

MASS MoCA to Open Newly Renovated Building 6 in May 2017, Doubling Gallery Footprint New Art Fabrication and Performing Arts Amenities, Plus Bike Tunnel and Bridge

Visual Arts Program to Include Changing Exhibitions and Long-term Installations with Artists Laurie Anderson, Louise Bourgeois, Jenny Holzer, Robert Rauschenberg, Gunnar Schonbeck, and James Turrell



Building 6, Floor 2, 2014

The prow-shaped Building 6 is 120,000 square feet — 3 floors with 40,000 square feet per floor. The building is situated at the westernmost edge of MASS MoCA's 16-acre campus, flanked by the north and south branches of the Hoosic River, and overlooks the museum's large concert field.

NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS — In May 2017, MASS MoCA will open its newly renovated and restored Building 6, adding 130,000 square feet of space, nearly doubling the institution's current gallery footprint and adding new art fabrication workshops, performing artists' support facilities, music festival amenities, and other programmatic capacities. The centerpiece of Building 6 is a series of changing exhibitions and long-term installations and collaborations with artists Laurie Anderson, Jenny Holzer, and James Turrell, the Louise Bourgeois Trust, the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, and the estate of Gunnar Schonbeck.

This expansion continues MASS MoCA's organic repurposing of an historic 28-building factory campus that occupies 16 acres in downtown North Adams, Massachusetts. In addition to gallery spaces, significant new amenities for concert-goers will support MASS MoCA's vibrant and growing roster of music concerts and multi-day festivals, which include Wilco's *Solid Sound Festival*, *Bang on a Can's Summer Music Festival*, and *FreshGrass*, a progressive bluegrass and American roots music festival curated and produced by the museum. The design for Building 6, along with the wider campus plan, has been developed by Cambridge-based Bruner/Cott & Associates, who were also the architects for the first two phases of MASS MoCA renovations, and for its Sol LeWitt building. The budget for Phase III is \$65

million, including \$18 million in endowment and \$4 million for related strategic investment in campus infrastructure. Of the project budget, \$25.4 million was provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with the remaining \$40 million coming from private donors.

“If most museums are boxes for static display, MASS MoCA has always aspired to be more like a turntable,” says MASS MoCA Director Joseph Thompson. “This expansion includes landmark installations of stunning breadth, scale, and duration, but also provides flexible, changing spaces for music, art fabrication, studio space, and amenities for both the artists who work here and the patrons who enjoy their work. At its heart, the expansion deepens our commitment to the interplay of visual and performing arts at a time when they are increasingly intertwined, fluid, and mutually reinforcing.” Thompson added, “Although we are doubling our gallery space, the way in which our radically changed circulation path will expose our audiences to the entire campus network of interior courtyards, performing arts fields, elevated walkways, and lightwells increases the experience of our facilities by an order of magnitude.”

In addition to Building 6, this phase of work includes strengthening connections between the museum and the city of North Adams by creating a bike path through the museum campus, the focal point of which is a tunnel that traverses through Building 6. MASS MoCA’s bike path will act as the linchpin to a growing network of biking paths and trails circumnavigating and crossing Mt. Greylock, the state’s highest mountain, eventually linking to a 70-mile trail across the Commonwealth, to Vermont and Connecticut. The museum will also add new art offerings throughout downtown North Adams, starting with transplanting several of its iconic “upside-down trees,” the second generation of flame maples planted in artist Natalie Jeremijenko’s *Tree Logic*. The museum is working with other stakeholders in its city to amplify retail, restaurants, and events in downtown North Adams during summer 2017. When MASS MoCA began construction in 1996, there were 17 motel rooms in North Adams; today there are more than 180 rooms, with 50 more expected to open in 2017.

“It will take hours — even days — to fully explore this factory campus and the beautiful hiking and biking trails that make this Berkshire valley so spectacular,” says Chair of MASS MoCA’s Board of Trustees Hans Morris. “Together with The Clark, the Williams College Museum of Art, the Williamstown Theatre Festival, and the many exciting things brewing in North Adams, there will be much too much to see and do in a day. We hope people settle in, slow down, and make a weekend or entire week out of it.”

