expansion of the Museum's endowment, and other costs related to planned growth. The NCMA has raised \$78 million to date toward this financial goal,

including an unprecedented appropriation of \$52.2 million from the North Carolina State Legislature and \$15 million in funding from the City of Raleigh and Wake County.

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TIMELINE

The planned project timeline is as follows:

Winter 2006

New building construction begins
Relocate utilities and driveway

Fall 2007

Prepare collection for new building

Winter 2007-08

Construct temporary art storage area

Fall 2007

Phase I of Stone Building Renovation

Summer 2008

Prepare and install gallery lighting systems in new building

Fall 2008

Install fixed casework in new building

Winter 2008-09

Install art in new building
Phase II renovation of Stone building

Spring 2009

Open new building

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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 visual arts museums in the Southeast. The Museum uses its collection to provide educational, aesthetic, intellectual, and cultural experiences for the citizens of North Carolina and beyond. The Museum offers a series of changing national touring exhibitions, classes, lectures, family activities, films, and concerts. 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, Michael F. Easley, governor, and an agency of the Department of Cultural Resources, Lisbeth C. Evans, secretary. Museum hours are Tuesday–Thursday and Saturday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.–9 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Closed Monday. Admission is free. For information call (919) 839-NCMA (6262), or visit the NCMA's Web site at www.ncartmuseum.org.

