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McLean Project for the Arts

A message from our Executive Director

Artistic Notes

Happy May Day!

As I write this, it's an especially exciting moment for MPA. Next Thursday, May 8, we'll gather for our annual Spring Benefit, held this year at the beautiful McLean home of generous supporters Reggie and Dharini Aggarwal.

Each year, our passionate Events Committee, co-chaired by MPA Board members, Jacquie Henry and Katharine Powell, plans a memorable celebration to kick off the spring season in McLean — recognized by The Wall Street Journal, as one of the area's premier events. It's a festive evening for our sponsors and guests, and also a critical fundraiser for MPA. Especially important to our Spring Benefit co-chairs, Cindy Green and Christine Wang, proceeds from Spring Benefit support our ArtReach programs — bringing visual arts experiences to Title I schools, FCPS special education classrooms, senior centers, and community groups serving individuals with disabilities.

This year is especially significant as we close in on completing the fundraising for our exciting expansion in downtown McLean. Construction is anticipated to begin this summer on a vibrant new space that will allow us to grow our impact and ignite imaginations across the region. The expanded location will feature three exhibition galleries, a professional ceramics studio, and a welcoming indoor/outdoor café. We will so appreciate support from our community as we raise the final $750,000. Details are here and I welcome the opportunity to explore gifts of any size with members of our community to help MPA nurture imaginations throughout the region.

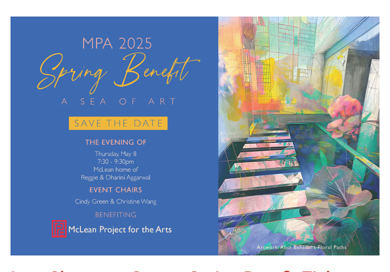
We're deeply grateful to be part of such a generous and supportive community — and we can't wait to celebrate with many of you next week.

Wishing you a bright and art-filled spring — and we hope to see you soon!

With warm regards,

Lori J. Carbonneau
MPA Executive Director

Spring Benefit 2025



Last Chance to Secure Spring Benefit Tickets

Ticket Sales Close Monday, May 5!

Sponsorships and limited individual tickets are still on sale for Spring Benefit--but not for long! Ticket sales close Monday, May 5.

The event will take place on Thursday, May 8, 2025 in McLean, VA, at the home of Reggie and Dharini Aggarwal. MPA relies on the funds raised at Spring Benefit to further its mission to educate and inspire the community through contemporary visual arts exhibitions and arts education programs—including MPA ArtReach, which extends these exhibitions into the community through gallery tours and workshops for FCPS Title I elementary schools and other underserved groups who encounter obstacles in accessing the visual arts. Cindy Green and Christine Wang co-chair this year's event.

Secure your Spring Benefit tickets NOW, while quantities are still available.

PS: This year's theme is A Sea of Art!

We invite guests to embrace our theme A Sea of Art

Suggested colours:

Individual tickets to MPA Spring Benefit are $350 per ticket. Limited tickets available.

Purchase Spring Benefit Tickets

Spring Exhibition Events

Artist Talk May 10; Tea & Talk June 4

Spring Solo Exhibitions
Featuring work by Jackie Hoysted, Emon Surakitkoson and Heidi Fowler
April 10 – June 14, 2025
Artist Talk: Saturday, May 10, 2025, 11am
Tea & Talk: Wednesday, June 4, 11am

Join MPA next Saturday, May 10 at 11am for an Artist Talk. The artists featured in our current Spring Solo exhibitions–*Crossing Culture, Detrimorphose,* and *Rudimental*–will discuss the concepts and processes behind their work. There will also be a Thai dance performance by the Somapa Thai Dance Company. MPA will also host a Tea & Talk on Wednesday, June 4 at 11am. Guests are invited to join MPA for a cup of tea and discuss the Spring Solos with MPA staff.

***Detrimorphose*, by Heidi Fowler (Atrium Gallery)**
In the exhibition "Detrimorphose", **Heidi Fowler** depicts the power of brokenness and redemption through mixed media paintings. The artist bring together discarded materials (junk mail, plastic, rustic pieces, and old computer parts) in assemblages to inspire a greater consciousness and creativity towards the paraphernalia we would otherwise discard; exploring the tension between the beauty of creation and the priorities of man.
***Rudimental*, by Jackie Hoysted (Emerson Gallery)**
Jackie Hoysted's *Rudimental* is an interactive immersive installation that evokes ideas of nature in interconnectedness. Using simple geometrical elements to generate imagery and meditative sounds, the installation harks back to undervalued ancestral connections with the land, the planet, the universe. It is a call for mutual respect, reciprocity and recognition of our minuteness in the universe.
***Crossing Culture* by Emon Surakitkoson (Emerson Gallery)**
Crossing Culture features two recent bodies of work by Thai-American artist **Emon Surakitkoson**, a culmination of her professional journey over the past five years. Using multiple conjoined canvases and wood panel, Emon created works that use shape and composition to convey unity among their unique contributing parts. The individual pieces take on new meaning and value when seen as part of a collective. With her sculptural work Emon translates her voice into a new visual language. This collection as a whole is born from Emon's personal and artistic growth, as she embraces the complexities of her cultural identity as an immigrant from Thailand in the United States.

