



North Carolina Museum of Art

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The North Carolina Museum of Art Announces Capital Projects in Raleigh and Winston-Salem

Raleigh, N.C. — Beginning this spring, the North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA) will undergo an ambitious expansion plan that will increase accessibility, bridge indoor and outdoor museum spaces, and create flexible learning experiences on its Raleigh and Winston-Salem campuses. Improvements to the NCMA, a division of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR), will be made thanks to combined funding from the state of North Carolina and private philanthropic support. Spanning over the next two to three years, construction at the Raleigh campus will begin in late June 2025 and at the North Carolina Museum of Art, Winston-Salem (NCMA W-S) in summer 2026. The Raleigh campus and galleries will remain open during construction, with the Joseph M. Bryan, Jr., Theater in the Museum Park closed for outdoor concerts now through 2027.

“The North Carolina Museum of Art belongs to the people of our state,” said DNCR Secretary Pamela B. Cashwell. “These capital projects in Raleigh and Winston-Salem will mark an exciting new chapter for the museums and access to the arts.”

NCMA director Valerie Hillings states, “Thanks to a historic investment from the state of North Carolina and the generous support of donors, both museum campuses will soon undergo major transformations centered on expanding access.”

In Raleigh the lower level of East Building will be transformed into a new entrance that increases accessibility and connection between the museum and park. Upon completion visitors will enter a new café and lounge space, and multigenerational audiences will enjoy interactive and hands-on art-making opportunities inspired by the People’s Collection, signaling the museum’s commitment to inspiring and supporting creativity for all North Carolinians.

Features of the capital projects and renovation in Raleigh will include:

- Addition of a new outdoor space behind East Building activated as an arts and entertainment green and outdoor art space that encourages guests to linger and enjoy the park-like setting for special events, weddings, and preconcert experiences.

- Revitalization of the Joseph M. Bryan, Jr., Theater in the Museum Park to improve accessibility and visitor comfort during outdoor concerts, including redesigned pathways, increased accessible seating, updated stadium seating and refurbished restrooms.
- Renovation of the current 3,000-square-foot Art Conservation Center, ensuring state-of-the-art capacity to preserve, restore and make widely accessible the museum's collection.
- Creation of a new visitor-facing conservation workspace, exhibition space and education studio on Level A of East Building to allow the museum to share the often behind-the-scenes preservation of cultural heritage and to illustrate the connections between art and science.
- Restoration of stream habitat in the Museum Park in partnership with N.C. Land and Water Fund and Raleigh Stormwater in support of ecological preservation and improved water quality.

In Winston-Salem, planned updates at NCMA W-S, formerly known as Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA), will ensure that the museum continues its important work connecting visitors with the very best of contemporary art, culture and education. Key projects include technology upgrades to existing gallery spaces, in-house residency facilities to support regional artists and creators, and overall incorporation of universal design principles across the Winston-Salem campus to ensure access to all indoor and outdoor areas and events. NCMA W-S director William Carpenter concludes, "When these projects are completed, the citizens of North Carolina will have access to a 21st-century center for the arts - one that speaks to the state's own history of supporting innovation, creativity and community engagement."

The lead architect is HH Architecture of Raleigh, N.C. HH Architecture has partnered with design architect Eskew Dumez Ripple and art conservation specialist Samuel Anderson Architects. The project team also includes Design Workshop for landscape architecture, Kimley Horn for civil engineering, Lynch Mykins for structural engineering and Salas O'Brien for mechanical, electrical, plumbing and fire protection engineering. Consigli Construction is the construction manager.

For interview requests or additional information, please contact Lizzie Newton, director of marketing and communications, at lizzie.newton@dncr.nc.gov.

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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 Rd. 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 Gov. Josh Stein; an agency of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, guided by the direction of Secretary Pamela B. Cashwell; and led by Director Valerie Hillings. For more information please visit ncartmuseum.org.

About the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

The N.C. 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 N.C. Zoo, the N.C. Symphony, the State Library, the State Archives, the N.C. 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 N.C. Land and Water Fund and the Natural Heritage Program. For more information please visit ncdcr.gov.