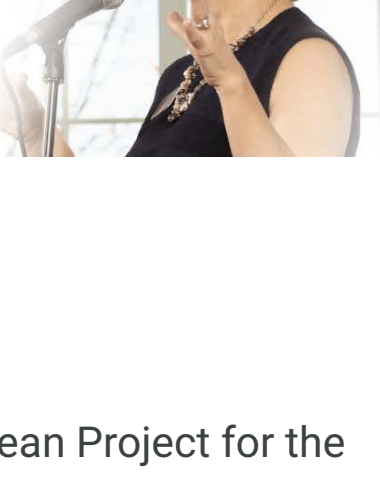




A message from our Executive Director



Artistic Notes

Dear MPA Community,

I am thrilled to share a milestone moment with you—McLean Project for the Arts has officially received our building permit! This achievement marks the formal beginning of construction on the [MPA Berlage Arts & Education Center](#), an expansion that will allow us to connect art, community, and education in inspiring new ways. Our building permit, proudly displayed in our future home, is a testament to months of collaboration with Fairfax County leadership and the dedicated building community. It has been meaningful to witness our county at work—rigorous, supportive, and committed to helping the arts thrive.

We are now in the pre-construction period, paying deposits for major equipment and coordinating schedules with contractors. At the same time, we are finding such joy in working daily with architects, artists, and design experts—shaping not only walls and systems, but the vision of a place where creativity and community will flourish. These behind-the-scenes decisions are like sketching the contours of a great artwork: subtle marks guiding what comes next.

From here, construction will move through broad phases—site preparation, systems installation, and finishing details—that together will steadily transform this long vacant space into a vibrant home for the arts. Each stage adds depth and definition, bringing us closer to unveiling a space that will open its doors to artists, students, and community members alike. We will provide regular updates to keep you informed, celebrate milestones, and continue to share the journey of building the MPA Berlage Arts & Education Center.

For now, let us pause to honor this achievement. We are profoundly grateful to Supervisor Jimmy Bierman, his colleague Ben Wiles, the Fairfax County Planning and Development community, and to you—our MPA community—for your generosity and vision. Together, we are not only building a new Arts & Education Center but also shaping a vibrant future for the arts.

Warmly,
Lori Carboneau
MPA Executive Director

MPA Berlage Arts & Education Center

Opening September 11: Women Artists of the DMV

September 11 - November 1, 2025
Opening Exhibition Reception: September 18, 7-9pm
Artist Talk: Saturday, October 25, 11am

The first-ever survey of the many talented female visual artists from the DMV (District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia, Washington D.C. area), *Women Artists of the DMV* is curated by Lenny Campello. McLean Project for the Arts will be one of 18 major art spaces staging the event in Fall 2025.

