

Introduction

In accordance with General Statute §143B-344.21, the Board of Trustees of the North Carolina Museum of Art is pleased to submit this 2017–2018 Report. We offer this report as a governing body of the Museum, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

Facilities and Outreach

The North Carolina Museum of Art remains one of Raleigh's and North Carolina's top-ten visitor attractions and continues to maintain and expand its role as a leading state and regional arts institution with national and international acclaim. As the first major art museum in the nation to be formed by state legislation and funding, the NCMA has grown its collection from 139 paintings and sculptures to more than 4,100 works of art and now includes the Ann and Jim Goodnight Museum Park on Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh and the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art in Winston-Salem. The NCMA consistently adds to its collections; ensures preservation and safekeeping of the collection; conducts public exhibitions; and provides educational outreach through tours, classes, lectures, concerts, publications, workshops, and membership opportunities. Likewise, SECCA continues to host temporary exhibitions that promote contemporary and emerging artists.

In 2018, the Museum welcomed over 600,000 visitors to a wide array of exhibitions and arts programming, including our most successful contemporary exhibition to date, *You Are Here*, which attracted over 100,000 visitors, including visitors from all 100 North Carolina counties, all 50 states, and 11 other countries. The Museum continues to educate and engage over 100 touring docents, hosting over 30,000 school and public tours, and continues to grow visitorship and programming in the 164-acre Ann and Jim Goodnight Museum Park. In Summer 2017, the Museum's highly successful summer concert and movie series, the only one of its kind in the United States, also celebrated its 20th anniversary; an all-star concert lineup included acts such as Sheryl Crow and Joan Baez. This seasonal programming continues to attract over 50,000 visitors annually. We believe the Museum is a place where art, nature, and people intersect to create compelling encounters with art.

In Summer 2018, the NCMA also welcomed its first curator of African art. Dr. Amanda Maples has already developed robust relationships resulting in the acquisition of 70+ objects. Our African collection remains one of the premier collections in the United States, spanning 16 centuries of history. These acquisitions enhance our recently expanded African art gallery, a 6,500-square-foot space in the

Museum's East Building. The success of Dr. Maples has been well matched by her fellow curators. In the last two years, the Museum has added 55 works of art on paper, including photographs by both American and international artists, and seven paintings, including *The Lute Player* by 1620s Flemish artist Gerard Seghers and *The Black Lace Dress* by Julian Alden Weir, a gift of Ann and Jim Goodnight. The Museum has also received three gifts to its nationally recognized Judaic collection, a collection that continues to invite partnerships with local universities and national museums. *Light of Life* by Yayoi Kusama, arguably the most famous living contemporary artist, was purchased in 2018, and the Museum was gifted *Saul under the Influence of the Evil Spirit*, a William Wetmore Story sculpture lost from the public for 150 years; it is currently being restored by the Museum's objects conservator and will go on view in late 2019.

The Board of Trustees is also proud that the NCMA serves as a significant resource for educators at all academic levels across the state through programs serving more than 23,000 students and 25,000 educators. Each year, more than 30,000 visitors learn about cultures spanning 5,000 years through self-guided and docent-led tours.

Finally, the Museum has several capital projects in progress. A new roof was completed on parts of the East Building in FY18, and a fire alarm and sprinkler system is being installed throughout the building, enhancing our life-safety and art-protection capacities. We have just completed a sink refurbishment in the West Building restrooms, and in FY19, we will begin a renovation of restrooms in East Building, meeting accessibility standards.

Staff and Volunteers

At the heart of the Museum is a talented staff of curators, conservators, designers, programmers, educators, horticulturists, administrators, event planners, and more. Many staff members have made a career serving the people of North Carolina, caring for and cultivating its most valuable collection while simultaneously enhancing public education across North Carolina, creating a gathering space for artists and community members, and developing the largest Museum-based art park in the United States.

We are also proud to boast a committed volunteer team of over 350 individuals who continue to support our staff and visitors with over 16,000 hours annually in multiple areas campus wide. From the galleries to the Park and trails, volunteers greet visitors; support wayfinding, camps, community

programming, and catering; maintain the property and support Green Team efforts; and take part in ongoing training and education. At the heart of this volunteer effort are the members of our own Board of Trustees and the members of the NCMA Foundation Board. These individuals devote significant time and expertise to numerous Museum projects and raise substantial funds for Museum initiatives.

