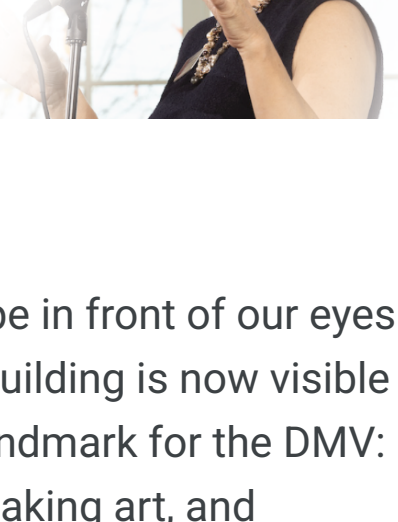




McLean Project for the Arts

A message from our Executive Director



Artistic Notes

The MPA Berlage Arts & Education Center is taking shape in front of our eyes. Walls are up, rooms are defined, and the rhythm of the building is now visible on site. What began as a shared vision is becoming a landmark for the DMV: a purpose-built home for exhibiting contemporary art, making art, and gathering as a community. The momentum is real, and it is energizing!

Construction progress is accelerating as we move toward occupancy. HVAC, plumbing, and electrical systems are complete, and we are now closing in the walls. With drywall in place, the form of the space is really taking shape.

Our community invested with extraordinary confidence and generosity, allowing us to purchase the space for the MPA Berlage Arts & Education Center, creating a lasting asset for MPA and the region. Individuals, local corporations, and Fairfax County have invested with conviction in this project. We take that responsibility seriously. As we pass the midpoint of our fiscal year, we are pleased to report that we remain on budget for both our operating and capital budgets, stewarding every dollar with care and discipline.

As part of our commitment to fiscal responsibility, our goal is to close this campaign before we open the space. We are 93% of the way there, with \$5.8 million of this \$6.25 million project already raised. If you have not yet had the opportunity to give, we invite you to be part of this final phase. And if you have already supported the project, thank you! And we would welcome any additional support at this stage to help us cross the finish line and open the MPA Berlage Arts & Education Center on strong footing.

We are finalizing our donor wall now and would be proud and grateful to recognize you as part of this important moment for the MPA Berlage Arts & Education Center, a new arts and education landmark for our artists, our community, and our hometown.

[Make a gift to the MPA Berlage Arts & Education Center](#)

We are grateful to do this work alongside a community that believes in it.

Warmest thanks,
Lori Carboneau
MPA Executive Director

[Make a Gift to the MPA Berlage Arts & Education Center](#)

Kick Off the New Year with MPA's Upcoming Exhibition Events!

Join MPA in February for an Artist Talk and Tea & Talk

MPA invites you to join us now through February 24, 2026 to experience our current exhibitions, *PhotoGenesis 2* and *Bernard (Bernie) Boston Retrospective: A Photojournalist, Social Justice Advocate, and Family Man*.

MPA will host two exhibition events to kick off the New Year:

- **Artist Talk** (*PhotoGenesis 2*) – Saturday, February 7, 2026 from 11am-1pm
- **Tea & Talk** (*PhotoGenesis 2* and *Bernie Boston*) – Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 11am.

