

Introduction

In accordance with General Statute 140-5.14(10), the Board of Trustees of the North Carolina Museum of Art is pleased to submit this 2021-2022 Report. We offer this report as a governing body of the Museum, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

Facilities and Visitors

The North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA) remains one of North Carolina's top-ten visitor attractions and has advanced 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 public art museum collection in the nation to be formed by state legislation and funding, the NCMA has grown its holdings from 139 paintings and sculptures to 4,788 works of art. The Museum includes the Ann and Jim Goodnight Museum Park in Raleigh, which houses 34 outdoor sculptures and the newly completed Welcome Center (funded by non-state dollars), and the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA) in Winston Salem, an exhibition and programmatic space. The NCMA consistently ensures the preservation and safekeeping of the People's Collection, and the NCMA and SECCA provide educational tours on site and virtually; lead educational classes, workshops, lectures, publications, and online resources; host public exhibitions and concerts; and showcase the work of North Carolina artists.

In Fall 2022 and thanks to the legislature's generous capital appropriation, the NCMA began partnering with architects HH Architecture and Eskew Dumez Ripple and landscape architect Design Workshop in the design of four capital projects: the renovation of the Joseph M. Bryan Jr. Theater in the Museum Park, the creation of a children's art museum within the Museum's East Building, the creation of an outdoor plaza and Museum entrance that connects the galleries to the Park, and the construction of the new conservation studio, which will make conservation visible to the visiting public. Phase I concluded in November 2022, and we eagerly await a final proposal for review. The legislature graciously appropriated additional funds to address concerns about light in NCMA's West Building; this project is underway and is being addressed through the ceiling hoops as well as the shades and curtains.

In 2021, the Museum welcomed 1,125,634 visitors to its campus, and in 2022, the Museum proudly welcomed 958,420 visitors to its campus despite gallery closures that allowed for the reimagining and reinstallation of the People's Collection. At SECCA, we welcomed 16,076 visitors in 2021 and 20,100 in

2022. Typically, visitors enjoy a wide array of exhibitions and arts programming, and in 2021 and 2022, the Museum featured *A Modern Vision: European Masterworks from the Phillips Collection* and *Golden Mummies of Egypt* at the NCMA and *Will Wilson: Connecting the Dots* and *Beverly McIver: Full Circle* at SECCA, among others. The Museum continues to educate and engage over 100 touring docents, and while school and public tours were paused until Fall 2021, 10,546 individuals enjoyed Museum tours in fiscal year 2022; 68% of these tours were collection tours that included multigenerational audiences. In the 2021-2022 academic year, 6,047 students participated in virtual field trips, and the NCMA's virtual field trip program continues to be a national standard among art museums, enabling us to serve students across North Carolina, as does NCMA Learn, our digital resource for learners, which continues to serve all 100 counties and nearly 100,000 users annually. In Fall 2022, the NCMA led 73 virtual tours for 2,133 NC students. The Museum also continues to grow visitorship and programming in the 164-acre Ann and Jim Goodnight Museum Park, which saw its highest visitation during the COVID-19 pandemic. In Summers 2021 and 2022, the Museum's highly successful summer concert, including a new jazz series and a festival featuring NC musicians, and movie series returned to the stage and included dance, featuring partnerships with both American Dance Festival and Carolina Ballet. During a regular season, outdoor programming continues to attract approximately 50,000 visitors annually. The NCMA continues to be a museum that offers indoor and outdoor opportunities to have compelling encounters with the arts, nature, and people, and in Summer 2023, the Museum is excited to feature jazz icon Kenny G.

