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Media Contact: Lori Carbonneau / Dabney Cortina

(703) 790-1953 / [lcarbonneau@mpaart.org](mailto:lcarbonneau@mpaart.org)

(703) 626-1786 / [dabneycortina@gmail.com](mailto:dabneycortina@gmail.com)

## 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 their community," said NEA Chairman Jane Chu.

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-mixed through digital formats. The work will serve as an opportunity for experimentation and for developing conversation and partnerships between artists, engineers and scientists.

Participating artists include sound artist Yoko K, Danish fiber artist Grethe Wittrock, and installation/experimental media artist Adam Nelson. The exhibition will be co-curated by artist and educator Elsabé Johnson Dixon and art historian Betsy Johnson.

The community will be actively engaged in the project through educational programming. MPA will host a panel discussion between exhibiting artists, engineers, inventors and scientists; the exhibiting artists will hold public workshops to demonstrate their process and techniques. In addition, MPA ArtReach Director Sharon Fishel 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, SPARC Solutions program for adults with disabilities, Lewinsville Senior Center, James Lee Community Center, Herndon Senior Center, and Lorton Senior Center. Fishel and Nancy Sausser, 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 thrilled 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 Sausser.

**McLean Project for the Arts Exhibits. Educates. Inspires.**

1446 Chain Bridge Road ■ McLean, Virginia 22101 ■ 703.790.1953 ■ [www.mpaart.org](http://www.mpaart.org)

“MPA has been honored to receive funding from the Arts Council of Fairfax County and the Virginia Commission for the Arts for many years,” said MPA Executive Director Lori Carbonneau. “With a grant award from the National Endowment for the Arts, we are thrilled to have funders now also at the national level who recognize the significant work we do and contributions MPA is making in our community.”

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### **About MPA**

#### **MPA Exhibits, Educates, and Inspires**

McLean Project for the Arts (MPA) is one of the Mid-Atlantic region’s most respected contemporary visual arts organizations. MPA provides high-quality art exhibitions showcasing the work of established and emerging artists, educational programs, art classes, MPAartfest, summer STEAM camp, and ArtReach, an award-winning program serving students in grades K-12, seniors, and individuals with special needs. For more information, visit [www.mpaart.org](http://www.mpaart.org).

### **About the NEA**

The NEA is the federal agency that supports and funds the arts to give all Americans the opportunity to experience creativity and participate in the arts. NEA programs and funding support thousands of activities in communities large and small across the country. To learn more about the National Endowment for the Arts, please visit [arts.gov](http://arts.gov). Follow the conversation about this and other NEA-funded projects on Twitter at @NEAarts.

### **McLean Project for the Arts.**

**MPA@MCC:** 1234 Ingleside Avenue ■ McLean, Virginia 22101 ■ 703.790.1953 ■ [www.mpaart.org](http://www.mpaart.org)  
**MPA@ChainBridge:** 1446 Chain Bridge Road ■ McLean, Virginia 22101 ■ 703.790.1953 ■ [www.mpaart.org](http://www.mpaart.org)