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CONCORD MUSEUM NAMES ITS NEW BUILDING: THE ANNA AND NEIL RASMUSSEN EDUCATION CENTER

(CONCORD August 1, 2018) Celebrating the largest gift in its history and in honor of the donors, the Concord Museum announced today the official name of its new landmark building, the *Anna and Neil Rasmussen Education Center*. Anna Winter Rasmussen and Neil Rasmussen, long-time Concord residents, historic and environmental preservationists, and supporters of the Concord Museum, made their generous gift to further advance the Museum’s educational mission to inform new generations about Concord’s role in American history.

“I want to express our profound gratitude to the Rasmussens for their vision, their generosity, and their belief in the power of history to inspire and connect us,” said Concord Museum Executive Director Tom Putnam. “The Anna and Neil Rasmussen Education Center will allow us to present dynamic programming that engages students, teachers, and families and establishes the Museum as a catalyst for learning and inspiration.”

Anna Rasmussen, who has served on the Concord Museum Board of Governors since 2000, explained, “Our nation’s wisdom and legacy is uniquely woven within the fabric of the story of historic Concord and its surrounding community. Keeping this story alive, vibrant, and accessible, especially to children far and near, is the collective promise of the newly expanded Concord Museum.” She added, “We believe young people exposed to the many facets of Concord’s historic narrative may aspire to be, like the Concordians who came before them, great thinkers and doers of the future – able to enlighten and change the world for the better. As a community, we couldn’t ask for a greater return on our investment, and we thank all those who shared their passion and promise to make this new Education Center a reality.”

Several years ago the Museum’s need for increased learning space and improved facilities became apparent as educational programs expanded to serve increasing numbers of students from Concord and surrounding communities as well as Lowell, Lawrence, and other urban schools. After an intensive strategic planning and campus master planning process, the Museum launched a capital campaign in 2015 to build a new education center, renovate the Museum, and increase endowment. Construction began on the 12,900-square-foot Rasmussen Education Center in 2017. The new building will have three state-of-the-art classrooms, a signature History Learning Center for up-close object learning, a large Lyceum hall, expanded and improved collection storage, and office space for staff and volunteers.

The *Anna and Neil Rasmussen Education Center* is set to open to the public this fall with a ribbon cutting and a series of grand opening events.