

Frequently Asked Questions: MPA's New Downtown Arts & Education Center



1. What is McLean Project for the Arts (MPA)?

MPA, established in 1962, is a premier center for contemporary visual art exhibitions and arts education programming in Northern Virginia. As a private non-profit 501(c)(3), MPA aims to nurture creative human imagination through its mission to exhibit works from emerging and established Mid-Atlantic artists, promote public awareness of contemporary art, and offer instruction in the visual arts.

2. What is MPA's plan to expand in McLean?

MPA's Board of Directors approved a plan in September 2023 to create a new Arts & Education Center at 6910 Fleetwood Road, McLean. This purpose-built space will feature two galleries, teaching spaces, a cafe, gift shop, office, and conference room. This expansion reinforces MPA's brand identity in conjunction with its ongoing partnership with the McLean Community Center.

3. Will MPA move out of its galleries and studio in the MCCC?

No, the new facility will complement existing visual arts programming provided through the public/private partnership with Fairfax County. MPA will continue exhibitions in the Emerson and Atrium galleries and maintain visual arts instruction in DuVal Studio.

With this additional art exhibition and art education space, MPA will expand the programming of our award-winning ArtReach art education outreach program, offer more exhibition space availability to community partner organizations, and expand the size and offerings of our summer art camp programming for community residents.

4. What is the anticipated timing of this project?

- Fall 2023: Contract signed for space, pursue financing and commence fundraising.
- Q3 2024: Close on space, design process, and building permit submission.
- Fall 2024: Begin build-out, anticipated to last 3-6 months.
- Operational by early 2025.

5. How much will this project cost?

The projected cost for purchasing, building out, and launching the new site is ~\$6 million.

6. What is the impact/benefit to neighbors?

The project benefits the community by providing a beautiful space for art and community events in the heart of downtown McLean. MPA will also create a welcoming venue in the onsite cafe, which will be open gallery hours and is anticipated to offer light food and drinks.

7. What types of events can be held at the new location? Events include opening receptions, artist talks, community receptions, private functions, corporate events, small weddings, film viewings, performing arts presentations, and more. Many events will be free and open to the public. Some