

Fact Sheet: About McLean Project for the Arts

The mission of **McLean Project for the Arts (MPA)** is to exhibit the work of emerging and established artists from the mid-Atlantic region; to promote public awareness and understanding of the concepts of contemporary art; and to offer instruction and education in the visual arts.

MPA, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, was founded in 1962 by a small group of women artists. It began as a professional space to provide exhibition opportunities for artists and to bring a continuing body of high quality artwork to the community. In an effort to relocate and develop into a highly professional visual arts organization, MPA was incorporated in 1984 to activate plans for a permanent facility in the community, and opened as a visual arts center with the Ramp, Atrium and Emerson Galleries, in 1990, and the Susan B. DuVal Art Studio, in 2000, located in the McLean Community Center.

In a new chapter of MPA's history, during the planned renovation of the McLean Community Center 2017-2019, MPA's exhibitions, classes, and offices are currently located in its new downtown location, MPA@ChainBridge, for 2 years through April 2019 – at 1446 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, VA 22101. Thanks to the generous support from community partners, MPA@ChainBridge is the home of the *BullockHitt Gallery* and *McLean Community Foundation Art Studio*.

Exhibits: MPA exhibits contemporary artwork created by experienced and emerging artists throughout the Mid-Atlantic Region. Painting, drawing, sculpture, printmaking, photography, computer-generated and new media, installation, and combinations of these art forms have all been shown, and continue to be shown, at MPA. Thousands of visitors each year come to view exciting contemporary art, attend art openings, artist talks, and more that are open to the public and provide an important venue for artistic dialogue in the Northern Virginia community.

Educates: Each year, MPA offers over 150 art classes taught by professional artist-educators for adults, teens, and children. MPA's education program includes family art workshops, artist-led workshops, Summer STEAM (Art + STEM) Camp, and opportunities for internships and volunteers to be actively involved with MPA's mission and learn more about the organization's role and positive impact in the community. Since MPA's founding, MPA has cultivated many partnerships and collaborations with McLean community entities, expanding understanding of the visual arts and its importance in education.

Inspires: MPA's highly regarded outreach program, ArtReach, welcomes over 3,000 students, seniors, those who are physically challenged, and those with special needs to its galleries each year for exhibition tours and hands-on art activities. Through ArtReach, MPA brings innovative art lessons into Fairfax County Public Schools and community senior centers. MPA is a long-standing partner with the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) and other schools in the McLean area. For over a decade, MPA has been connecting the process of creating and talking about the visual arts with science, technology, engineering, and math (STEAM) learning specifically for Fairfax County Title I schools. MPA incorporates the VA Department of Education K-12 Standards of Learning into its ArtReach programming, further expanding students' understanding of the world around them.

MPAartfest: Now in its 11th year (2017), in partnership with the McLean Community Center and the Fairfax County Park Authority, MPA presents a free, outdoor celebration of the visual arts in McLean Central Park on the first Sunday in October. Each year, over 5,000 people attend MPAartfest to view and purchase art, participate in hands-on STEAM-based activities, listen to live music, and enjoy local food.

Hours:

Monday – Thursday 10 am – 9:30 pm

Friday – Saturday 10 am – 4 pm

Sunday Closed

See updated information on closings:

<https://mpaart.org/visit-2/>

Contact:

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MPA is on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @mp4a



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