

**National Gallery of Art  
Chronology of Major West Building Projects  
1946 - 2002**

February 1946	Six new Main floor galleries are completed for the opening exhibition of the Kress Collection.
June 1950	Eight new main floor galleries are opened.
December 1950	Five ground floor offices and a slide storage room are completed for the Education Office.
January 1952	Five new galleries are completed in the southwest sector of the main floor.
1955-1956	Kress Renaissance bronze galleries are completed on the ground floor adjacent to the library.
March 1956	Two new galleries are completed in the south central section of the main floor.
May 1960	Three Widener decorative arts rooms are opened on the ground floor.
1964-1965	Six new main floor galleries are opened for the exhibition of Chester Dale paintings.
Summer 1969	The ground floor publications sales room beneath the Rotunda is opened.
February 1972	The main floor art information room (adjacent to the Mall entrance), redesigned by I.M. Pei & Partners, reopens.
1976	The Fourth Street lobby, redesigned by I.M. Pei & Partners, reopens.
March 1981	The ground floor publications sales area moves to the renovated area originally occupied by the lecture hall.
March 1982	The new Garden Café opens beneath the Rotunda in the ground floor area formerly occupied by the publications sales area.
February 1983	The new ground floor galleries are opened to the public. The galleries were built in connection with "Operation Breakthrough" and the redevelopment of the ground floor. Among the changes, the Widener decorative arts rooms are reinstalled to the north of the Widener porcelain galleries and the former library reading room is converted into a lecture hall.
1983-1984	Two new galleries in the far southwest corner of the main floor are completed.
Fall 1984	The oculus is completed in the ceiling of the Constitution Avenue lobby, opening a view of the main floor above.

- January 1986 Eight new galleries are opened in the main floor northeast quadrant and four connecting galleries are renovated. All twelve galleries are inaugurated for *The New Painting: Impressionism, 1874-1886*, held in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon.
- August 1995 The art information room, renovated to replicate its 1941 appearance, opens with the new Micro Gallery.
- September 1995 Three new cabinet galleries, designed to house small Dutch and Flemish paintings, open in an area between the Dutch galleries and the art information room.
- 1996 Work begins on reconstruction of the West Building skylights. The project is completed in 1999.
- 1999 The ground floor central axis through Gallery C5 is opened, allowing clear sight lines to the Seventh Street entrance.
- September 2000 A suite of three Italian cabinet galleries opens on the main floor adjacent to the Titian room.
- September 29, 2002 The new ground floor sculpture galleries open to the public.

Gallery Archives  
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