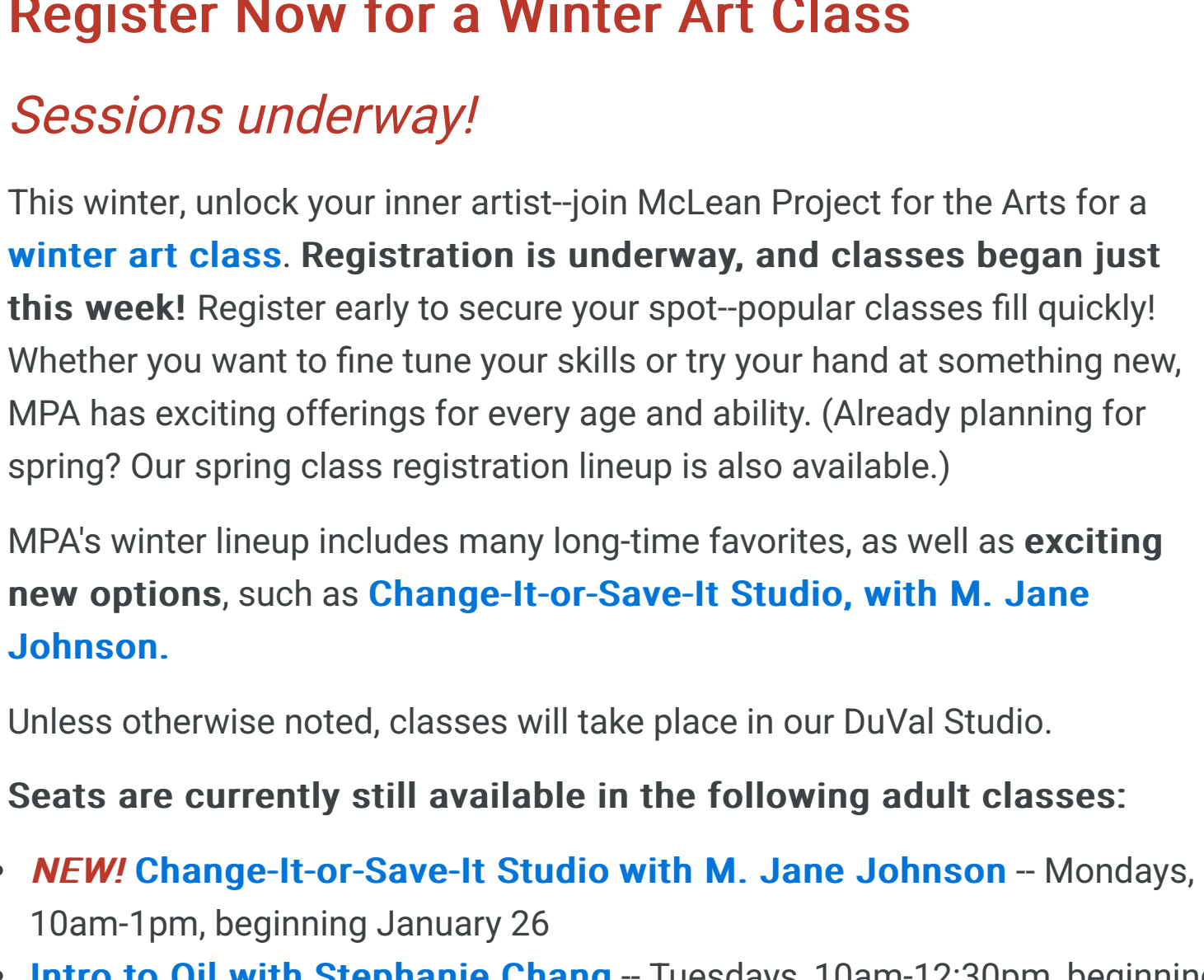
Viewing the Exhibitions

Bernard (Bernie) Boston Retrospective: A Photojournalist, Social Justice Advocate, and Family Man runs through February 24, 2026, and is on display in MPA's Atrium Gallery. A collaboration between MPA and the Friends of Historic Pleasant Grove Church in McLean, the exhibit is being held concurrently in MPA's Atrium Gallery and at the Historic Pleasant Grove Church.

The MPA Atrium Gallery is available for viewing during McLean Community Center operating hours. The Historic Pleasant Grove exhibition is available for viewing January 25 from 2-4pm; and February 8 and 22 from 2-4pm.

The MPA Emerson Gallery, which features the *PhotoGenesis 2* Exhibition, is available for viewing Monday - Saturday from 10am-4pm.

Exhibition Information



Register Now for a Winter Art Class

Sessions underway!

This winter, unlock your inner artist—join McLean Project for the Arts for a **winter art class**. **Registration is underway, and classes began just this week!** Register early to secure your spot—popular classes fill quickly! Whether you want to fine tune your skills or try your hand at something new, MPA has exciting offerings for every age and ability. (Already planning for spring? Our spring class registration lineup is also available.)

