

Norton Museum of Art Unveils New Plans for Sub-Tropical Green Spaces and Sculpture Garden

*First Public Garden Designed by Foster + Partners
is Part of Transformative Norton Expansion Designed by the Firm*

Grand Reopening Set for February 2019



WEST PALM BEACH, FL (Oct. 26, 2017)—The Norton Museum of Art today announced the design plans for the first public garden designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Lord Norman Foster. The sub-tropical garden and green space includes the Pamela and Robert B. Goergen Garden, which will feature 11 significant gifts of art from the couple. Native flora will surround The New Norton—the Museum’s \$100 million, Foster + Partners-designed expansion project—to reinforce the relationship between the building and the landscape, and serve as a new social space for the community.

“From the beginning, we have conceived of the Norton expansion as an opportunity to create a New Norton—one that embraces its original design, while also creating a more welcoming and inviting campus,” said Lord Norman Foster. “In our masterplan, it was important for us to define the Norton’s sense of place—in this case Florida’s lush subtropics. To do so, we conceptualized a museum within a garden. We are creating verdant spaces for art and programming that extends the museum beyond its walls.”

The new landscape will echo this spatial concept of the masterplan—a series of elegant Art Deco-inspired pavilions ringing a central courtyard—by creating a series of “garden rooms,” which will be arranged axially along the Southern edge of the Museum. Each room will be formed by native trees and plantings, and will feature thematic groupings of sculptures, including works by Keith Haring, George Rickey, and Mark di Suervo, among other important contemporary artists whose work will enter the Norton’s permanent collection for the first time.

“The Norton is grateful to donors Pamela and Robert B. Goergen, who have given the Museum 11 transformative sculptures, and have also been instrumental in allowing the Museum to achieve an important goal of this expansion, creating—as Lord Foster envisioned—a museum in a garden,” said Norton Executive Director Hope Alswang. “Their generosity allows for expanded programming, provides more space for displaying art, and creates a beautiful gathering place for the community.”

In addition to the garden, the 6.3-acre campus will also feature shaded walkways, created from native trees and flowers, and a new great lawn, which will provide an open-air venue for the Museum’s popular “Art After Dark” program, as well as other live performances, film screenings, and events. The glass and steel colonnade in the J. Ira and Nicki Harris Family Gallery will provide expansive views of the garden from inside the Museum.

Eighty-two mature trees, including eight mahogany trees that have been sourced from across the state, will be planted on site to create a mature garden when the Museum reopens to the public in February 2019. A majestic banyan tree, which was planted when the Museum opened in 1941, and was the inspiration for the Foster “museum within a garden” design, will anchor the Museum’s new entrance on South Dixie Highway. The expansion’s unique roof curves around the tree’s canopy and shades the inviting entrance plaza, which ushers visitors into the Museum and onto the campus.

About the New Norton

The Museum, which opened in 1941, was initially conceived by architect Marion Sims Wyeth as an elegant series of Art Deco-inspired pavilions organized around a central courtyard. Visitors entered from the east, and from its front door enjoyed a direct view to the Intracoastal Waterway. As the Museum outgrew its original footprint, it added new multi-story spaces and moved its main entrance to face south. The Foster + Partners plan relocates the entry to the west, giving the Norton a distinctive, welcoming presence on South Dixie Highway while reestablishing the symmetry and clarity of the original Wyeth design.

The Heyman Plaza, the new entry forecourt, will feature the serene Michelle and Joseph Jacobs Reflecting Pool and will be sheltered under a monumental, 43-foot-high, semi-reflective metal canopy that “floats”—unsupported—45 feet beyond the face of the building. A scalloped-shaped cutout in the canopy respects a majestic 80-year-old, 65-foot-tall banyan tree.

The new spaces adjacent to the forecourt include the 210-seat, state-of-the-art Stiller Family Foundation Auditorium for films, lectures and concerts; the Jane and Leonard Korman Room; and the Leonard and Evelyn Lauder Restaurant, which will offer outdoor dining on the John and

Marjorie McGraw Terrace. At the center of these spaces is the Ruth and Carl Shapiro Great Hall, a magnificent 3,600-square-foot, 43-foot-tall space, which will serve as the Museum's living room with lounge seating, a coffee bar, piano, and book carts. The walls in the Great Hall will be used as canvases for commissioned, temporary art installations. The west-facing wall will feature a 10-x-28-foot-tall window, which will admit dappled light, filtered by the leaves and branches of the banyan tree. These distinct spaces can be used independently for a variety of programs during or after operating hours.

The expansion also includes 12,000 square feet of new gallery space for the Norton's robust cultural programming, which includes annual exhibitions by groundbreaking women artists and biennial exhibitions by emerging photographers, as well as showcasing the Museum's distinguished photography holdings and collections of American, Chinese, European, and contemporary art. The J. Ira and Nicki Harris Family Gallery will feature a 150-foot-long exhibition space characterized by a colonnade with large windows facing the garden. The new William Randolph Hearst Education Center is more than twice the size of the existing education space. It will offer two classrooms and a student gallery that will allow for expanded workshops and classes for youth, adults, and families.

South of the garden, six Museum-owned, 1920s-era, historic houses are being restored. Two of these have been connected and re-christened Karp House, to serve as the Director's Residence. Three homes will serve as houses and studios for the Museum's new artist-in-residence program, details of which will be announced in the coming months.

About Foster + Partners

Foster + Partners is a global studio for architecture, urbanism and design, rooted in sustainability, which was founded fifty years ago in 1967 by Lord Foster. Since then, he and the team around him have established an international practice with a worldwide reputation for thoughtful and pioneering design, working as a single studio that is both ethnically and culturally diverse. The studio integrates the skills of architecture with engineering, both structural and environmental, urbanism, interior and industrial design, model and film making, aeronautics and many more – our collegiate working environment is similar to a compact university. These diverse skills make us capable of tackling a wide range of projects, particularly those of considerable complexity and scale. Design is at the core of everything that we do. We design buildings, spaces and cities; we listen, we question and we innovate.

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.

The Norton is located at 1451 S. Olive Ave. in West Palm Beach, FL., and is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Closed on Mondays and major Holidays). General admission is \$12 for adults, \$5 for students with a valid ID, and free for Members and children ages 12 and under. Palm Beach County residents receive free admission every Saturday with proof of residency. For additional information, please call (561) 832-5196, or visit www.norton.org.

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IMAGE: The Pamela and Robert B. Goergen Garden, as seen from the west, Norton Museum of Art, designed by Foster + Partners, image courtesy of Foster + Partners.