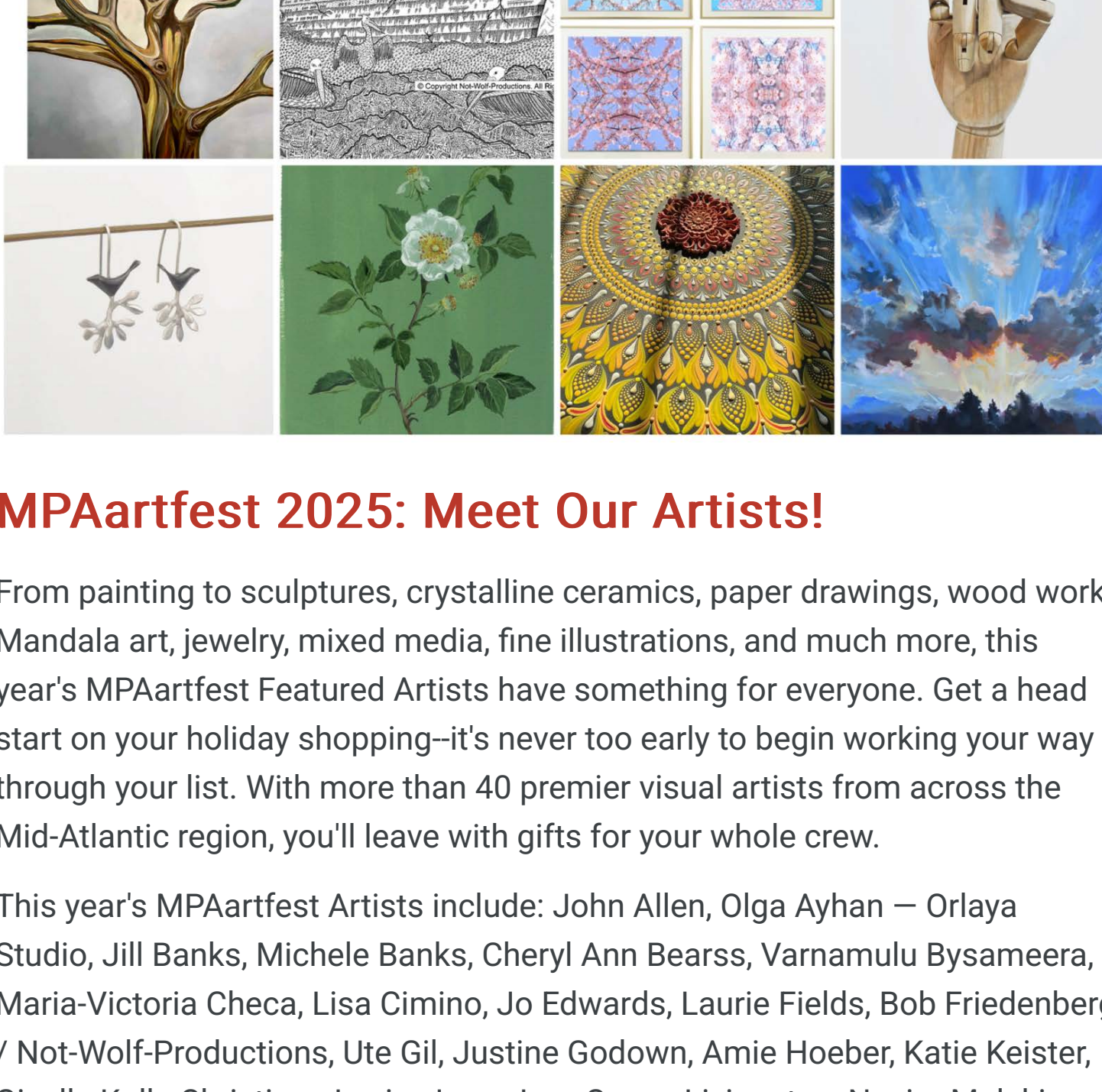
Led by the [American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center](#) in DC, and as part of the generous [Alper Initiative](#), these participating art venues agreed to co-stage the show, which will run in the 18 separate art spaces starting in September 2025 for 6-12 weeks.

Artists whose work will be on display at MPA include:

Shiri Achu, Patricia Autenrieth, Michele Banks, Ann Barbieri, Denée Barr, Carol Barsha, Holly Bass, Karin Birch, Liliane Blom, Kristin Boplander, Laurie Breen, Maria Brito, Dianne Bugash, Melissa Burley, Anne Calamuci, Sue Canuteson, Rachel Carren, Mei Mei Chang, Hsin-Hsi Chen, Irene Clouthier, Sheila Crider, Jacqui Crocetta, Joan Danziger, Catherine Day, Jen Droblyen, Cheryl Edwards, Rita Elsner, Felisa Federman, Jill Finsen, Helena Gallegos O'Neill, Janis Goodman, Freya Grand, Beatrice Hamblett, Elyse Harrison, Mira Hecht, Dorothy Hickson, Jackie Hoysted, Anna Katalina, Lori Katz, Linda Lawler, Kyujin Lee, Liz Lescault, Taina Litwak, Julia Malakoff, Carolina Mayorga, Donna McCullough, Camille Mosley-Pasley, Susana Raab, Lesley Riley, April Shelford, Judy Southerland, Hillary Steel, and Eilyn Weiss.

Visit our website for more information, and please join us on September 18 for the Opening Exhibition Reception.

Exhibition Information



MPAartfest 2025: Meet Our Artists!

From painting to sculptures, crystalline ceramics, paper drawings, wood work, Mandala art, jewelry, mixed media, fine illustrations, and much more, this year's MPAartfest Featured Artists have something for everyone. Get a head start on your holiday shopping—it's never too early to begin working your way through your list. With more than 40 premier visual artists from across the Mid-Atlantic region, you'll leave with gifts for your whole crew.