In the last two years, the Museum has added 90 works of art by North Carolinian, American, and international artists. Sculpture acquisitions include *Mirror Labyrinth NY*, an interactive artwork in the Museum Park by Danish artist Jeppe Hein. Additionally, the Museum acquired a figurative glass sculpture, *Semi-Reclining Dress Impression with Drapery*, by Karen LaMonte; a monumental wood sculpture, *Number 235*, by Leonardo Drew and the centerpiece of our new Global Contemporary galleries; a figurative sculpture, *Grab*, by North Carolina artist Bob Trotman; a mixed-media sculpture, *Acknowledgement: Indigenous Land, Pachamama, Story Circle*, by Marie Watt, the first work by a contemporary Native American artist to enter the Museum's collection; and *Zonal Harmonics*, a site-specific sculpture commissioned for the West Building lobby by Tomas Saraceno. Contemporary acquisitions include a mixed-media installation, *You Deserve It Mama*, by Aaron Fowler; a painting, *Horry County 16*, by North Carolina artist Damian Stamer; and a new media work by North Carolina artist Sherrill Roland, *With Heart, Letter #010814*. Thirteen photographs by both American and international

artists were added to the collection, including works by North Carolina photographers Endia Beal and Faith Couch. The African art collection expanded significantly with 31 works, primarily gifts from private collections, featuring textiles, sculptural objects, metal work, and jewelry. An important marble sculpture, *The Old Indian Arrow Maker and His Daughter*, by the 19th-century American artist Edmonia Lewis was acquired for the American collection along with a landscape painting by Francis Duveneck from 1900. The European painting collection expanded with a rare work, *Mon Atelier*, by 19th-century Swiss female artist, Lucie Attinger, and the gift of several 19th century paintings, including works by William-Adolphe Bouguereau, Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot, and Gustave Courbet. The Museum also continued to build its nationally recognized Judaic collection with several works, including a pair of 18th-century Torah Finials by female British artist, Hester Bateman; an 18th-century Hanukkah Lamp; a Torah Crown by contemporary artist Zelig Segal; and an 18th-century Sabbath Lamp by Georg Gerstner; at this time, the Museum's Judaic collection remains among the top three in the nation.

Staff and Volunteers

At the heart of the Museum is a talented staff of curators, conservators, educators, programmers, designers, horticulturists, visitor experience staff, 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 free Museum-based art park in the United States. In Summer 2022, the NCMA welcomed two new curators: Maya Brooks was promoted from her temporary assistant curator position funded by the Mellon Foundation to a full-time position as Assistant Curator of Contemporary Art, and Jared Ledesma was hired as Curator of Twentieth Century and Contemporary Art; both positions share curatorial responsibilities at the NCMA and SECCA.

With ongoing pandemic-related limitations and fewer opportunities to volunteer, the Museum reported 803 hours of service in 2021 and 659 hours in 2022. Our committed volunteers now number 140 individuals, and this dedicated core team continues to maintain its enthusiasm for the Museum's mission. We have continued to expand our mission across North Carolina by establishing new connections with local organizations, including non-profits, universities, corporate groups, and other professional networks. Our bi-annual community service projects in the spring and fall were successful in providing opportunities for passionate volunteers to support and maintain ongoing preservation

projects in the Museum Park; for example, the volunteer event held in April 2022 had 55 participants, many of whom were new to the NCMA, who planted over 2,000 plants throughout the Park. From the galleries to the Park and trails, volunteers typically provide the services of wayfinding throughout our campus and during concerts in the amphitheater; support educational programming and summer camp initiatives; work alongside staff to maintain the 164-acre property; and provide hospitality and campus guidance in the Welcome Center. We remain extremely grateful to our volunteer corps for their ongoing and vital support of the Museum and its mission.

At the heart of this volunteer effort are the members of our own Board of Trustees, the members of the NCMA Foundation Board of Directors, and the members of the SECCA Foundation Board of Directors. These individuals devote significant time and expertise to numerous NCMA and SECCA projects and raise substantial funds for museum initiatives, including community-based programming, traveling exhibitions, and art acquisitions.

