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McLean Project for the Arts Receives National Endowment for the Arts Grant

Grant to support coming MPA Exhibition: "Nature as Prototype"

McLean, VA: McLean Project for the Arts (MPA) has been awarded a \$10,000 **Arts Engagement in American Communities** grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to support its upcoming exhibition, "Nature as Prototype".

"The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support the excellence and diversity of arts programs across the country, including organizations like McLean Project for the Arts that make the arts accessible to people in McLean and the greater Washington D.C. area and further enhances the vitality of that community," said NEA Chairman Jane Clute.

McLean Project for the Arts will present an exhibition of works by three contemporary artists from the Mid-Atlantic region whose work explores how art, science and nature can be integrated or re-created through digital formats. The work will serve as an opportunity for experimentation and/or developing conversation and partnerships between artists, engineers and scientists.

Participating artists include visual artist Yoko K, digital film artist Griffin Wilbeck, and installation/experimental media artist Adam Nelson. The exhibition will be co-curated by artist and educator David Johnson Deane and art historian Betty Johnson.

The community will be actively engaged in the project through educational programming. MPA will host a panel discussion between exhibiting artists, engineers, teachers and scientists, the exhibiting artists will hold public workshops to demonstrate their process and techniques. In addition, MPA Artworks Director Shanna Christ will provide Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) students in-gallery educational programs that relate the exhibition content with the FCPS Standards of Learning.

Key partnering organizations include Fairfax County Public Schools, SPNSC Solutions program for adults with disabilities, Loudounville Senior Center, James Lee Community Center, Henderson Senior Center, and Lorton Senior Center. Fisher and Nancy Seaman, MPA Director of Exhibitions, will also offer gallery tours to members of the general public, senior communities and groups with physical and intellectual challenges.

"We are excited to offer this visual and aural experience to the community by showcasing artists who will demonstrate the power of creativity and collaboration to each of us in our lives and work," said Seaman.