



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PHOTO/VIDEO OPPORTUNITIES**

To cover installation of three remaining bouquets, contact Kat Harding

**'Trash Can Bouquets' Bloom in Downtown Raleigh ahead of Art in Bloom**

*Raleigh Floral Designer Steve Taras Puts Floral Twist on Public Art, in Partnership with PNC Bank and City of Raleigh Arts Commission*

**Raleigh, N.C.**—The North Carolina Museum of Art has partnered with PNC Bank; the City of Raleigh Arts Commission; Downtown Raleigh Alliance; and the City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Dix Park team to brighten five corners of downtown Raleigh this week with giant "trash can bouquets," larger-than-life floral arrangements created by Steve Taras of [Watered Garden Florist](#). Inspired by Lewis Miller Designs' "[flower flashes](#)" in New York City, the displays celebrate the Museum's upcoming festival of flowers, [Art in Bloom](#), presented by PNC, March 22 through 25.

So far this week, two floral displays popped up at Five Points and outside Artspace along East Davie Street, transforming public trash receptacles into flower "vases." Commuters will see three more installations throughout the rest of the week, with bouquets coming to Blue Ridge Realty, Inc.'s condo building, 222 Glenwood Ave., on Wednesday; Chavis Park on Thursday; and Dix Park on Friday.

"Art in Bloom is all about encouraging visitors to see art in a new way, through the beauty of flowers and the creativity of floral designers like Steve Taras," said Laura Finan, coordinator of programs at the NCMA. "This public art project does the same thing, turning a trash can, typically a practical place to dispose of garbage, into a blooming work of art."

The public is encouraged to take photos of the displays and post to social media using hashtag #NCMABloom and #PNCartinbloom for a chance to win a pair of tickets to the event.

Tickets for the fourth annual Art in Bloom are on sale at [ncartmuseum.org/bloom](http://ncartmuseum.org/bloom). Featuring more than 50 florists from around the country, the event pairs paintings with peonies (and flora of all types) for a one-of-a-kind experience. Florists are





randomly assigned a work of art in the NCMA's galleries and tasked with building a floral display inspired by the art.

Special event tickets, including for the [Influenced by the East—Elements of Sogetsu Ikebana](#) demonstration on Friday, March 23, and the [Designers Challenge—Seeing Red](#) demonstration on Sunday, March 25, are available. During the four-day festival, the Museum has extended hours and food options, along with daily trunk shows in the Museum Store.

**Image captions (top to bottom):**

Trashcan bouquet (March 12, 2018) by Watered Garden Florists; Raleigh's Five Points, in front of the Hayes Barton Baptist Church.

Trashcan bouquet (March 13, 2018) by Watered Garden Florists; Raleigh's Downtown, in front of Artspace.

If you are interested in documenting the installation of one of these bouquets, contact Kat Harding at [kharding@ncartmusem.org](mailto:kharding@ncartmusem.org). We'd love to have you cover it.

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**About the 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 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.

**About PNC Bank**

PNC Bank, National Association, is a member of the PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. (NYSE: PNC). PNC is one of the largest diversified financial services institutions in the United States, organized around its customers and communities for strong relationships and local delivery of retail and business banking, including a full range of lending products; specialized services for corporations and government entities, including corporate banking, real estate finance, and asset-based lending; wealth management; and asset management. For information about PNC, visit [pnc.com](http://pnc.com).

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