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Georgia Museum of Art sets construction schedule for new wing

William U. Eiland, director of the Georgia Museum of Art, announces that the museum will be closing its gallery spaces on November 3, 2008, for two years in order to begin the construction of an additional wing and renovation of its present space. This period of expansion will begin in early spring of 2009 and continue until the museum reopens to the public in early 2011. During this time, the museum will sponsor a number of events and exhibitions, including collaborations with the Lyndon House Arts Center and other businesses and organizations statewide.

The museum shop will remain open through Thursday, December 24 and will have an online presence during the construction. Patrons will be able to keep abreast of the construction progress with regularly posted updates to the GMOA website. The museum will also have a virtual building in Second Life, a 3D virtual world created by its residents where visitors can tour a representation of the current GMOA galleries and view digital versions of works of art in the permanent collection.

In May 2007, thanks to the generosity of its patrons and friends, the Georgia Museum of Art completed its most ambitious fundraising campaign to date by raising \$20 million in private support to fund construction of the expansion.

The addition to the existing facility consists of new galleries to display the permanent collection, as well as an outdoor sculpture garden, expanded lobby, and much-needed storage space. Presently, most visitors to GMOA are unaware of the richness of the museum's collection due to its current lack of space to display those works of art. The expanded gallery space will allow for the continual viewing of the museum's permanent collection.

“Phase II of the Georgia Museum of Art represents not only the promise of future excellence for the museum but also the lofty aspirations of its community-minded patrons and donors who make such programming possible,” said Eiland.

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Museum Information

Partial support for the exhibitions and programs at the Georgia Museum of Art is provided by the Georgia Council for the Arts through appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. The Council is a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. Individuals, foundations and corporations provide additional museum support through their gifts to the Arch Foundation and the University of Georgia foundation. The Georgia Museum of Art is located in the Performing and Visual Arts Complex on the East Campus of the University of Georgia. The address is 90 Carlton Street, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, 30602. Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., Wednesday from 10 a.m. until 9 p.m., Sunday from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. and closed Mondays. Museum Shop Hours: Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4:45 p.m., Sunday from 1 p.m. until 4:45 p.m. and Wednesday from 10 a.m. until 8:45 p.m.

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