



# McLean Project for the Arts

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **McLean Project for the Arts Secures New Space and \$500,000 in County Support for New Arts and Education Center** ***Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approves significant funding toward project***

**McLean, VA:** In a significant milestone for the arts in Northern Virginia, McLean Project for the Arts (MPA) has secured a new space in the Signet Building in downtown McLean, setting the stage for the development of a state-of-the-art arts and education center. This new facility will complement MPA's current programming at the McLean Community Center and is expected to open in September 2025.

Earlier this week, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted to designate \$500,000 from the County's Economic Opportunity Reserve (EOR) toward the construction of the new arts and education center. The EOR, designed to support "economic development activities of strategic importance," will help fund the build-out of the downtown McLean location, ensuring the space becomes a cultural beacon for the community.

"This critical milestone would not have been possible without the dedication of the MPA board to expanding the good work of the MPA," said Fairfax County Supervisor Jimmy Bierman. "The arts and education center, located in the heart of McLean, will not only be a landmark for the arts, but will serve as a space for residents to gather and connect. Yesterday, the Board of Supervisors voted 9-0 to invest from the Economic Opportunity Reserve Fund, demonstrating our firm belief that this project will be a valuable cultural amenity, benefiting both the community and the county economically."

"This new arts and education center will greatly enhance McLean's cultural and economic landscape," said Lori Carbonneau, executive director of MPA. "The facility will serve as a vibrant hub for community engagement, offering expanded exhibition and educational opportunities for residents and visitors alike. It will also create a dynamic and essential new platform for the region's artists and art community, providing increased visibility and opportunities for artistic expression. We are deeply grateful to Fairfax County for their generous support and recognition of the importance of the arts in fostering community spirit and growth."

The new space will allow MPA to broaden its reach, offering a wider array of exhibitions, workshops, and educational programs, while also serving as a catalyst for increased community engagement.

"The arts and education center is poised to drive both cultural enrichment and economic vitality in downtown McLean," added Carbonneau. "This project represents the hard work and dedication of

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our volunteer board of directors, advisory board, and staff, who have tirelessly pursued this vision. We are thrilled to see it coming to fruition and look forward to sharing it with the community.”

The expanded location is a cornerstone of MPA’s long-term vision to integrate the arts into the everyday life of the McLean community. After this new location in the Elm Street District of downtown McLean opens, MPA will continue its ongoing exhibition, education and outreach programming at and in partnership with the McLean Community Center.

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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 art camps, 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).

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