This year's MPAartfest Artists include: John Allen, Olga Ayhan — Orlaya Studio, Jill Banks, Michele Banks, Cheryl Ann Bearss, Varnamulu Bysameera, Maria-Victoria Checa, Lisa Cimino, Jo Edwards, Laurie Fields, Bob Friedenberg / Not-Wolf-Productions, Ute Gil, Justine Godown, Amie Hoebler, Katie Keister, Giselle Kolb, Christiane Lavin, Joyce Lee, Susan Livingston, Nasim Maleki, Begona Morton, Renee Newell, AnaMarie Paredes, Susan Moskow, Trinka Roeckelein, Heide Rohland, Michele Ross, Carol Samour, Hilary Schenker, Bikki Tuyen Strickler, David Sturtevant, Laura Summer, Dorian Traynham, Dagmara Weinberg.

Additionally, MPA is excited to unveil the musical lineup and programming for this year's MPAartfest. Featuring everything from Eastern European Jewish folk music to reggae and a 15-piece youth swing big band, the MPAartfest Music Stage schedule offers something for every age and musical interest.

Presented by TTR Sotheby's International Realty, this year's featured performers include:

10:00am: Blues Alley Youth Jazz Orchestra
11:00am: Seth Kibel & The Kletztet
12:00pm: Valeria Stewart & Friends
1:00pm: The Porch Delights
2:00pm: I&I Riddim
3:00pm: Surftrek

Now in its 18th year, MPAartfest transforms Central Park into a lively landscape of mini art galleries showcasing and offering for sale the work of juried artists from throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. MPAartfest 2025 will consist of a one-day fine art and craft show/sale featuring the work of more than 40 local and regional visual artists. This FREE event features contemporary art, two performance stages showcasing some of the DC-area's best musical talents, four children's art tents, food vendors, a yarn bombing installation (NEW this year!), and much more.

MPAartfest 2025 is made possible with the generous support of the McLean Community Center, and through partnerships with Fairfax County Park Authority and community and corporate sponsors. To learn more about sponsorship opportunities, [visit our website](#) or [contact Jennifer Wormser](#).

MPAartfest 2025

Register Now for MPA's Fall Art Classes and Workshops

Registration for MPA's fall art classes and **NEW** workshops **IS NOW OPEN**—sign up early to secure your spot!

Classes starting in September include:

- **NEW! Beginning Video Editing Workshop** – Saturday, September 6
- **Landscape in Oil Class** – Thursdays, beginning September 11
- **Creating Artwork with Layered Paper: Cone Flowers Workshop** – Sunday, September 14
- **NEW! Lovely Landscapes in Luscious Pastels Workshop** – Saturday, September 20
- **NEW! The Magic of Pastel: Painting Expressive Landscapes Class** – Wednesdays, beginning September 24
- **Plein Air Class** – Wednesdays, beginning September 24
- **Drawing and Painting Studio** – Thursdays, beginning September 25
- **NEW! Color Therapy Deep Dive Workshop** – Sunday, September 28

Additional fall adult art classes include:

- **Drawing Basics, with Ahmed Zaidan**, Saturdays, 2-4pm, beginning Oct. 4
- **Elevating Your Vision: Intermediate/Advanced Painting**, with Stephanie Chang, Tuesdays, 10am-12:30pm, beginning Oct. 7
- **Cross Currents in Contemporary Art**, with Sharon Fishel, Fridays, 1-4pm, beginning Oct. 10
- **Colorful Mixed Media Paintings**, with M. Jane Johnson, Mondays, 10am-1pm, beginning Oct. 20
- **Freedom of Watercolor**, with Barbara J, Thursdays, 10am-12:30pm, beginning Oct. 23

Workshops taking place later in the fall include:

- **Creating Artwork with Layered Paper: Waterlilies**, with Ronni Jolles, October 26
- **Creating Artwork with Layered Paper: Window with Flowers**, with Ronni Jolles, November 9
- **NEW! Painted Leather Bag Workshop**, with Nanette Catigbe, November 23
- **Creating Artwork with Layered Paper: Southwestern View**, with Ronni Jolles, December 14

And don't forget our **Saturday Open Studio** sessions, beginning Oct. 4. Offered as a series of \$20/session (drop in), Open Studio will offer a variety of models poses for the seven sessions this fall.

And for **younger children**, we're again offering our popular Abakadoodle classes – a great first art education experience for preschool children.

