

1 Whereas, due to limited space, the Museum can exhibit only 3% of the work
2 held on behalf of Western North Carolina and the State; and

3 Whereas, the Museum is working with renowned architect James Stewart
4 Polshek Partnership, local architects, and community members to design a dynamic
5 facility that will preserve the historic Pack Library Building, create a destination for the
6 State's best known arts region, and anchor the New Pack Square Park; and

7 Whereas, data gathered through a 2003 study commissioned by the Museum
8 indicated that at that time the Asheville Art Museum annually generated an average of
9 \$2.2 million in local spending through its own direct activities and the spending of its
10 single paying attendees; and

11 Whereas, the planned expansion project, with a preliminary construction cost
12 of \$18 million, can generate as much as \$37.7 million in regional economic impact with
13 up to 80% of construction funds spent locally; Now, therefore,
14 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

15 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Asheville
16 Art Museum Association, Incorporated, a nonprofit organization, the sum of five
17 million dollars (\$5,000,000) for the 2006-2007 fiscal year to expand the Museum's
18 current facilities, which will provide the Museum with additional space for rotating and
19 permanent collection exhibitions, educational public programs, community meetings,
20 media presentations, lectures and performances, retail sales, and storage. The Asheville
21 Art Museum is the only visual arts organization of its kind serving the 23 counties that
22 comprise Western North Carolina, an area of 9,807 square miles with a population of
23 1,169,475, representing 14% of the State's population.

24 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2006.