MPA's winter lineup includes many long-time favorites, as well as **exciting new options**, such as **Change-It-or-Save-It Studio**, with **M. Jane Johnson**.

Unless otherwise noted, classes will take place in our DuVal Studio.

Seats are currently still available in the following adult classes:

- **NEW! Change-It-or-Save-It Studio with M. Jane Johnson** – Mondays, 10am-1pm, beginning January 26
- **Intro to Oil with Stephanie Chang** – Tuesdays, 10am-12:30pm, beginning January 27
- **Landscape in Oil with Joyce Lee** – Thursdays, 10am-12:30pm, beginning January 29

For spring adult classes, [click here](#).

Workshop offerings include:

- **Beginning Video Editing with Gregory Staley** – February 7, 2026
- **Creating Artwork with Layered Paper: Lighthouse**, with **Ronni Jolles**, – February 22, 2026
- **Perspective of Lavender Fields with Ronni Jolles** – March 8, 2026
- **Pastel Landscapes for the Complete Beginner**, with **Bryan Jernigan** – March 22, 2026
- **Creating Artwork with Layered Paper: Trees in Springtime**, with **Ronni Jolles** – May 17, 2026
- **NEW! Impressionistic Florals in Pastel**, with **Nanette Catigbe** – Sunday, April 12, 2026

Open Studio

We're also pleased to announce the return of our always-popular Open Studio, with sessions on **Saturdays from 10:30am-1:30pm, beginning January 24**. Full-session registration is available, as well as drop-in pricing (\$20/session).

Youth offerings include:

- **Drawing Basics with Ahmed Zaidan (Teen)** – Saturdays, 2-4pm, beginning January 24
- **Abrakadoodle Doodlers** – Mondays, 4:30-5:30pm, beginning January 26. Ages 7-12
- **Abrakadoodle Twoosy Doodlers** – Fridays 10-10:45am, beginning January 23. Ages 20-36 months

Teen artists (age 14+) are welcome to join Ronni Jolles for her Layered Paper Series of workshops.

For spring youth art class offerings, [visit our website](#).

Visit our website to read all the details and to register:
<https://mpaart.org/education/art-classes/>.
Contact Briana Clorey at bclorey@mpaart.org with questions.

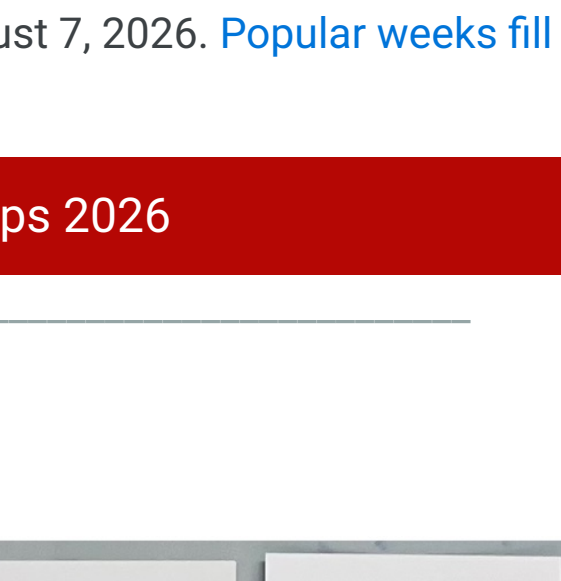
Register for a Winter Art Class

MPA Introduces Bikki Strickler!

"It has been a pleasure working with everyone at MPA. I look forward to continuing our collaboration and helping to create a vibrant and welcoming ceramics community in McLean."

-Bikki Strickler, Ceramics consultant and instructor at the new MPA Berlage Arts & Education Center Ceramics Studio

Bikki was born in Vietnam and immigrated to the United States with her family in 1975. She earned a bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Virginia and spent several years working in the private sector before discovering her interest in teaching. She later received a Master's in Education from George Mason University and taught in Arlington Public Schools for more than 12 years.