Recent Initiatives and Coming Attractions

Since her arrival to the NCMA in November 2018, Dr. Hillings has celebrated the Museum's mission to serve all North Carolinians; one of her first initiatives was the crafting of a 2020-2025 Strategic Plan that focuses on four key goal areas: collections and exhibitions, education and outreach, the NCMA's Park, and operational excellence and sustainability.

A signature component of this strategic plan was the reimagining of the People's Collection in 2022 in conjunction with the 75th anniversary of the state legislative appropriation of \$1 million dollars to purchase this collection. The reimagining of the People's Collection opened to our citizens on Saturday, October 8, 2022, presenting its newly-organized collection galleries to the public. This reimagining increased works on view by 25%; returned the African Collection to West Building; offers a mix of geographical and historical galleries alongside cross-collection thematic galleries; highlights the art of conservation science; features 30 newly-acquired works and 5 site-specific commissioned works, including commissions from NC artists Elizabeth Alexander and JP Jermaine Powell, as well as 78 new loans from both US and international institutions and 100 collection objects on view for the first time in many years or ever. It also debuted a wealth of new digital and educational components, including interactive labels, maps, and activities and community voice labels, which invite community members to

share their interpretations of 20 objects in the People's Collection. All interactive elements were designed with inclusivity and accessibility in mind and with the support of the NC Department of Health and Human Services. To celebrate its reopening, the NCMA hosted a variety of events in advance of the grand reopening on October 8; these included a community member and partner event, a teacher event, a member event, and a gala. From October 3 to October 9, the Museum welcomed over 14,000 people to its celebrations, and the public celebration included a family day, Music at the Museum in partnership with Come Hear NC and PBS-NC, free access to special exhibition the Phillips Collection, Monster Drawing Rally, artist-led tours, performing arts programs, and more.

In accordance with the 2020-2025 strategic plan, the Museum has focused on outreach across North Carolina; this effort spans programming in communities across the state to the digital format. In 2021 and 2022, the Museum was fortunate to receive funding from the Anonymous Trust, courtesy of Trustee Anne Faircloth, for its Artist Innovation Mentorship Program (AIM); this program pairs local artists in communities across NC with middle school students with the goals of exposing them to the creative arts, inspiring their capacity, sharing innovative thinking strategies through art-making, and strengthening creative economies especially in rural towns and under-resourced areas. Originally funded to be a program in Eastern NC, AIM received additional funding in 2022 to expand westward; we are currently operating in 7 counties and will be in 13 by the end of 2023. A similar program, Moving from Transactional to Transformational, was funded by the Kenan Foundation in 2021 and allows the Museum to listen and respond to specific needs in 8 communities from now through 2025; the initial project, which included a visual art exhibition and 14 programs, opened in Wilmington in July 2022. The Museum was also grateful to receive legislative funding for the development of a new digital educational tool titled *NCMA Explore*. The tool, which has been developed to engage middle school students, invites young people into a virtual reality and allows them to explore the historical settings of objects in the People's Collection while also learning about the objects from curators and other experts. Outreach programs such as these continue to expand to schools as well as to communities; in 2023, we will be offering programs specific to individuals living with and caring for those with dementia and Alzheimer's as well as to at-risk or deferred youth.

Growth in the Ann and Jim Goodnight Museum Park has been significant since its 2016 expansion, and the COVID-19 pandemic and its encouragement of outdoor activity has brought our highest visitorship

to date. We opened a new Welcome Center in December 2021 as part of a Wake County grant; this building houses our State Park Rangers as well as members of our visitor experience team and volunteers, linking campus-wide security operations with public safety and information services in the Park. In 2021, the Museum completed a Museum Park Vision Plan, and in the 2022 grant cycle, the NC Land and Water Fund (NCLWF) awarded the Museum \$750,000 to complete the stream restoration of the Unnamed Tributary in the Museum Park as part of this work, which is expected to begin in 2023. The NCMA was also awarded the Sir Walter Raleigh Award in Fall 2022 in the category of Land Planning for the Museum Park Vision Plan. Jurors of the award appreciated the thoughtful attention the Plan made to the natural environment and its incorporation of ecology into the Park experience.

