

Recommended Naming

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve naming the Campus Commons Art Gallery the “Lydia and Robert Ruyle Art Gallery.”



BACKGROUND

Lydia and Robert (Bob) Ruyle, lifelong Greeley residents, embodied the community-centered values of UNC. Bob attended UNC in the early 1950s before earning a law degree from the University of Colorado and enjoying a successful career at Hensel Phelps. Lydia, an internationally recognized artist, scholar, educator, and leader, earned her MFA from UNC in 1972 and later taught Women’s Studies and Art History on campus. Her globally celebrated Goddess Banner Collection — featuring over 300 sacred female images from diverse cultures — reflects her enduring commitment to feminist expression and interdisciplinary art.

To honor their late parents’ legacy, the Ruyle family has committed to a gift which includes \$1.8 million in cash, mineral rights which will provide additional income for years to come, and over 500 pieces of Lydia’s artwork (Ruyle Collection), creating a learning library of unprecedented resources for UNC’s School of Art & Design. In recognition of this extraordinary generosity, we propose naming the Campus Commons Art Gallery the “Lydia and Robert Ruyle Art Gallery.”

This transformative gift will establish three key endowments: the Ruyle Collection Endowment (supporting display, shipping, and global accessibility of the Ruyle Collection), the Ruyle Collection Staffing Endowment (funding a permanent curator role ensuring research and preservation support for the Ruyle Collection), and the Lydia and Robert Ruyle Graduate Research Scholarship Endowment (a renewable, full-tuition MFA scholarship for students whose research aligns with the collection). This naming not only honors a powerful legacy but also advances UNC’s Rowing, Not Drifting 2030 Strategic Plan, supporting hands-on learning, artistic innovation, and global engagement. The gallery naming wall will feature Lydia’s biography and a rotating display of her banners and other works from the Ruyle Collection, serving as a lasting tribute to Lydia and Bob’s passion and values while inspiring future generations of artists worldwide.

Per Section 1-1-601 of the Board Policy Manual, the Board of Trustees has the authority to name facilities.

	
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Responsible Staff	President
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Board Action	Date
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	Date