Visiting Our Galleries

The MPA Atrium Gallery is available for viewing during McLean Community Center operating hours. The Emerson Gallery is open for visitors Mondays through Saturdays from 10am – 4pm. This Sunday, May 4, we will also be open from 1-4pm.

MPA's 2025 Spring Solo Exhibitions are funded in part by an ArtsFairfax Project Grant.

Exhibition Information

Meet Our Returning Summer Camp Instructors!

Meet three of our MPA Summer Art Camp instructors! All three instructors are also elementary school art teachers, and returning to work with us again this summer!

Brett Terrell is again returning to our summer camps, for a third year. Brett earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Scenic Design and Scenic Painting from VCU and came to the Washington DC area to be a scenic artist. She was the scenic charge artist at Wooley Mammoth Theatre Company for several years, enjoying creating with a great team.

Then she realized she wanted to change the world by becoming a teacher. So, she switched gears to become an interior color specialist with Benjamin Moore Paints while going to George Mason University for graduate school. She spent 10 years teaching in Fairfax County Public School in 3rd and 4th grades and for the past few years she has come home to the art world as an art teacher.

MPA is excited to also welcome back **Suzanne Parrish**. Suzanne looks forward to making amazing art with MPA campers this summer! Join her to explore interesting techniques and different materials to help spark creativity! Suzanne has been teaching in camps, classes and in schools around Northern Virginia for over two decades and has exhibited in galleries and spaces throughout the area. Suzanne's work is in collections around the world, including acrylics, altered photography, prints, handmade paper and fiber arts.

Our third returning summer camp instructor, **Kathryn Rickards**, is an elementary art educator with Fairfax County Public Schools and a former museum educator. She is primarily a painter and illustrator in her own art practice. Kathryn is excited to return for another summer at MPA! She enjoys teaching these camps because of the students' enthusiasm to engage with art and dive deep into new themes. Providing campers with opportunities to build their art skills and experiment with techniques while making their unique voices heard is part of what makes these camps so special.

Join Brett, Suzanne, Kathryn and the rest of our MPA summer camp team at MPA's 2025 Summer Art Camps. MPA's weekly themed camps are a great way to discover and explore a different art medium, make new friendships, and create artworks for friends and family to enjoy. Our camps have something for everyone, from ages 6 to 18.

Offerings include MPA Art Camps (ages 6-13) and our CIT program, for students age 14-18. Sessions run June 23-August 8, 2025. Sign up early to secure your spot! Contact Briana Clorey at bclorey@mpaart.org for more information.

Register Now for MPA Summer Art Camp

Spring has Sprung for MPA's ArtReach!

Spring is such an exciting time for MPA's ArtReach!

It was a beautiful sunny day on a recent Monday for ArtReach Director Sharon Fishel's weekly visit to the afterschool group at Kingsley Commons in Falls Church, one of Fairfax County's Community Technology programs, providing technology education and academic support for community children and teens.

The creative kids created garden collage projects out in the sun, influenced by the work of Spring Solos artist Heidi Fowler. Thanks to Kennia from the program's staff for her help with the visit. We love spending time with these creative FCPS kids from Graham Road and Mantua Elementary schools and Luther Jackson Middle School.

And the garden collage projects continued throughout ArtReach, with similar projects created by participants in Sharon's weekly classes at the Wellness Center for Older Adults, with her online class participants (sometimes numbering as many as 60!) through ServiceSource, and in her work with special ed students at McLean High School.

And in addition to this work, we've been so excited to have FCPS 2nd graders from Timber Lane Elementary visiting our galleries to view the Spring Solo exhibitions. The enthusiastic young visitors loved using our gallery guides to create their own colorful collages and drawings and then followed up with writing Haiku poems after returning to school. Thanks to their supportive teachers for making their field trips possible, and to ArtsFairfax for the project grant for this exhibition.

Connecting our gallery exhibitions with our community outreach is the heart of our MPA programming . . . and we're grateful for the support that makes it all possible. If you'd like to make a contribution, please see https://mpaart.app.neoncrm.com/forms/annual-giving-2024-2025.