Enhancing Park visitorship through our Art in the Environment initiative continues; 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 facilitated the installation of two significant, permanent works of art, *Union 060719* by North Carolina artist Hoss Haley and *Mirrored Labyrinth* by Jeppe Hein. We are excited to offer visitors opportunities to engage with both nature and art in the Museum Park and are thrilled to share that we launched the NCMA Park App in December 2022, creating a hand-held opportunity for visitors to learn more about art, nature, and the Museum's campus.

The Museum has continued to provide multigenerational audiences with exhibitions, lectures, classes, and events that reflect the citizens of North Carolina and engage participants on the Museum's campus, virtually, and in communities across the state. This work is reflected in the publication of our children's book *The Museum Lives in Me*, which was distributed to all NC Cardinal Libraries in 2022 and is being mailed to all public elementary schools now. We also partner with the Cardinal Libraries and other non-profit organizations to distribute collection-based art kits to children across North Carolina; over 6,600 free kits were shared in fiscal year 2022 alone and offer opportunities for NC residents to build familiarity with works in the collection and, hopefully, excitement about a visit to the NCMA. Our programs also continue to engage multigenerational audiences, and we are proud to offer everything from What's in the Box for preschool age children to College Conversations for our college students to a wide array of studio, lecture, music programs, and more that engage non-student audiences. As part of our 2020-2025 strategic plan, we continue to spotlight North Carolina artists; in the last two years, we

have partnered with artists in local communities to support outreach programming, celebrated North Carolina musicians like Old Crow Medicine Show and performers Paperhand Puppets, integrated more NC artists in our retail model, and commissioned artists like Elizabeth Alexander to install and activate objects in our galleries. We continue to draw upon both internal creativity and external collaborators and worked with 416 different partners in 39 counties and beyond NC in fiscal year 2022. We find great joy and success in these collaborations and look forward to their expansion in additional communities and with new partners in the years ahead.

Looking ahead, the NCMA is excited to be hosting a Ruth E. Carter exhibition; on view April to August 2023, the exhibition presents intricately designed costumes from popular movies, including *Selma* and *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* and dives into the Academy-Award winner's research, process, and incredible attention to detail. In Fall 2023, the Museum will open *Dutch Art in a Global Age, Masterpieces from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston*.

Needs and Concerns

Urgent Needs

The NCMA needs to address a series of repair and renovation needs in its West Building, including repairs to its six sets of entry doors, which become inoperable on a regular basis and are preventing Museum visitors from experiencing art in the West Building as it was intended.

SECCA needs an updated security system to support traveling exhibitions; this change will strengthen our capacity to deliver higher-level artists and programming to Forsyth County and the Triad. The auditorium, which was built in 1991, requires renovations to meet ADA requirements and to facilitate production quality that meets the standards and expectations of Triad residents.

Other Important Needs

The NCMA's East Building windows, lighting, and electrical infrastructure need to be updated to meet current environmental, energy-efficient standards and to meet our collection and programmatic needs, particularly in the realm of multimedia objects and performing arts.

As identified in 2010, SECCA would benefit from a complete repair and renovation of its buildings and,


primarily, the original Hanes House.

Conclusion

The Board of Trustees has been partnering with Dr. Hillings, the NCMA staff, the NCMA Foundation Board of Directors, the SECCA Foundation Board of Directors, and the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to identify and prioritize the maintenance needs of the Museum and their costs. We respectfully ask the General Assembly to work with us immediately to meet the urgent needs of the North Carolina Museum of Art and SECCA, two of North Carolina's major attractions and educational and historical treasures.

This report is respectfully submitted on this day, February 1, 2023, on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the North Carolina Museum of Art.

Gratefully,



Elizabeth Buck
Chair, NCMA Board of Trustees