

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

SIXTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215 extension 224

## FACT SHEET

### PROGRAMS INVOLVED IN THE EAST BUILDING PROJECT

In thirty years, the Gallery's collections, all privately donated, have grown from 130 to more than 30,000 works of art. Attendance has grown to nearly two million visitors annually, and the Extension Service, federally supported, reaches three million more people. The Gallery has also outgrown its conservation, library, auditorium and cafeteria facilities.

In effect, the new building project involves three inter-related programs:

I. The exhibition galleries will provide much-needed areas for changing temporary special exhibitions; areas to permit the permanent exhibition of certain of the Gallery's present holdings and the rounding out of its survey of Western Art, especially of nineteenth and twentieth century paintings and sculpture; and an auditorium of nearly double the capacity of the present lecture hall, which is inadequate to meet current demands.

II. The building for educational, curatorial and administrative functions, including the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, is planned to accommodate:

- 1) A unique complex of art library, photographic archives and scholars' studies, which will provide the substantial facilities needed for an international center for study of the visual arts for use of teachers, writers, critics and scholars from across the country and overseas;
- 2) The growing Education and Extension divisions, with both regional and national services, which require greatly expanded space for administrative and workshop activities;

(more)

- 3) Curatorial offices (provisions for an enlarged and strengthened curatorial staff, which will work in the immediate area of the research center);
- 4) An enlarged graphic arts department and prints and drawings collection;
- 5) Enlarged facilities for the other administrative functions which must grow together with the Gallery's programs;
- 6) A terrace café for the public accessible from the exhibition building, with a magnificent view of the Capitol, with its new reflecting pool, and of the Mall.

III. The Connecting Link (below the plaza) provides space for necessary Gallery and public service functions, especially:

- 1) All-weather underground communications between the buildings;
- 2) A tripling of the capacity of the present badly crowded restaurant (cafeteria);
- 3) Expanded and centralized truck docking, shipping, receiving and exhibition preparation facilities to accommodate both buildings and take care of future activity growth;
- 4) Enlarged operation areas for two of the Gallery's principal public services, Publications and Extension, both seriously overcrowded at present;
- 5) Modernized art study facilities;
- 6) Parking

The moving of a number of present functions to larger areas will free the existing building so that it can in turn accommodate expanded or new functions:

- 1) A children's museum and workshop area and a reception and orientation area for visitor and school groups;

(more)

- 2) Presentation of a permanently visible museum of the graphic arts and of important special collections;
- 3) A scientific laboratory for art research, adjoining conservation and photographic laboratories enlarged to meet the demands of the Gallery's programs.

END