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Corcoran Gallery of Art, the George Washington University and National Gallery of Art Receive Approval to Implement Agreements



L to R Steven Knapp president of the George Washington University; Peggy Loar, Interim Director and President of the Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design; Earl A. Powell III, Director of the National Gallery of Art.

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Washington, DC—Leaders of the Corcoran Gallery of Art and Corcoran College of Art and Design, the George Washington University (GW) and the National Gallery of Art today received approval from the D.C. Superior Court to implement their historic agreements that were first announced in February 2014.

The parties now plan to move ahead to carry out the terms of the agreements in the coming weeks. The court's ruling permits the parties to proceed with the transfer of ownership of the Corcoran's historic 17th Street building and the College of Art and Design to GW and of custody of the art collection to the National Gallery of Art.

The collaboration will maintain the historic building as a showplace for art and a home for the Corcoran College and its programs, creating a global hub for the arts at GW. The collaboration also will safeguard the Corcoran's collection and increase access to it as a public resource in Washington.

"Today we take a dramatic step toward realizing a dynamic partnership that will safeguard the Corcoran legacy for generations to come," said GW President Steven Knapp. "The George Washington University looks forward to welcoming Corcoran College students, faculty and staff to the GW community and to working with them to continue and enhance their proud tradition of innovative arts education in our nation's capital."

"This is the beginning of a collaboration that will make the Corcoran collection more accessible to more people in the nation's capital," said Earl A. Powell III, director of the National Gallery of Art. "We look forward to restoring and programming the galleries in the historic 17th Street building with vibrant exhibitions of modern art, and to exhibiting a significant number of works from the Corcoran collection in the Legacy Gallery in the Flagg Building and at the National Gallery of Art."

In February 2014, the Corcoran Gallery of Art entered into agreements with GW and the National Gallery of Art in order to assure:

- a long-term, sustainable future for the Corcoran Gallery and the College;
- the rehabilitation and renovation of the historic Corcoran building;
- the preservation and display of the Corcoran's valuable collection of art and its retention within the District of Columbia;
- the continued use of space within the historic Corcoran building for the exhibition of modern and contemporary art.

"We now embark upon this agreement to ensure that the Corcoran collections are stewarded as part of the nation's cultural patrimony and safeguarded as a public resource in Washington," stated Peggy Loar, interim director and president of the Corcoran. "The Corcoran school will be strengthened as it enlightens the next generation of American artists, and the historic Corcoran Beaux-Arts structure will be renovated as the site for its two traditional

purposes: educating art and design students and exhibiting historic American masterpieces and thought-provoking contemporary art. We could have achieved this outcome only with the encouragement of many colleagues in the field, others in the community, and with the support provided by our trustees, staff, students, faculty, members and donors. We express our immense gratitude to all of them."

The Corcoran College of Art and Design will become a part of GW and will now be known as The Corcoran School of the Arts and Design within GW's Columbian College of Arts and Sciences. GW will operate the school; maintain its distinct identity within the Columbian College; and assume ownership of, and responsibility for, the Corcoran building, including its renovation, which is slated to begin early in October 2014. Students will continue to take classes in the Corcoran buildings. GW also will assume custody of and care for a limited number of artworks that will remain permanently in place in the Corcoran building: the Canova Lions, the Salon Doré and the French Mantle.

For more information about the college, please visit corcoran.gwu.edu.

Also, as previously announced, the National Gallery of Art will organize and present exhibitions of modern and contemporary art within the Corcoran building.

The National Gallery also will maintain a Corcoran Legacy Gallery within the building, displaying a selection of works from the collection that are identified historically with the 17th Street landmark structure. These and other works of the Corcoran collection will be transferred to the custody of the National Gallery of Art. The National Gallery will accession a significant portion of these works into its own collection where they will bear the credit line "Corcoran Collection" plus the historic donor credit line. Works that are not accessioned by the National Gallery will be distributed by the Corcoran to other art museums and appropriate entities in the Washington area. No work of art will be sold.

The National Gallery of Art and Corcoran curators have already begun to work together on the accession and distribution plan, which may take up to a year.

For more information on upcoming exhibitions and programs that will be organized by the National Gallery in the 17th Street building, the community is encouraged to subscribe to National Gallery's monthly electronic newsletter at nga.gov/subscribe.

General Information

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden are at all times free to the public. They are located on the National Mall between 3rd and 9th Streets at Constitution Avenue NW, and are open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on December 25 and January 1. For information call (202) 737-4215 or visit the Gallery's Web site at www.nga.gov. Follow the Gallery on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt, Twitter at www.twitter.com/ngadc, and Instagram at <http://instagram.com/ngadc>.

Visitors will be asked to present all carried items for inspection upon entering. Checkrooms are free of charge and located at each entrance. Luggage and other oversized bags must be presented at the 4th Street entrances to the East or West Building to permit x-ray screening and must be deposited in the checkrooms at those entrances. For the safety of visitors and the works of art, nothing may be carried into the Gallery on a visitor's back. Any bag or other items that cannot be carried reasonably and safely in some other manner must be left in the checkrooms. Items larger than 17 by 26 inches cannot be accepted by the Gallery or its checkrooms.

For additional press information please call or send inquiries to:

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ONLINE RESOURCES

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

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Questions from members of the media may be directed to the Department of Communications at (202) 842-6353 or pressinfo@nga.gov

The public may call (202) 737-4215 or visit www.nga.gov for more information about the [National Gallery of Art](#).

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