

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS regarding the agreement between The Corcoran, the National Gallery of Art and the George Washington University

UPDATED MAY15 2014

1. What is the purpose of this agreement?

The Corcoran is entering into a historic agreement with the National Gallery of Art and the George Washington University in order to:

- Sustain the Corcoran legacy by ensuring the future of the college, the collection and the gallery building
- Maintain and restore the 17th Street Flagg building which will be dedicated to arts education and used for the operation of the school and for museum exhibition space, presenting art and programs to the public, with free admission
- Safeguard the iconic Corcoran collection within the District while making it more accessible to the public than ever before
- Preserve the special and unique relationship between the Corcoran College and the Corcoran collection
- Create an exciting program of contemporary art, housed in the historic 17th Street building

2. What will the gallery be called now?

The final name of the gallery is still to be determined. According to the terms of the signed agreements, the name will include “Corcoran”. The gallery will showcase temporary exhibitions of modern and contemporary works from the Corcoran and the NGA. Additionally, the “Corcoran Legacy Gallery” will be housed within the 17th Street Flagg building.

3. How does the Corcoran College benefit?

The College is expected to benefit from the following:

Currently enrolled and admitted students will have the opportunity to complete their course of studies

- Continued use of its location on 17th Street for classes, and after a period of renovation the ability to expand into additional space in the 17th Street building
- New and expanded opportunities for its students and faculty because of the exceptional resources of GW
- The opportunity to work with talented colleagues at the George Washington University
- The continuation of the challenging, supportive, inspirational, and personal education for which the Corcoran is known.

PROCESS

4. What is the next step in the Corcoran-NGA-GW transition process? How long will this take?

Now that the definitive agreements have been signed, the Corcoran Board will seek a *cy pres* determination from the DC Superior Court. *Cy pres* allows a charitable organization to obtain court approval to change its method of implementing the mission to which it is dedicated, because its current

means of implementing the mission have become impossible or impracticable. In this instance, the structural deficits inherent in the Corcoran's current arrangements have led to significant deferred maintenance on the building and a need to subsidize Gallery and College operations. It is impracticable and financially impossible to continue in that manner, especially in light of the significant maintenance needs of the building. By entering into and implementing the arrangements with GW and NGA, the Corcoran's trustees will assure that the collection remains on view to the public, that the College will continue its role, and that the building will remain a home for contemporary art and fine arts education. The *cy pres* process, which depends on the court calendar, may take several months.

5. Will the current Corcoran Board be dissolved?

Under the agreements, the Corcoran board will pursue its original mission: "Dedicated to Art and Encouraging American Genius," carrying forward the institution's 145-year history by supporting stewardship of the Corcoran name and legacy. Joint advisory committees with GW, National Gallery and Corcoran representatives will consult and advise on programs and activities in the 17th Street building and will promote contemporary art and artists.

6. Are there any other parties who will need to grant their approval before the agreement can be finalized?

We will be contacting all of our stakeholders to explain the proposal and seek their support, but for the most part, as a private organization, the Corcoran does not need approval from third parties to proceed with this effort.

7. Is the gallery open? Will the Corcoran's building be closed for renovations and repairs?

The Gallery portion of the building will remain open until on or about October 1, 2014, and scheduled special events will continue until the end of the year. The college will continue to operate in the building. The building is expected to be renovated in stages, allowing for classes to continue in the historic 17th Street building during this time.

AGREEMENT

8. How does this agreement meet the objectives of the federal charter?

By entering into and implementing the arrangements with GW and NGA, the Corcoran's trustees will ensure that the collection remains cared for and on exhibit to the public, that the College will continue its educational role, and that the building will remain a home programming and presentations of contemporary art.

9. What is the governance structure of this agreement? How does it impact the current governance structure of the Corcoran and its Board of Trustees?

The Corcoran will remain a non-profit organization that continues the mission of being "dedicated to art and encouraging American genius."

10. What happens to the Corcoran name under the new agreement?

The Corcoran name will continue to be associated with the continuing organization and the historic Flagg building. The Corcoran name will also remain as part of the NGA program in the Flagg building and

the new GW school. The artworks accessioned by the National Gallery will be identified as the “Corcoran Collection” and will include the historic donor credit line.

11. Does this arrangement guarantee that the Corcoran’s core collections will be free and accessible to the public in perpetuity?

Yes.

12. Will the National Gallery and GW collaborate on special initiatives to benefit students and community members as part of the ongoing relationship between the two institutions? What kind of collaborations will be planned?

We definitely plan on an active and exciting program of initiatives for students and the community. We will know more about how this program might be organized and managed as we continue to refine components of this relationship.

13: What does this decision mean for Corcoran faculty and staff?

Under the agreement, the full-time faculty will be offered one-year contracts from GW. GW has agreed that any non-faculty employees transferred to GW will have a minimum 6-month employment agreement. The National Gallery is planning to hire 20 current Corcoran museum staff members, including curatorial staff. Employees who are not offered positions by NGA or GW will be given 90 days’ notice and be eligible for full severance under current Corcoran policies.

14. What happened to the Corcoran’s agreement with the University of Maryland?

The Corcoran and UMD worked for several months on an agreement but could not agree on several fundamental terms.

