



## 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 Atrium and Emerson Galleries, in 1990, and the Susan B. DuVal Art Studio, in 2000, all located in the McLean Community Center (MCC).

In a new chapter of MPA's history, during the recent renovation of the MCC (2017-2019), MPA was temporarily located in a downtown location, MPA@ChainBridge, for two years (through July 2019) – at 1446 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, VA 22101. As of August 2019, all MPA operations are now located back at the MCC.

**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 and greater D.C. 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, and Summer Art Camps. 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, at-risk young people, 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 (FCPS) and community senior centers. MPA is a long-standing partner with 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 FCPS 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 14th year (2020), 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. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, our 2020 event was all virtual. Nearly 8,000 attended MPAartfest in 2019, to view and purchase art, participate in hands-on STEAM-based art activities, listen to live fabulous live music, and enjoy local food.

**Hours:** MPA's Emerson Gallery and offices are temporarily closed and open by appointment only. Atrium Gallery exhibitions are available for viewing during McLean Community Center hours of operation. Contact: Deb Bissen, Director of Communications & Public Affairs, 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean, VA 22101 | 703.216.1181 (mobile) | [info@mpaart.org](mailto:info@mpaart.org) | @mp4a