



## NEWS RELEASE

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## Joslyn Art Museum Announces Groundbreaking, Reveals Design for New Pavilion

**Full Project Scope, Including Site Redesign and Renovation Plans, Detailed**

(Omaha, NE) – Today at a ceremonial groundbreaking, Joslyn Art Museum executive director & CEO Jack Becker unveiled the design for the Museum's expansion and renovation, led by international architectural firm Snøhetta in partnership with Omaha's Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture (APMA). The new building will be named for Rhonda and Howard Hawks of The Hawks Foundation.

***PICTURED ABOVE:** Joslyn Art Museum New Pavilion Expansion, Aerial View. Rendering courtesy Moare.*

### Scope of Project

Central to the 42,000-square-foot Rhonda and Howard Hawks Pavilion are abundant light-filled galleries designed to meet the demands of and explore the possibilities of a growing permanent collection. Visitors will find new community spaces, additional classrooms, and enhanced amenities that support increased public programs. In addition to the new galleries and public spaces, the architectural team will restore and modernize existing office spaces in Joslyn's 1931 Memorial Building. The project also redesigns and rejuvenates more than three acres of public gardens and outdoor spaces

on the Museum site. The site work includes a reorientation of the grounds around a reimagined point of public arrival anchored by an atrium named for Phillip G. Schrager.

In the new gallery spaces, the public will have unprecedented access to works from the nationally-renowned Phillip G. Schrager Collection of Contemporary Art. The Museum received a transformative gift of over fifty works from that collection, instantly propelling Joslyn to a new position on the international museum stage and greatly expanding the range of twentieth-century artists represented in its collection.

### **Architectural History**

Nebraska's largest art museum first opened its doors in 1931 with the iconic Joslyn Memorial Building. Designed by father-son architectural team John and Alan McDonald, the Joslyn Memorial was a gift to the city of Omaha from Sarah Joslyn in memory of her husband, George. Over its 90-year history, Joslyn Art Museum has remained committed to a public-facing mission, with free admission for all, and stands among the most important cultural institutions in Omaha and the region at-large. Its architectural heritage is no less significant. The original Memorial Building, clad in vibrant Georgia Pink marble and regarded as one of the finest historical examples of the Art Deco style, found its distinctly modern counterpart in Lord Norman Foster's 1994 expansion—the Scott Pavilion—the architect's first built project in the United States. In 2009, two new sculpture gardens further expanded Joslyn's exterior spaces for art, adding much-needed outdoor experiences.



***PICTURED ABOVE:*** Joslyn Art Museum New Pavilion Expansion, East Elevation View. Rendering courtesy Moare.

### **Vision for Expansion**

Snøhetta and APMA's design for the new Rhonda and Howard Hawks Pavilion expands Joslyn's existing gallery space by more than one third and introduces intertwined indoor and outdoor art experiences and a new public arrival drive and entrance. The expansion building springs from the current glass atrium as a curving, low-slung volume that gradually twists from glass to solid, transforming the existing atrium's horizontal skylights into solid, vertical walls that hold the Pavilion's new day-lit galleries on the second floor. Complementing Joslyn's existing iconic buildings, the new building appears as a solid, floating volume set lightly atop two granite garden walls, with a transparent first floor enclosing a new atrium lobby, Museum shop, and multi-

function community space. These ground floor spaces gradually rise to the level of the existing buildings via a gently sloping, accessible walkway. The weightless effect of the hovering expansion recalls the striking cloud formations that blanket the Great Plains as well as the deep overhangs and horizontal expression of regional Prairie Style architecture. The horizontal texture of the new façade takes its cue from the stacked stone steps of the Memorial Building's monumental Grand Staircase that emerge from the east side of the existing buildings in parallel with the expansion. The façade's light-colored, precast panels are embedded with vibrant pops of pink aggregate that reflect the rich, rose-colored marble of the existing buildings.

When the expansion is complete, experienced visitors to Joslyn Art Museum will immediately notice important changes to the grounds that clarify their arrival and

