



# McLean Project for the Arts

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **McLean Project for the Arts Receives Significant Gift to Establish MPA Berlage Arts & Education Center *Contribution will fund MPA's expansion into a second location in the heart of downtown McLean***

McLean, VA: McLean Project for the Arts announced Thursday that it has received a significant gift that will enable the organization to finalize plans for the MPA Berlage Arts & Education Center, MPA's second location.

The gift, donated by MPA board member and long-time supporter Bruce L. Berlage, will allow MPA to expand exhibitions and deepen its arts education programs. Construction of the MPA Berlage Arts & Education Center is expected to begin this summer.

"MPA is grateful to and celebrates Bruce Berlage, a member of the MPA Board of Directors and Finance committee, and an early and dedicated champion of this vision," said Lori Carbonneau, MPA Executive Director. "Bruce has built a remarkable career in real estate, homebuilding, and banking—and has long enriched his community through leadership, philanthropy, and joy. His generosity, strategic insight, and unwavering commitment to this project have helped bring this next chapter to life."

MPA's expanded second location will feature three exhibition galleries, a professional ceramics studio, and a welcoming indoor/outdoor café. News of the naming gift was announced at MPA's Spring Benefit, an annual fundraiser to support the organization's operations and programming.

In September 2024, 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. Designed to support "economic development activities of strategic importance," the EOR—in conjunction with the Berlage gift and other significant donations—will help fund the build-out of the new arts and education center.

"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 MPA Berlage Arts & 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

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connect. The Board of Supervisors firmly believes that this project will be a valuable cultural amenity, benefiting both the community and the county economically.”

Additional MPA Berlage Arts & Education Center significant donors include: the McLean Community Center, the McLean Community Foundation, the Monett family, Silvia Sagari and Magdi Iskander. To date, MPA has raised \$5.6 million. The organization has launched a public campaign to achieve its \$6.25 goal.

Following completion of the second location, 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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