Offerings include:

- **Abakadoodle Twoosy Doodlers** (ages 20-36 months), Fridays, 10-10:45am, beginning Sept. 26
- **Abakadoodle Mini Doodlers** (ages 3-6, years), Fridays, 11am-12pm, beginning Sept. 26
- **Drawing Basics** (ages 13+), Saturdays, 2-4pm, beginning Oct. 4
- **Abakadoodle Doodlers** (ages 7-12), Mondays, 4:30-5:30pm, beginning Oct. 4

Visit our website to read all the details on these classes and to register: <https://mpaart.org/education/art-classes/>.

Contact Briana Clorey at bclorey@mpaart.org with questions.

Register Now for MPA Fall Art Classes

Summer ArtReach Continues with Community Partnerships

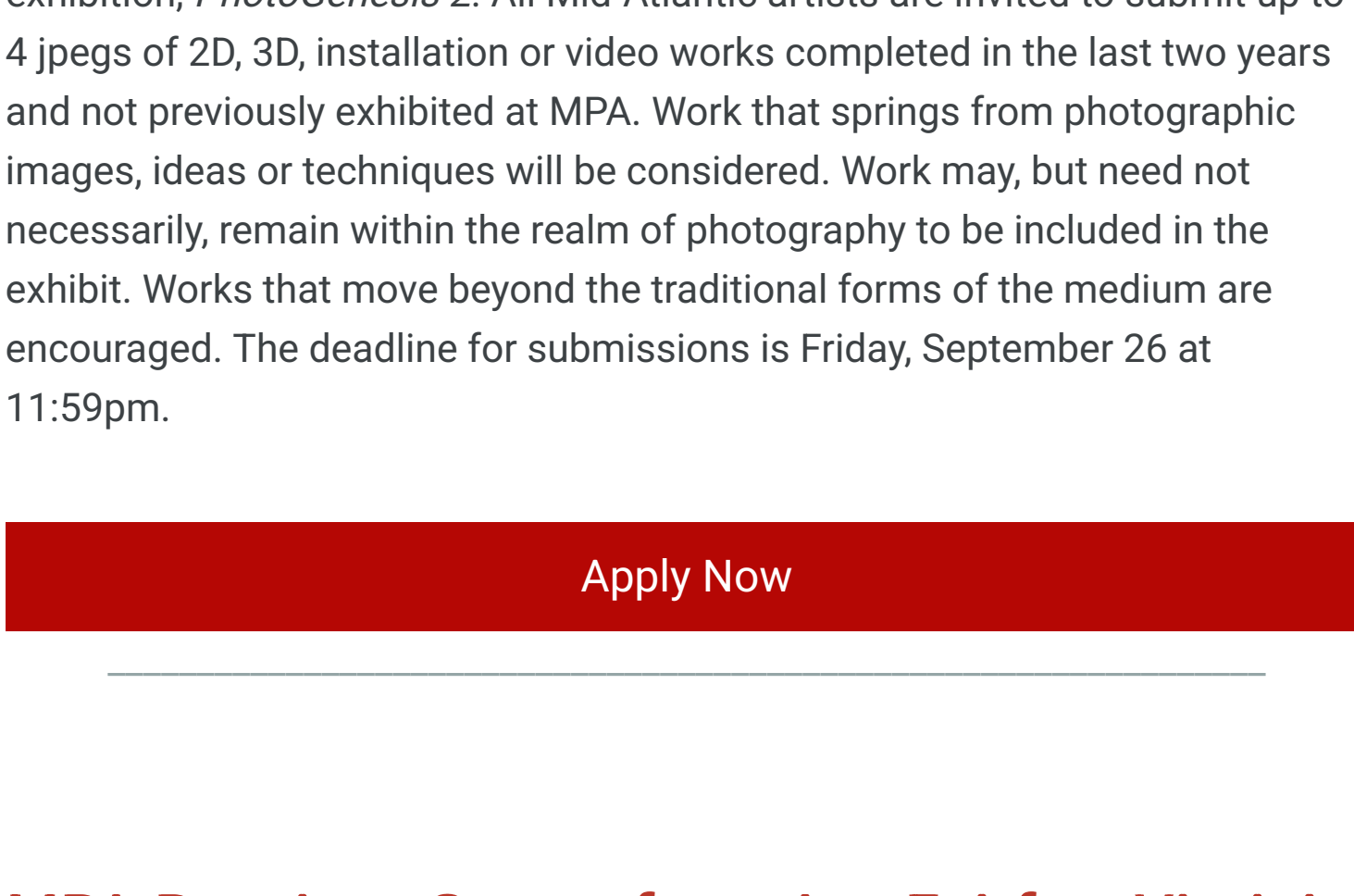
Each week ArtReach Director Sharon Fishel inspires students at the Wellness Center for Older Adults with art projects that feature her love of her garden and nature, and the world around us. A recent theme focused on her backyard pond and water lilies, including a beautiful lily she brought in to share with them.

