

## The Norton and Gilbane Building Company Celebrate Construction Milestone with Exciting 'Topping Out' Ceremony

**A STEEL BEAM WILL BE SIGNED BY WORKERS AND DIGNITARIES AND RAISED TO THE BUILDING'S HIGHEST POINT, SIGNALING A DYNAMIC NEW VIEW ON S. DIXIE HIGHWAY**

**WEST PALM BEACH, FL (June 7, 2017)** – The Norton Museum of Art is thrilled to announce a “topping out” ceremony in celebration of reaching the construction milestone of completing to its highest point the steel framework of The New Norton transformation project. The celebration is set for 11 a.m. Tuesday, June 27, 2017.

“Topping out” is a term used in the construction industry to indicate the setting of the final piece of structure leading to a building reaching its planned maximum height. Topping out ceremonies are often traced back to the Scandinavian tradition of placing a tree atop a new building. This was thought to appease the tree dwelling spirits of the displaced brethren. And, yes, a tree will be attached to the beam and hoisted by crane to “top out” the structure!

Entrance to the ceremony will be via a gate at the corner of Cranesnest Way and S. Dixie Highway. A platform will be available for TV cameras and photographers for unobstructed views of the festivities.

Below is a timeline for The New Norton Topping Out celebration:

- 11 a.m. – Ceremonial beam signing by construction workers, Norton Trustees and staff, and others.
- 11:15 a.m.– Brief remarks by:
  - Hope Alswang, Executive Director of the Norton Museum of Art
  - Robert Hayes, Vice President, Florida Division Leader, Gilbane Building Company
- 11:30 a.m. – Hoisting of the beam
- Tours of the construction site to follow

For more information, please contact Director of Communications Scott Benarde at [benardes@norton.org](mailto:benardes@norton.org) or (561) 340-1183, or Communications Officer Hilary Greene at [Greeneh@norton.org](mailto:Greeneh@norton.org) or (561) 832-5196 ext. 1136.

## **ABOUT THE NORTON MUSEUM OF ART**

Founded in 1941, the Norton Museum of Art is recognized for its distinguished holdings in American, European, and Chinese art, and a continually expanding presence for Photography and Contemporary art. Its masterpieces of 19th century and 20th century European painting and sculpture include works by Brancusi, Gauguin, Matisse, and Picasso, and American works by Stuart Davis, Hopper, O'Keeffe, Pollock, and Sheeler.

The Norton presents special exhibitions, lectures, tours, and programs for adults and children throughout the year. In 2011, the Norton launched RAW (Recognition of Art by Women), featuring the work of a living female painter or sculptor and funded by the Leonard and Sophie Davis Fund/MLDauray Arts Initiative. In 2012, the Norton established the biennial, international Rudin Prize for Emerging Photographers in partnership with Beth Rudin DeWoody, named in honor of her late father, Lewis Rudin.

In 2016, the Norton broke ground for a visionary expansion designed by architecture firm Foster + Partners, under the direction of Pritzker Prize-winning architect Lord Norman Foster. The project reorients the Norton's entrance to the main thoroughfare of South Dixie Highway, restoring the symmetry of the museum's original 1941 design, and includes a new 42,000-square-foot West Wing that doubles education space, and increases gallery space for the Norton's renowned collection. The transformation of the Museum's 6.3-acre campus will create a museum in a garden, featuring new, verdant spaces and a sculpture garden.

The Norton is located at 1451 S. Olive Ave. in West Palm Beach, FL., and during construction through December 2018 is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. and Thursday, noon to 9 p.m., **and is free to the public**. Free parking and shuttle service is available at 1501 S. Dixie Highway. The Museum is closed on Mondays and major holidays. For additional information, please call (561) 832-5196, or visit [www.norton.org](http://www.norton.org).

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