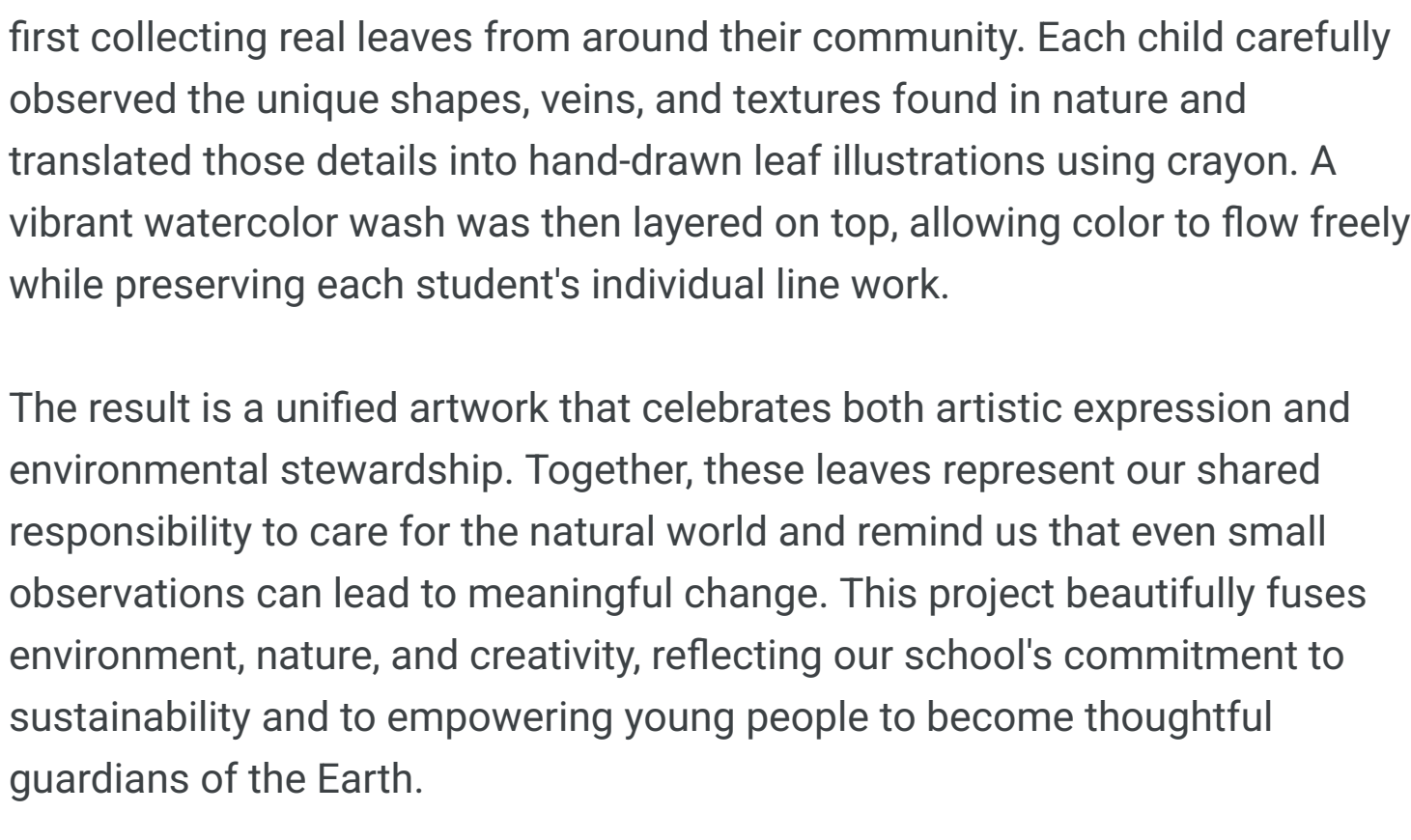


In 2007, Bikki began taking ceramics classes at Northern Virginia Community College. After several years as a studio volunteer, she made the decision to turn her growing passion for clay into a new career. Bikki's work has been exhibited at fine arts festivals—she is a long-time MPAartfest featured artist—and in multiple galleries at the Torpedo Factory Art Center. In 2019, she was honored to design the awards for ArtsFairfax Awards recipients, and in 2024 she participated in the NCECA Annual Exhibition at the Harnett Museum of Art at the University of Richmond.