Building 6: Architecture

Building 6 sits at the western perimeter of MASS MoCA’s campus, its prow-like triangular footprint shaped by the confluence of the north and south branches of the Hoosic River. Visitors will enter the new space through Building 5, the signature gallery for MASS MoCA’s large-scale installations, which will feature Nick Cave’s *Until* through September 2017. Building 6, a three-story post-and-beam building, is distinguished by the ample natural light that enters through the hundreds of windows lining the exterior perimeter of the building. Additional natural light filters into the core of the building through a historic window well that had been infilled by former tenants, but which was restored during this renovation, its roof replaced with a skylight measuring 20’ wide by 140’ long. This rediscovered space brings light into the heart of the building, and incorporates a new series of stairs and bridges that encourage easy movement between floors and across the two sides of the building.

As part of its design, Bruner/Cott sought to balance the rough-hewn industrial beauty of Building 6’s original interior — including its many steel pillars, acres of wood flooring, and exposed brick walls — with

21st-century structural requirements and the need for specialized galleries and materials handling requirements to accommodate MASS MoCA's inventive and often dramatically scaled exhibitions. In keeping with the ethos of exposed industrial materials, more than 800 new steel structural supports were installed throughout the building, some visibly reinforcing the exterior walls as well as the floors, and some support heavy-scale works, such as an untitled, monumental, white marble work by Louise Bourgeois, weighing nearly 30 tons. As part of the renovation, more than 5,000 original bricks were removed, cleaned, and re-used, as was over 60,000 square feet of maple flooring. While much of the building's original floor plan remains intact, Bruner/Cott designed new, multi-level gallery spaces that allow for long cross-gallery views, as well as the installation of multi-story works by James Turrell, which explore light and space through a series of rigorously light-controlled chambers and entry processions specified by the artist. Bruner/Cott's design also adds a dramatic two-story mullioned window at the western prow of the building, facing west to the Berkshire and Taconic Mountains in a space conceived for social gatherings, rest, and reading.

Building 6: Visual Arts

Building 6 focuses on customized installations and exhibitions that join the experience of art and architecture. These exhibitions provide singular opportunities to engage with each artist in great depth, sometimes with exhibitions that will be fixed in place for decades, and at other times installations, open studios, and cross-campus programs that will change throughout the cycle of the art partnerships. With all of the featured artists — Laurie Anderson, Jenny Holzer, James Turrell, the Louise Bourgeois Trust, the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, and the estate of Gunnar Schonbeck — MASS MoCA's presentations will feature legacy and mid-career work. Working with the Rauschenberg Foundation's Captiva Fellows, as well as Anderson, Holzer, and Turrell, the installations will also include the creation of new work, in some cases pieces commissioned by or created expressly for MASS MoCA.



Louise Bourgeois, *Untitled*, 1991, White marble, two units
 1st: 73 x 74 x 115"; 185 x 188 x 292 cm.
 2nd: 80 3/4 x 43 1/2 x 100"; 205 x 110 x 254 cm.
 Photo: Christopher Burke, © Louise Bourgeois Trust /
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This approach builds on MASS MoCA's experience with providing such in-depth experiences with monumental works of art, in ways that are only possible on a campus of this size. In 2008, MASS MoCA opened *Sol LeWitt: A Wall Drawing Retrospective*, comprising 105 of LeWitt's large-scale wall drawings and spanning the artist's career from 1969 to 2007, which will remain on view until 2033. These were installed in the 29,000-square-foot structure known as Building 7, which was restored for the exhibition by Bruner/Cott & Associates architects, with wall drawings selected and placed by LeWitt on an interior wall layout of his design. The restoration included integrating the building into MASS MoCA's main circulation plan through a series of elevated walkways, a new vertical lightwell, and new stairways.

