

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

The National Gallery of Art has been given \$20 million by Paul Mellon and Mrs. Mellon Bruce it was announced this week by President Lyndon B. Johnson. The gift will be used for a major building addition.

The President said: "It is fitting that this dramatic new initiative in the enrichment and beautification of the Nation's capital should come from the son and daughter of Andrew W. Mellon, the original benefactor of the National Gallery."

The new facility will be constructed on vacant land adjacent to the National Gallery. The building will house an advanced study center for the visual arts as well as space for temporary exhibitions and education services.

At the White House press conference following the announcement, Gallery Director John Walker said that no architect for the building had been selected, although Pietro Belluschi, former dean of the Department of Architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has conducted a preliminary survey.

Chief Justice Earl Warren, chairman of the National Gallery Board was present for the announcement. He said he hoped to see the day when the Gallery's expanding educational services "can reach into every school room in the land."

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