Recent Initiatives and Coming Attractions

We have, of course, welcomed our new director, Dr. Valerie Hillings. Hillings comes to us from the Guggenheim in New York and offers a wealth of national and international curatorial and development experience. As associate director of curatorial affairs at the Guggenheim, Hillings led a team that brought together leading experts in a variety of art historical fields to develop a strategy for originating the new Guggenheim in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates. In her many senior positions at the Guggenheim, she directed robust acquisitions programs, dynamic exhibitions, publications, and foundation initiatives, all with an eye toward outreach and inclusive engagement with the public.

Growth in the Ann and Jim Goodnight Museum Park has been significant. Since the NCMA completed an expansion of the Park with new gardens and gathering places in November 2016, the entire campus has seen increased activity. To accommodate this growth in visitation, the Museum and Wake County are partnering to build a visitors' center; this building will also house our new State Park Rangers, linking campus-wide security operations with public safety and information services in the Park. Working with faculty at NCSU's Center for Geospatial Analytics, the Museum is making great progress understanding how visitors use the Park and the scope of growth, which, according to existing methods of counting, has increased every year since the Park opened in 2001. The Museum is working with the City of Raleigh to increase transportation options to the NCMA campus with a new bus service, Route 27, and a bike-share station in the first quarter of 2019. Additionally, new sidewalks to the State Fairgrounds along Blue Ridge Road will provide safe cycling and walking between flagship State facilities. Together, these initiatives serve our community, improving citizens' wellbeing and access to art.

Enhancing Park visitorship is our Art in the Environment initiative, further connecting art, nature, and people. The Art in the Environment fund invests in outdoor sculpture, providing engaging, accessible, and meaningful experiences for the people of North Carolina as well as visitors to our state. Most recently, the Art in the Environment fund has facilitated the installation of significant temporary works, long-term loans, and permanent sculptures, including art by Mark di Suvero, Hank Willis Thomas,

Thomas Sayre, and Yoan Capote. This spring, the Museum Park will showcase a major, permanent sculptural installation by Seagrove, N.C., artist Daniel Johnston. We are excited to offer visitors opportunities to engage with both nature and art in the Museum Park.

Last year, the North Carolina Museum of Art launched an initiative to support programs, exhibitions, and acquisitions by and about women. Historically, female artists have been underrepresented in museums, and our Matrons of the Arts initiative joins the international movement to achieve a more inclusive and diverse representation of artists in our collection and programs. To date, over \$250,000 has been invested to facilitate the purchase of a significant, marble sculpture by Harriet Hosmer for the Museum's collection and to sponsor *The Beyond: Georgia O'Keeffe and Contemporary Art*, an exhibition featuring Georgia O'Keeffe and contemporary artists inspired by her work, which attracted nearly 75,000 visitors to the Museum. This spring, Matrons of the Arts will support a full weekend of educational and community programs to celebrate National Women's Day on March 8, 2019, while continuing to grow its efforts to highlight female artists and cultural leaders in the coming years.

We are proud of the NCMA's strategic goal to increase the diversity of its audiences and the steps team members have taken to achieve it; our goal to offer visitors a more inclusive and diverse collection is mirrored by our efforts to draw a more inclusive and diverse audience. Curatorial and programming teams have worked tirelessly to provide audiences with exhibitions, lectures, classes, and community events that represent all of North Carolina's citizenry. One of these forthcoming efforts is the upcoming Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera and Mexican Modernists exhibition and related programming, which seek to engage our local Latino community. To achieve this goal, NCMA stakeholders have launched a Latino Committee that includes local consul generals as well as nonprofit and civic leaders. The committee is working together to develop a road map for how best to attract and support Latino visitors and their families, not only for this exhibition but for lifelong participation and engagement with the NCMA.

Needs and Concerns

The NCMA needs to address the failing system of window shades and resulting lighting issues in West Building. These shades block direct sunlight, and the interior curtains control ambient light in the galleries. Critical to preserving the collection, these systems have developed maintenance issues that need to be addressed as soon as possible to maintain the integrity of the citizens' collection. A significant investment in the Museum's conservation laboratory is also necessary due to the growth of

the collection and technological changes. Steps to update both facilities and equipment will support the long-term maintenance and preservation of the collection and the lab's national reputation as a premier conservation center. Lastly, significant investments are needed to renovate the Amphitheater and meet the life-safety and comfort needs of both performers and visitors.

The Board of Trustees has been partnering with Dr. Hillings, NCMA staff, the NCMA Foundation Board, and the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to identify and prioritize maintenance needs of the Museum and their costs. We urge the Joint Legislative Commission on Legislative Operations to work with us to meet the identified needs of the North Carolina Museum of Art, one of North Carolina's major attractions and an educational and historical treasure.

This report is respectfully submitted this day, February 6, 2019, on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the North Carolina Museum of Art.

Gratefully,

Joyce Fitzpatrick

Chair, NCMA Board of Trustees