FINANCIAL

15. How will this arrangement be funded? Who will pay to fix the Flagg building?

GW shall bear all costs related to the operation and renovation of the 17th Street building. As part of the agreement, the Corcoran will contribute to help offset renovation costs.

16. Between funds received from the settlement of the Clark estate and the funds from the sale of the Corcoran’s Oriental carpets, doesn’t the Corcoran have enough cash to jump start a capital campaign and save itself?

No. The financial issues confronting the Corcoran are substantial and were the basis for launching this effort to find a sustainable future for the College, the collection, and the building.

17. If GW is taking over the College, doesn’t the Corcoran now have enough money to renovate the building on its own?

No, unfortunately, it does not.

18. Will taxpayer money now be used to fund operations in the Corcoran building? If so, how much is this going to cost the taxpayers?

No, the George Washington University, which is a private institution, will be funding the renovation and care and maintenance of the Corcoran building.

COLLECTION

19. Will any of the Corcoran's artworks be sold or otherwise disposed of to pay for the costs of the transition or future operations of either organization?

Not a single work of art will be sold. Curators from the Corcoran and the NGA will work in concert to review the Corcoran collection. Works not accessioned by the National Gallery will be distributed by the Corcoran to other art museums and appropriate entities with a preference given to those in the Washington, D.C., area.

GW will assume custody and care for a limited number of artworks that will remain permanently in place in the Corcoran building: the Canova Lions, the Salon Doré and the French Mantle.

The only artwork that will neither be transferred to the National Gallery nor treated by GW as an immovable part of the building will be the Jean de Caumont stained glass window. The town in Belgium where the window originated is currently restoring the abbey from which the work was removed and has requested its return. The work will be repatriated by the Corcoran subject to the town's agreement to pay all costs, including the installation of an appropriate replacement window for the 17th Street building.

COLLEGE

20. How does the agreement with GW impact accreditation for the Corcoran's art school? What entity will be the degree-granting institution for current and future Corcoran students?

Accreditation from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) is proceeding as though the Corcoran were a stand-alone college until such time as it transfers to GW, which is also accredited by MSCHE. At that time, GW will be the degree-granting institution for Corcoran students who have not yet matriculated by spring 2014.

21. Will students currently enrolled in CCAD receive a Corcoran degree, a Corcoran/GW degree or a GW degree?

Beginning next year, GW will award all degrees to students, and will work with the Corcoran to formulate a degree designation that will include the Corcoran name. This designation will appear on every degree granted by the GW Corcoran school for students who are currently enrolled in the Corcoran School.

22. Will the College remain in the Corcoran's present 17th Street building, or will it be relocated in whole or in part?

Students will continue to take classes in the present building, and more space in the building will eventually be allocated for academic use. With GW's main campus right down the street, some classes and offices are likely to be relocated to GW, and certain GW offices relocated to the Corcoran building.

23. What connection will students continue to have with the Corcoran collection after the new governance structure is in place between the organizations?

The students will continue to have access to historic and contemporary Corcoran collections in the Corcoran building as well as at the NGA. Additionally, students will have access to NGA collections on exhibition at the Corcoran building.

24. What tuition will Corcoran students pay at GW?

Tuition rates for currently enrolled students will be based upon the tuition that the Corcoran currently charges. During an accommodation period, Corcoran students currently enrolled or entering in the fall

of 2014 who are in good standing and who are continuing to study at the GW Corcoran school will continue to be charged tuition and all other fees subject to modest annual increases determined by GW. The accommodation period for undergraduate students is through spring 2018, and for graduate students is through spring 2016.

EVENTS, PROGRAMS AND MEMBERSHIP

25. Will new exhibitions still be displayed at the Corcoran this spring and summer?

Yes, several new exhibitions will open this spring and summer, including *Jennifer Steinkamp and Jimmy Johnson: Loop*, *Sol Lewitt's Wall Drawing #65*, *Rineke Dijkstra: The Krazyhouse*, *Albert Paley: American Metal* and *NOW Artist, Mark Tribe*. While the Corcoran is operating the Gallery, tickets for admission can be purchased online and are also available at the door. More information about upcoming exhibitions is available on our website.

26. Will events like ARTINI, the Corcoran Ball, and Corcoran Uncorked still take place this year?

This year ARTINI and the Corcoran Ball were huge successes and Corcoran Uncorked events are scheduled throughout the summer. Future events, including the Ball, are being discussed, but we will also need to accommodate the plans for renovating the building.

27. Will summer classes still take place for Camp Creativity, Pre-College, Continuing Education, and degree programs?

Yes, summer classes will continue as scheduled for 2014.

28. What happens to the Women's Committee?

We are speaking with both GW and NGA about the importance of the Women's Committee with its central role in the annual Corcoran Ball. Details will be determined during the transition period.

29. What happens to the 1869 Society and other Corcoran committees and groups?

The Contemporaries and 1869 membership groups have been a critical part of the Corcoran's success in identifying and bringing younger audiences into the conversations about contemporary art and the social issues that surround this art. Details of their future role will be determined during the transition period.

30. What happens to the Corcoran's public education programs and related outreach projects?

Public programming is a high-priority issue that will be addressed during the transition period, leading to the completion of the transactions expected this summer.

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