***PICTURED RIGHT:*** Joslyn Art Museum New Pavilion Expansion, East Elevation View. Rendering courtesy Moare.

increase the connectivity between existing spaces. The



primary access to Joslyn has been relocated to the northern edge of the site, off Davenport Street, leading to a revitalized entrance drive that sits on axis with a new, raised sculpture garden and Museum entrance, creating a clear sense of front and a new beginning for the Museum experience. The expansion relocates the front door, from its more hidden location inside the existing glass atrium to the edge of the entrance drive. In inclement weather, Museum visitors may take advantage of the new covered drop-off area sheltered from the elements by the galleries cantilevered overhead. New sculpture gardens have been reimagined as a sweeping collection of landscaped spaces and outdoor “rooms” that wrap the site, weaving the buildings and outdoor spaces together around a spine formed by the existing installation *The Omaha Riverscape* by sculptor Jesús Moroles. At the southeast corner of the site on Dodge Street, the existing retaining wall has been lowered to reveal the Memorial Building and its Grand Staircase to those approaching Joslyn from the east, a change complemented by a new Great Lawn framed by native grasses and vibrant meadow plantings creating colorful variation throughout the seasons. The existing Discovery Garden is reconnected to the Museum and other gardens by a new landscape for pedestrians with paths that reveal sculptures and native plantings along the way. Honoring Joslyn’s identity while opening a more porous, inviting front, the expansion marks a new chapter in the Museum’s vision for public access to the arts through a comprehensive redesign. The galleries showcase a range of art new to the Museum while allowing for increased public access to more works from Joslyn’s collections of 3,000 years of art, including Native American objects and works on paper. New classrooms and public spaces support greater breadth and depth of public programming and art education. The expansion builds upon Joslyn’s rich history as an iconic landmark and cultural hub as it creates a dynamic, inclusive design that is open to all.

Site work for the expansion has begun and construction will occur in phases. For the safety of visitors, staff, and the art, the Museum will undergo a necessary period of closure beginning May 2022 through reopening in 2024. While temporarily closed to visitors, Joslyn staff will continue its curatorial and research work while exploring new possibilities for engagement with the community leading up to reopening.

#### **Project Team: Joslyn Art Museum New Pavilion Expansion, Site & Existing Building Renovations**

Architect of Record:	Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture, Omaha
Design Architect:	Snøhetta, New York
Landscape Architect:	Snøhetta, New York
Structural Engineer of Record:	Thompson Dreessen & Dorner, Omaha
Structural Engineer:	MKA, Seattle
MEFP Engineer, A/V, Telecom,	
LEED Documentation:	Morrissey Engineering, Omaha
Specialty Lighting Design, Acoustics:	Arup, New York
Sustainability, Energy Analysis,	
LEED Administration:	A10, New York
Façade Consulting:	Front, New York
Civil Engineer:	Olsson, Omaha
Commissioning Agent:	BranchPattern, Omaha
General Contractor:	Kiewit Building Group, Omaha
Project Manager:	Anser Advisory (formerly Ascent), Chicago

For more information, contact Amy Rummel, Joslyn Art Museum director of marketing and public relations, at (402) 661-3822 or [arummel@joslyn.org](mailto:arummel@joslyn.org).

**Our Vision** — To be cherished and respected as a premier art museum.

**General Museum Admission:** Free (additional charge for major ticketed special exhibitions).

**Regular Museum Hours:** Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am–4 pm; closed Monday, Tuesday, and major holidays.

**www.joslyn.org | (402) 342-3300 | 2200 Dodge Street | Omaha, NE 68102**

### **About Joslyn Art Museum**

#### ***History & Architecture***

Joslyn Art Museum is the largest museum in the state of Nebraska and a cultural cornerstone of the city of Omaha for 90 years. The Museum was a gift to the people of Omaha from Sarah Joslyn in memory of her husband, George, who made his fortune as president of the Western Newspaper Union. Both Sarah and George were noted community and arts supporters; making their fortune in Omaha, they vowed to return much of their wealth to the city through their philanthropy. The Museum's original 1931 building is one of the finest examples of Art Deco architecture in the nation, with 38 types of marble from seven countries. The Walter and Suzanne Scott Pavilion, a 58,000-square-foot addition built in 1994, was designed by renowned British architect Lord Norman Foster, Baron Foster of Thames Bank, as his first U.S. commission. The Museum features galleries, a 1,000-seat concert hall, fountain court, education technology gallery, lecture hall, classrooms, sculpture garden, café, shop, and Art Works, an interactive space for art exploration.

#### ***Collections***

Comprising over 12,000 works of art, Joslyn's comprehensive and globally-recognized collections are a significant cultural resource for the community and the region. Highlights include a highly-regarded collection of Greek pottery and significant objects from ancient Asia; Old Master paintings by Rembrandt, Titian, El Greco, and Veronese; noteworthy nineteenth-century French academic paintings by Breton, Bouguereau, and Gérôme; and Impressionist masterpieces by Pissarro, Renoir, Monet, Cassatt, Degas, Matisse, and others. The American collection offers a historical overview of the major themes of American art through the 1930s, from an early Hudson River School landscape by Thomas Cole to major work by Grant Wood and Thomas Hart Benton. Especially notable in the American collection are works by artists and explorers of the American West, including major holdings by Alfred Jacob Miller and nearly 400 watercolors and drawings by Swiss artist Karl Bodmer, who journeyed up the Missouri River between 1832–34 to portray the landscapes of the high plains and its native inhabitants. Native American cultures are represented by a diverse collection of nineteenth- and twentieth-century artists. Joslyn's post-1945 and contemporary collection includes impressive works by Pollock, Calder, Frankenthaler, Bleckner, Held, Judd, and others. Joslyn's collection of works by living artists is growing and features John Divola, Brad Kahlhamer, Hayv Karman, Orly Genger, Jennifer Steinkamp, and many others.

