

**CORCORAN ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE WITH  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND AND EXHIBITION AGREEMENT  
WITH THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART**

**WASHINGTON, DC, April 3, 2013** — The Board of Trustees of the **Corcoran Gallery of Art and Corcoran College of Art + Design** today announced an integrated group of decisions made at the April 3 board meeting, beginning with the approval of a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) with the University of Maryland that opens the way to further negotiation to achieve a partnership.

Over the next several months discussions and research about the specifics of the partnership will proceed with guidance from a [Strategic Framework for a New Corcoran](#) that has been developed by the Corcoran's Board and leadership. The collaboration would make possible programmatic and operational initiatives that would strengthen both institutions and result in significant cost savings for the Corcoran.

The Corcoran also announced the completion of an agreement with the National Gallery of Art, under which the Corcoran will exhibit works of modern and contemporary art from the National Gallery's collection during the three-year period when the East Building is under renovation.

The Board has reaffirmed that the Corcoran will remain in its landmark building on 17<sup>th</sup> Street.

Finally, the Board announced that at its April 3 meeting it appointed museologist Peggy Loar as Consulting Director of the Corcoran, effective immediately. Her full-time engagement will assist the Corcoran in navigating the next stage of its future, managing the discussions with UMD, and executing the Corcoran's exciting exhibition schedule, including the co-operative exhibitions with the National Gallery of Art. Fred Bollerer, who assumed leadership of the Corcoran three years ago and ably steered the institution through a period of financial risk, had graciously extended his contract with the Corcoran at the Board's request, twice deferring his retirement date, and will be assisting the transition as Peggy Loar moves into her new role.

Harry Hopper, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, stated:

“For the last two years, the Corcoran Board had some very difficult tasks before it: first, to get the Corcoran's financial house in order, second, to identify the institution's core mission and

strengths within a changing museum and college landscape, and third, to create an exciting, relevant and sustainable future for both the Gallery and the College.

“We are delighted to announce significant progress in all three of those areas. We have rebuilt our fundraising team from the ground up. We have a strategic framework for a new Corcoran. And we have an agreement with the National Gallery of Art and are in discussions with one of the nation’s most successful educational institutions, the University of Maryland. I am very pleased with these results and proud of this Board’s accomplishments.”

Leaving the Corcoran Trustees’ meeting with the signed agreement on Wednesday, April 3, Wallace D. Loh, President of the University of Maryland, said, “The possibility of aligning with the Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design is an extraordinary opportunity for the University of Maryland. We are energized by the potential to enhance both institutions, to bring together diverse academic disciplines, students and faculty to create something truly unique and compelling in higher education. This is a moment of remarkable possibility.”

Earl A. Powell III, Director of the National Gallery of Art, said, “We are very pleased to be able to share works from the nation’s collection of modern art with visitors to the Corcoran while our East Building is closed for renovations. We have a history of lending works to the Corcoran, but the larger number of works addressed by this agreement and the increased length of their exhibition at the Corcoran makes this a new development in our long relationship. Both the Corcoran and the University of Maryland bring critical and complementary strengths to their new collaboration. I am confident that because of their Board's thoughtful decisions, now coming to light this spring, the Corcoran's future is very bright indeed.”

The two initiatives confirm the direction set by the *Strategic Framework for a New Corcoran*, adopted this week by the Board of Trustees as a guide for partner institutions, potential donors and its own staff leadership. The *Strategic Framework for a New Corcoran* sets goals that can be achieved on the basis of the Corcoran’s existing strengths as the only institution in the national capital region that is both a museum and a college. The document calls for the Corcoran to:

- Focus on Contemporary Art, American Art, and Design;
- Build on a recognized commitment to community engagement; and
- Develop an ability to address the cultural, social, economic and political issues of our day.

Initiatives specified in the *Strategic Framework for a New Corcoran* include reviving the Corcoran Biennial with a focus on international artists dealing with contemporary art and ideas; a stronger concentration on the collection of contemporary art, American art, and design; extending the impact of the College through partnering with a leading local university and increasing the Corcoran’s educational presence outside the walls of the institution; and working

more broadly and deeply with partners in the Washington area to bring contemporary art into political and social discussion and debate.

The development of the *Strategic Framework for a New Corcoran* and the agreements with the University of Maryland and the National Gallery of Art are taking place during an upswing in fundraising for the Corcoran, which reorganized its development office in autumn 2012 and has been experiencing renewed engagement from donors and patrons, including members, young professionals of the 1869 Society, corporations, and Trustees.

“The potential of a Corcoran collaboration with the University of Maryland is extremely promising,” said Ford Bell, President of the American Alliance of Museums. “Those of us in the field know that the Corcoran’s Trustees have been working thoughtfully toward a comprehensive, sustainable future for both the Gallery and the College. The combination of the Corcoran with the educational and cultural powerhouse of the University of Maryland can be a win for both.”

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*For questions regarding this news announcement, reporters are welcome to join Wallace D. Loh, President of the University of Maryland, and Chairman of the Corcoran Board of Trustees Harry Hopper at 6PM EST on a conference call.*

**Teleconference Information**

Date: Wednesday, April 3, 2013

Time: 6:00 pm

Call 1-800-793-6775 and enter 6429 6490

*Media is also invited to join Wallace Loh and Harry Hopper as they visit the Corcoran Gallery of Art to meet with faculty, staff, and students.*

Date: Thursday, April 4, 2013

Time: 10:00 am

## **ABOUT THE CORCORAN**

Established in 1869, the Corcoran Gallery of Art was one of America's first museums of art—dedicated, in the words of founder William Wilson Corcoran, to “encouraging American genius.” Today it is Washington, D.C.'s largest nonfederal art museum, known internationally for its distinguished collection of historical and modern American art as well as contemporary art, photography, European painting, sculpture, and the decorative arts. A dynamic schedule of special exhibitions complements a range of educational programming, which together enrich the perspectives of the visiting public, support the local arts community, and encourage thoughtful interpretation of today's most compelling social issues. The Corcoran College of Art + Design was founded as a school of art in 1890 and stands as Washington's only four-year accredited college of art and design. The College is one of the few in the nation whose educational model includes an integral relationship with a museum, fostering the talent of the next generation of artists. For more information about the Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design, visit [www.corcoran.org](http://www.corcoran.org).

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## **ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND**

The University of Maryland is the state's flagship university and one of the nation's preeminent public research universities. Ranked No. 19 among public universities by U.S. News & World Report, it has 32 academic programs in the U.S News Top 10 and 73 in the Top 25. The Institute of Higher Education (Jiao Tong University, Shanghai), which ranks the world's top universities based on research, puts Maryland at No. 38 in the world and No. 13 among U.S. public universities. The university has produced six Nobel laureates, seven Pulitzer Prize winners, more than 40 members of the national academies and scores of Fulbright scholars. The university is recognized for its diversity, with underrepresented students comprising one-third of the student population. For more information about the University of Maryland, visit [www.umd.edu](http://www.umd.edu).

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