Bikki is currently working on her first solo exhibition and teaches wheel-throwing classes at the Art League School in Alexandria and the Bowman House in Vienna.

Look for Bikki's classes on our schedule when the MPA Berlage Arts & Education Center opens later this spring!

MPA Berlage Arts & Education Center



Coming Soon: MPA Summer Art Camp

Registration Opens February 2

Mark your calendars: Registration for MPA's 2026 Summer Art Camps opens Monday, February 2. 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 22-August 7, 2026. **Popular weeks fill quickly. Sign up early to secure your spot!**

MPA Summer Art Camps 2026



MPA ArtReach UPDATE

Director Sharon Fishel's ArtReach partnership with Franklin Sherman Elementary School and their art teacher Lisa Eaton created this collaborative art installation—*Leaves of Our Community*. Created by fourth-grade members of the Green Scene Club as part of their journey to earn EcoSchools certification through the National Wildlife Federation.

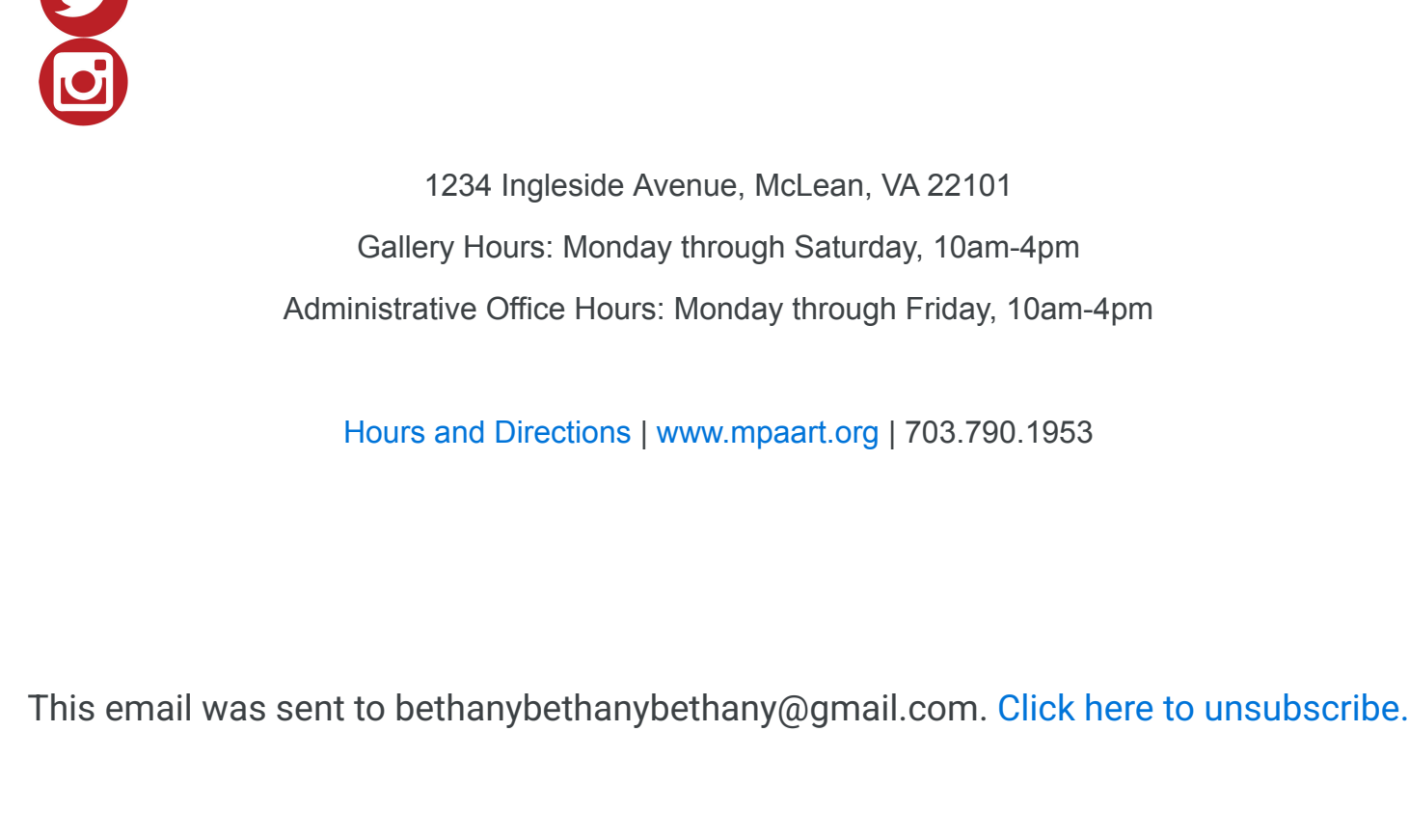
Guided by Fishel, students explored the beauty of their local environment by first collecting real leaves from around their community. Each child carefully observed the unique shapes, veins, and textures found in nature and translated those details into hand-drawn leaf illustrations using crayon. A vibrant watercolor wash was then layered on top, allowing color to flow freely while preserving each student's individual line work.