Enjoy their colored pencil & crayon resist watercolors.

In addition to continuing her weekly classes with this ServiceSource program as well as her online ServiceSource classes, Sharon is preparing for the opening of our exciting Fall exhibition – Women Artists of the DMV – and currently scheduling tours and workshops with community organizations and schools. And we're excited about a new ongoing partnership with the art department at Franklin Sherman Elementary School in McLean and continuing our work with Special Ed students at McLean High School.

To learn more about this free ArtReach tour program, [please see this flyer](#). To support our ArtReach program, which aims to make visual arts education accessible to all in our community, please visit: <https://mpaart.app.neoncrm.com/forms/annual-giving-2024-2025>.

MPA ArtReach



Call for Submissions: PhotoGenesis 2

McLean Project for the Arts currently seeks submissions for its upcoming exhibition, *PhotoGenesis 2*. All Mid-Atlantic artists are invited to submit up to 4 jpeg's of 2D, 3D, installation or video works completed in the last two years and not previously exhibited at MPA. Work that springs from photographic images, ideas or techniques will be considered. Work may, but need not necessarily, remain within the realm of photography to be included in the exhibit. Works that move beyond the traditional forms of the medium are encouraged. The deadline for submissions is Friday, September 26 at 11:59pm.

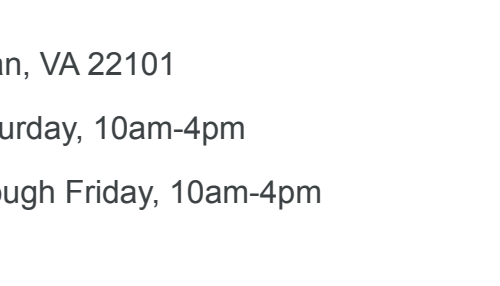
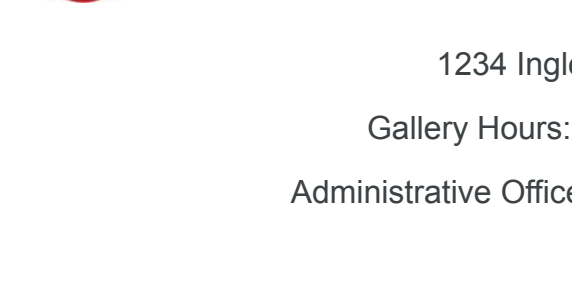
Apply Now

MPA Receives Grants from ArtsFairfax, Virginia Commission for the Arts

MPA is thrilled to announce we have recently received two grants: A 2026 ArtsFairfax Operating Support Grant of \$52,113.65, and a \$33,958 grant of support from Virginia Commission for the Arts. This funding benefits the vitality of MPA and its mission 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 extends its deepest thanks to both of these organizations for their support, empowering MPA to inspire creativity, connect our community through the arts, and make a lasting impact.

Support MPA



MPA in the News
The NoVA Living: McLean Project for the Arts Establishes New Arts & Education Center in Downtown McLean (08/18/2025)
TysonsToday: 18th Annual MPAartfest Set for October 5, 2025 in McLean Central Park (08/08/2025)
East City Art: McLean Project for the Arts Receives Significant Gift to Establish MPA Berlage Arts & Education Center (05/28/2025)

MPA Calendar of Events
September 11 - November 1, 2025: Women Artists of the DMV Exhibition
September 18, 2025: Women Artists of the DMV Opening Exhibition Reception, 7-9pm
October 5, 2025: MPAartfest returns to McLean Central Park
October 25, 2025: Women Artists of the DMV Artist Talk, 11am
November 20, 2025 - February 24, 2026: PhotoGenesis2 (Emerson Gallery) and Photography by Bernie Boston (Atrium Gallery)

→ **DONATE NOW!**