FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art and Virginia Wesleyan University Provide Project Update to City Council Including Building Sneak Peek

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA – Today, the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art (Virginia MOCA) and Virginia Wesleyan University (VWU) will brief Virginia Beach City Council on the new museum-university affiliation and share renderings of the new state-of-the-art facility to be built on the VWU campus.

Alison Byrne, Virginia MOCA Interim Director, detailed Virginia MOCA’s programmatic momentum and educational commitment that will activate the Museum building and premises. Tymoff+Moss Architects, in partnership with M. Goodwin Museum Planning (MGMP), a leading museum planning consultancy, designed the building to support education and access, while keeping museum accreditation requirements top of mind.

VWU President Scott Miller and Tymoff+Moss Principal Michael Schnekser walked City Council through the building plans as well as the construction timeline while emphasizing the benefits of the new VWU site.

“The central location of VWU’s campus will make Virginia MOCA more accessible, allowing the Museum to better connect with the cultural and educational fabric of the entire Hampton Roads area,” explained Dr. Miller.

“This incredibly exciting initiative strengthens our ability to educate and collaborate with the community alongside presenting exceptional, locally relevant, and nationally resonant contemporary art. By working together, we can unlock Virginia MOCA’s full potential as a vibrant educational hub,” said Alison Byrne, Virginia MOCA Interim Director.

The new building will support Virginia MOCA’s strategic plan to transform the Museum into a regional educational resource and hub of creativity and innovation, serving as a cultural landmark for the region, a vibrant gathering place where
people of all walks can experience contemporary art in deeper and more interdisciplinary ways.

The building design brings Virginia MOCA’s signature engagement and education experience, ArtLab, to the front of the building and provides 20 percent more education and exhibition space. The design ensures the museum can function as one of the largest classrooms on the VWU campus—an immersive, multi-modal learning lab.

While the Museum will sit on the VWU campus and be available to VWU students and faculty, Virginia MOCA will remain an independent entity with its own board and staff as well as full curatorial oversight.

For more information and updates on the Virginia MOCA–VWU collaboration and the construction of the new facility, please follow the official websites of Virginia MOCA (www.virginiamoca.org/vwu) and Virginia Wesleyan University (www.vwu.edu). Media inquiries can be directed to Virginia MOCA Marketing Director Linda Koller at 757-425-0000 x319 or linda@virginiamoca.org and VWU Executive Director of Marketing and Communications David Brandt at 757-233-8757 or dbrandt@vwu.edu.

About the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art
An AAM accredited non-collecting museum, Virginia MOCA (virginiamoca.org) presents exceptional, locally relevant, and nationally resonant exhibitions that invite neighbors, students, families, communities, and cultures to explore our shared humanity through contemporary art, in all of its timeliness, restlessness, and beauty. More information about Virginia MOCA can be found at virginiamoca.org.

About Virginia Wesleyan University
Virginia Wesleyan University (vwu.edu) is Coastal Virginia’s premier university of liberal arts and sciences. Situated on a 300-acre park-like campus in Virginia Beach, VWU annually enrolls approximately 3,200 learners in all programs in all locations, including 1,500 students in undergraduate, graduate, and online programs. Students thrive in average class sizes of 15, and more than 90 percent of new graduates are employed or enrolled in graduate school within one year of graduation. Through its Environmental Guiding Principles, the University incorporates a commitment to sustainability in every aspect of campus life. VWU is an inclusive community dedicated to scholarship and service grounded in the liberal arts and sciences, inspiring students to build meaningful lives through engagement in Coastal Virginia’s dynamic metropolitan region, the nation, and the world.