The result is a unified artwork that celebrates both artistic expression and environmental stewardship. Together, these leaves represent our shared responsibility to care for the natural world and remind us that even small observations can lead to meaningful change. This project beautifully fuses environment, nature, and creativity, reflecting our school's commitment to sustainability and to empowering young people to become thoughtful guardians of the Earth.

ArtReach has been incorporating this nature theme with other community partners as well, including the Wellness Center for Older Adults, and SPARC at the Old Firehouse—focusing on Art About The Earth, with students creating their own species of Butterfly. And last week's virtual ArtReach online class with ServiceSource had over 70 participants! A new record, and a wonderful way to connect with those in our area who might not otherwise have access to the visual arts!

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



Coming Soon: Annual Youth Art Shows!

March 5-15, 2026 (Langley Pyramid)
presented by The Prendergast Team
Opening Exhibition Reception March 5, 2026 from 4:30-6pm

March 19 – April 6, 2026 (McLean Pyramid)
presented by Lizzy Conroy, HBC Group Keller Williams Realty
Opening Exhibition Reception March 19, 2026 from 4:30-6pm

March is Youth Art Month! Join MPA for our Youth Art Shows featuring work by FCPS McLean and Langley Pyramid students from elementary through high school.

The Langley Pyramid show runs March 5-15, 2026, with an Opening Exhibition Reception March 5 from 4:30-6pm.

The McLean Pyramid show runs March 19-April 6, 2026, with an Opening Exhibition Reception March 19 from 4:30-6pm.

Please join us as we celebrate these talented young artists!

Upcoming Exhibition Information

MPA in the News

FXNow: *PhotoGenesis 2* Opening Exhibition Reception (11/20/2025)

ABC7 News, Good Morning Washington segment: *Iconic Images, Local Roots: Bernie Boston Exhibit Opens at Historic Pleasant Grove Church* (11/12/2025)

Center for Nonprofit Advancement Member Spotlight (November 2025)

MPA Calendar of Events

Through February 24, 2026:
PhotoGenesis 2 (Emerson Gallery)
and *Bernard (Bernie) Boston Retrospective: A Photojournalist, Social Justice Advocate, and Family Man* (Atrium Gallery)

Saturday, February 7, 2026: *PhotoGenesis 2* Artist Talk, 11am-1pm

Wednesday, February 18, 2026:
PhotoGenesis 2 Tea & Talk, 11am

March 5-15, 2026: Langley Pyramid Youth Art Show

March 5, 2026: Langley Pyramid Youth Art Show Opening Exhibition Reception, 4:30-6pm

March 19-April 6, 2026: McLean Pyramid Youth Art Show

March 19, 2026: McLean Pyramid, Youth Art Show Opening Exhibition Reception, 4:30-6pm

May 7, 2026: MPA Spring Benefit 2026

[→ 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