MPA ArtReach

Call for Submissions: MPAartfest 2025

Calling all artists! **MPA is currently seeking submissions for our 18th annual** MPAartfest.

MPAartfest 2025 will consist of a one-day in-person juried fine arts and craft show held in McLean Central Park on October 5, 2025. Accepted artists retain 100% of in-park sales.

Early Application Deadline: May 20, 2025 ($325)
Deadline for Submissions: June 21, 2025 at 9pm ($375)
Festival Date: October 5, 2025

WHERE: McLean Central Park; 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd; McLean, VA. Accepted artists will also be featured on the MPAartfest website.

HOW: Additional rules and submission instructions are available here: https://tinyurl.com/mpaartfest25

MORE INFORMATION: Contact Jennifer Lillis, Gallery Manager, at jlillis@mpaart.org with questions or for more information.

Children's Artwalk Pieces on Display at Dulles International Airport

Thanks to the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority and their Social Impact team for featuring artwork once again from our annual Children's Artwalk in this wonderful Youth Art Walk exhibit at Dulles International Airport. The display will be open through this year on the ticketing level, across from the TSA PreCheck checkpoint.

We are grateful for this partnership and the opportunity to share the work of these talented McLean area young artists!

Learn More

MPA Welcomes New Board Members!

MPA is thrilled to welcome four new board members to our board of directors. Mary Davis, Rustom Desai, Carla Seebald, and Cindy Smith were formally installed at the February McLean Project for the Arts Board of Directors meeting.

A long-time arts enthusiast and artist herself, **Mary Davis** combines 40+ years of experience in the financial services industry with her love of art, bringing a unique perspective to MPA's Board. As a new MPA Board member, Mary looks forward to contributing to MPA's finance, governance, arts and education, communication and marketing, and cultivation and development goals.

Rustom Desai brings more than two decades of experience driving positive governance outcomes in family (public, private), technology, and JV boards. In his 25 years as a global technology executive with Corning Incorporated, he built and restructured businesses across multiple technologies and geographies. He currently serves as a visiting faculty member at Cornell University's Johnson College of Business. A visual arts enthusiast, Rustom is committed to contributing to MPA's governance and arts and education priorities.

A staple of MPA's volunteer group for more than 20 years, **Carla Seebald** has helped extensively with MPA Spring Benefit and MPAartfest, contributing her strong skills and experience in event management and community outreach. Carla's extensive fundraising and event experience includes serving as Chair of the County Fair at St. Francis Episcopal Church in Great Falls, co-chair of the American Red Cross Gala, and recent service on the National Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors.

Cindy Smith brings 20 years' of experience within the financial service industry, having held pivotal roles such as Division Controller, Vice President of Financial Planning, and Senior Director of Strategic Reengineering. Recently, Cindy shifted her focus to raising her two children, becoming deeply involved in their schools. She has served on the Executive Committee of several Parent Associations, chairing numerous events that foster community and engagement among families. Cindy has been an active member of MPA's Events Committee since 2022. Additionally, she has grown support for MPA's Spring Benefit, volunteered at Café Beret during MPAartfest, and coordinated MPA's wine tasting during MPA's 2024 Sculpture NOW exhibition.

Mary, Rustom, Carla and Cindy join MPA's 41-person Board of Directors, which is chaired by Pamela Danner. Jane Imperatore, Helen Frederick, and Alicia Bond will continue in their executive leadership positions as vice-chair, secretary, and treasurer, respectfully.

MPA wishes a very warm welcome to our new board members. Thank you for your continued service to and support of MPA. For a full list of MPA board members, visit www.mpaart.org.

MPA's Board of Directors

MPA in the News

Arlington Magazine: 30 Things to Do In April Around Arlington, VA [Spring Solo Exhibits] (04/02/2025)

Tysons Today: McLean Project for the Arts' Spring Benefit Set for May 8 (03/07/2025)

UPCOMING EVENTS

MPA Calendar of Events

May 3 - June 7, 2025: Open Studio classes every Saturday, 10:30am-1:30pm.

May 8, 2025: Spring Benefit 2025, at the home of Dharini & Reggie Aggarwal

May 10, 2025: Spring Solos Artist Talk, 11am

June 4, 2025: Spring Solos Tea & Talk, 11am

September 11 - November 1, 2025: Fall Exhibition--WOMEN ARTISTS OF THE DMV

October 5, 2025: MPAartfest returns to McLean Central Park!

DONATE NOW!

1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, VA 22101
Gallery Hours: Monday through Saturday, 10am-4pm
Administrative Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10am-4pm

Hours and Directions | www.mpaart.org | 703.790.1953

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