#### ***Education & Outreach***

Joslyn has committed itself to the role of leader in arts education. Over the decades, the Museum has offered a wide range of programs connected to art and history, and hundreds of thousands of school students have visited for traditional gallery tours. Today the Museum's role is far more expansive. While Joslyn's collections and exhibitions remain at the heart of programming, the Museum strives for visitor-centered experiences. Joslyn is a gathering place: a space for informal, life-long learning, where the community is invited to actively engage with art and with one another. At the foundation of the Museum's mission today is a dedication to provide opportunities that address the interests of a broader audience, including adults, youth and families, K-16 students and faculty, and under-served groups and individuals with special needs. Education programs provide visitors of all ages with opportunities to learn from and respond to art, and to participate in many ways, including through their own creative expression. Programs range from studio art classes to book discussions, gallery talks to teacher trainings, yoga sessions to youth mentoring, poetry slams to lecture luncheons, mobile tours to modern dance performances, and so much more. Additionally, programming occurs off-site, offering art experiences throughout the city and building a more diverse museum-going audience for the future.

#### ***Accessibility & Community***

For nine decades Joslyn has played a critical role within the Omaha metropolitan area. The first museum experience for many in the community has been at Joslyn, and generations have grown up deeply connected to the Museum. The Museum's primary audience remains Eastern Nebraska and Western Iowa. Thirty percent of visitors come from outside of Douglas County. Expanding its presence beyond its walls, the Museum has a strong history of community partnerships. Collaborations with educational, social, cultural and civic, organizations strengthen the Museum's connection with the city and Nebraska. In 2013, the Museum returned to the original vision of its founder Sarah Joslyn, granting free general admission to the public year-round. Free general admission has increased attendance and diversified Joslyn's audience while strengthening the bond between the institution and the community it serves.

### **About Snøhetta**

For more than 30 years, Snøhetta has designed some of the world's most notable public and cultural projects. Snøhetta kick-started its career in 1989 with the competition-winning entry for the new library of Alexandria, Egypt. This was later followed by the commission



for the Norwegian National Opera and Ballet in Oslo, and the National September 11 Memorial Museum Pavilion at the World Trade Center in New York City, among many others.

Since its inception, the practice has maintained its original transdisciplinary approach and integrates architectural, landscape, interior, product, graphic, digital design, and art across its projects. The collaborative nature between Snøhetta's different disciplines is an essential driving force of the practice. The practice has a global presence, with offices spanning from Oslo, Paris, and Innsbruck, to New York, Hong Kong, Adelaide, and San Francisco.

Snøhetta is currently working on a wide range of international projects, including the Ordrupgaard Art Museum expansion in Denmark; the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library in Medora, North Dakota; the Cornell University Executive Education Center and Hotel in New York City; and the Shanghai Grand Opera House. Recently completed works include Le Monde Group Headquarters in Paris; Europe's first underwater restaurant, Under; the redesign of the public space in Times Square; the expansion to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Lascaux IV: The International Centre for Cave Art; Powerhouse Brattørkaia; and the design for Norway's new banknotes.

Snøhetta's working method practices a simultaneous exploration of traditional handicraft and cutting-edge digital technology. At the heart of all Snøhetta's work lies a commitment to social and environmental sustainability, shaping the built environment and design in the service of humanism. Snøhetta believes well-conceived design can help things run more efficiently, improve people's well-being, and make life more enjoyable. Every project is designed with strong, meaningful concepts in mind—concepts that can translate the ethos of its users and their context.

Among its many recognitions, Snøhetta has been awarded the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture—Mies van der Rohe Award for the Norwegian National Opera and Ballet and the Aga Kahn Prize for Architecture for the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. In 2016, Snøhetta was named *Wall Street Journal Magazine's* Architecture Innovator of the Year, and the practice has been named one of the world's most innovative companies by Fast Company two years in a row. In 2020, Snøhetta was awarded the National Design Award for Architecture, bestowed by Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum.

#### **About Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture (APMA)**

Based in Omaha, Nebraska but with a portfolio that spans the Midwest, APMA's mission is threefold: Put people first. Advance Design. Build Communities. Since its inception in 1987, the team at APMA has dedicated itself to designing buildings and spaces that are as beautiful as they are functional. From ground-up new builds to the preservation and adaptation of historically significant buildings, the 66-person firm provides architecture, interior design and planning services to a wide range of clients and industries. To learn more, visit [alleypoyner.com](http://alleypoyner.com).