In addition to these long-term partnerships, Building 6 will include 10,000 square feet of changing exhibition galleries focused on emerging and mid-career artists, adding to MASS MoCA's existing 100,000 square feet of exhibition space devoted to making and showing new art, organized by the museum's curatorial team. "Although we are obviously adding significant space for long-term installations, we are not giving up one square inch of space now used for our dynamic program of changing exhibitions, new commissions, and performing arts events," added Denise Markonish, who along with

Susan Cross is one of MASS MoCA's senior curators. "Indeed, we are picking up additional exhibition and support space across our entire range of activity... for showing work, but also for making it, and for making the lives of our visitors, and visiting artists, more comfortable and productive."

Building 6: Performing Arts

The Phase III expansion significantly enhances MASS MoCA's performing arts capacity, adding a dedicated, intimate space to accommodate small performances, artist talks, and special events. Phase III also adds 6,000 square feet of new visitor amenities to support large-scale concerts and performance events. These include the expansion of spaces for food and retail, more accessible restrooms, and improved access to galleries for concert-goers, allowing music and event-goers to connect even more fluidly to the visual arts exhibitions. These enhancements add to the museum's existing performing arts venues, which include a cabaret theater space for up to 220, a sprung-floor dance studio, an indoor concert space for up to 1,700 people, and outdoor venues that accommodate a range of performances and hold up to 10,000 people at a time.

"As eager as we are to open the new gallery spaces, we also very much look forward to bringing on line new paint shops, green rooms, festival catering facilities, improved restrooms, and better support spaces for all the back-of-house activities that happen when you have more than 10,000 people in attendance, all at one time," notes Thompson.

Phase III: Economic Impact & Community Connections

A new biking and pedestrian tunnel through Building 6 will connect the campus to the region's expanding bicycle trail system, which includes the Ashwilticook Rail Trail. As part of this effort, MASS MoCA will install a new bridge over the north branch of the Hoosic River that courses alongside the campus perimeter, eventually joining two bike paths now in the works (one running west from MASS MoCA to Williamstown, the other running south from North Adams to Adams). Together, these design components will offer a spectacular riding experience for cyclists of all skill levels, opening up MASS MoCA's inner courtyards and campus to North Adams' downtown business district and providing several entrance points for neighbors and visitors from every direction. The bike tunnel will feature a work of art newly commissioned from artist Mary Lum.

In the longer term, the bike path that wends through MASS MoCA's inner courtyards will become part of a 75-mile north-south bikeway connecting Massachusetts to Vermont and Connecticut, and a 40-mile circumnavigation of Mount Greylock, Massachusetts' highest peak. With MASS MoCA as a cultural destination on the statewide path (and a bike-friendly destination featuring tools, pumps, coffee, ice cream, and beer) the paths will connect art and nature lovers in a way that unites and magnifies fundamental strengths of the Berkshire tourism economy.

About MASS MoCA

MASS MoCA is one of the world's liveliest (and largest) centers for making, showing, and enjoying today's most important art, music, dance, theater, film, and video. Gallery admission is \$18 for adults, \$16 for veterans and seniors, \$12 for students, \$8 for children 6 to 16, and free for children 5 and under. Two-day gallery admission is \$32 for adults and \$30 for veterans and seniors through May 20.

Beginning May 21, admission prices increase to \$20 for adults, \$17 for veterans and seniors, \$12 for students, \$8 for children 6 to 16, and free for children 5 and under. Two-day gallery admission will be \$34

for adults. Members are admitted free year-round. The Hall Art Foundation's Anselm Kiefer exhibition is open seasonally, spring – fall. For additional information, call 413.662.2111 x1 or visit massmoca.org.

Hours

Fall/Winter/Spring (through June 24, 2017)

11am to 5pm, closed Tuesdays

Summer (beginning June 25, 2017)

Sundays–Wednesdays, 10am–6pm

Thursdays–Saturdays, 10am–7pm