



McLean Project for the Arts



Historic Pleasant Grove
Preserving African History Together

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bernard (Bernie) Boston Retrospective: A Photojournalist, Social Justice Advocate, and Family Man Exhibit to Open November 6 at McLean Project for the Arts

Curated by Phoebe Mills Farris, Ph.D., concurrent exhibitions will be on display at MPA and at Historic Pleasant Grove

McLean, VA: McLean Project for the Arts (MPA) will open its next African Gallery exhibition, *Bernard (Bernie) Boston Retrospective: A Photojournalist, Social Justice Advocate, and Family Man*, on Thursday, November 6, 2025, with an Opening Exhibition Reception from 4-6pm.

An award-winning photo journalist, Bernie Boston made history by becoming the first African American member of the White House press corps, covering every president from Truman through Clinton. Boston was a long-time McLean resident, and former Chairman of the McLean Community Center Governing Board (2017-2019). The African Gallery exhibit will feature framed photographs from his fascinating, decades-long career.

Phoebe Mills Farris, Ph.D. (Phoebean Parsonsky)—a retired Purdue University professor, curator, photographer, and freelance artist—curated the exhibition.

"We're very excited about the exhibit. It's something new for us, as we usually only work with living artists, and Bernie was more of a journalistic photographer than a strictly artistic one. We are delighted to have the opportunity to collaborate and build community with Historic Pleasant Grove Church," said Nancy Sasser, MPA Artistic Director.

The exhibit is a collaboration between MPA and the Friends of Historic Pleasant Grove Church in McLean and will be held concurrently in MPA's African Gallery and at the Historic Pleasant Grove Church. An opening reception for the Pleasant Grove Church exhibition will be held Saturday, November 8, 2025, from 3-5pm, and will include light refreshments. Visit www.historicpleasantgrove.org to RSVP.

The MPA African Gallery is available for viewing during McLean Community Center operating hours. The Historic Pleasant Grove Church exhibition is available for viewing November 9 from 3-5pm, November 9 and 23 from 2-4pm, December 7 and 21 from 2-4pm, January 11 and 25 from 2-4pm, and February 8 and 22 from 2-4pm.

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