

McLean Project for the Arts

A message from our Executive Director



Artistic Notes

There's a point in any project when it stops feeling theoretical and starts feeling real.

We're there.

The kilns for our new Ceramics Studio are in place – ready for hands on the wheel, for ceramic artists and students alike. After years of planning, procurement, and coordination, they're here.

In the three new galleries, construction is wrapping. Walls are up, lighting is in, and the spaces are beginning to read and feel exactly the way they were intended. It's no longer a question of what they might become. You can walk through and feel the experience taking shape.

We're also making the transition from build-out to operations – and it's energizing. The menu for Café Monet is set, and **hiring is underway** – if you know someone who'd be a great fit, we'd love to hear from you. The work now is about staffing, training, and getting ready to open the doors.

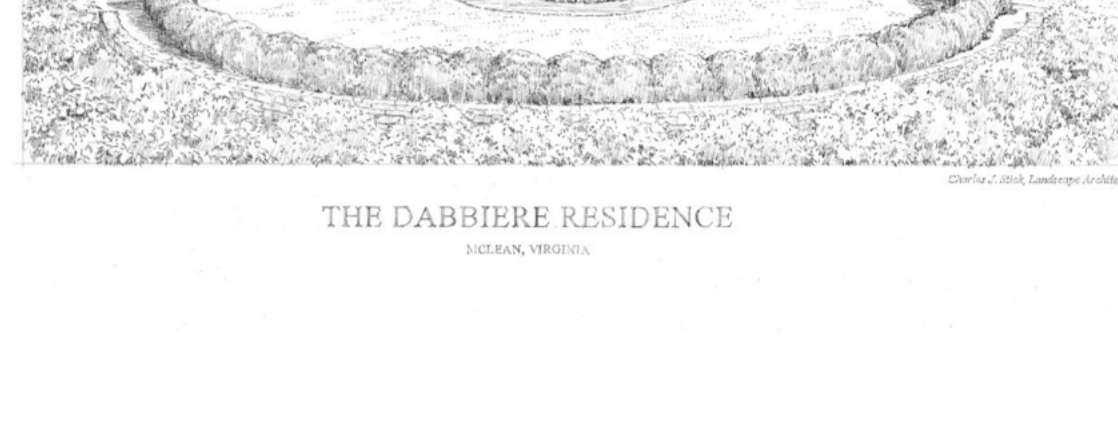
The campaign has reached an important milestone as well. As of this week, we are 95 percent of the way to our \$6.25 million goal – thanks to scores of donors across McLean and the greater DMV area who share a belief in what the Berlage Center will become. It has allowed us to build something ambitious and do it thoughtfully.

One stretch remains. If you've been considering a gift – or would consider joining that community of supporters to help top us up to 100% – **this is the moment** to carry the project across the finish line ahead of ribbon cutting.

Standing in the space now, the most striking thing is how quickly the conversation has shifted. We are no longer talking about what this could be. After years of work and the generosity of so many, we are preparing to open – and we can't wait to share it with you.

Warmly,
Lori Carboneau
MPA Executive Director

Upcoming Exhibitions



THE DABIERRE RESIDENCE

Join Us on Thursday, May 7 at the Gardens of Hickory Hill for Spring Benefit 2026

Please mark your calendars and join MPA on **Thursday, May 7, 2026** for MPA's signature spring fête, Spring Benefit. Spring Benefit 2026 will take place at the Dabierre Residence, Hickory Hill. MPA relies on the funds raised at Spring Benefit to further its mission to exhibit, educate, and inspire our community through contemporary visual arts. Shannon Burwell and Martha Simons will co-chair this year's event.

Please consider joining us as a Spring Benefit sponsor. Spring Benefit plays a vital role in supporting MPA's mission to exhibit the work of established and emerging artists from the mid-Atlantic region, foster understanding of contemporary art, and provide meaningful arts education to our community.

We invite you to join us as a Spring Benefit sponsor and be part of this special evening. For your convenience, you may [make a secure payment online here](#).

We look forward to celebrating with you on May 7!

Spring Benefit 2026



Register NOW for MPA Summer Art Camps!

Summer will soon be here, and registration is currently open for **MPA's 2026 Summer Art Camps**. Don't let your kids or grandkids miss out on celebrating with art, creativity and fun! Camps will run from June 22 to August 7, 2026, with both half- and full-day options available. From clay and painting to collage, drawing and cartoon art, there is something for every young artist to explore! MPA is also offering a teen **CIT (counselor in training)** program for students age 14-18. **Popular weeks fill quickly so sign up early to secure a spot!**

MPA Summer Art Camps 2026



Now Showing! Langley Pyramid Youth Art Show

Through April 6, 2026 (Langley Pyramid)
Sponsored by *Marianne Prendergast / The Prendergast Team and 495 Express Lanes / Transurban*

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 through April 6, 2026.

Please join us as we celebrate these talented young artists!

Exhibition Information



Coming Soon: Spring Solos 2026

Opening Exhibition Reception Saturday, May 2 at 2pm

MPA invites you to join us April 30 – June 13, 2026 for our Spring Solo exhibitions in our galleries at the McLean Community Center (MCC), featuring work by three artists:

Emerson Gallery
Zsudayka Nzinga, Ancestral Iconography and

Darlene R. Taylor, Heirlooms: Garden Beauty

Atrium Gallery
Sabine Carlson, Dream a Better World

An opening Exhibition Reception will be held Saturday, May 2, at 2pm. The Spring Solo Exhibitions are sponsored by the O'Shaughnessy Hurst Memorial Foundation.

Viewing the Exhibition
MPA's Atrium Gallery is available for viewing during MCC operating hours. The Emerson Gallery is available for viewing Monday – Saturday, 10am–4pm.

Upcoming Exhibitions



Register Now for a Spring Art Class

Sessions begin April 9!

Spring is here—and so is the start of MPA's Spring Art Class lineup. We have several exciting new class and workshop offerings, as well as many returning favorites.

Adult Art Classes
Our Spring lineup starts in April, when we welcome a **NEW** offering, **Beginning Video Editing** with Gregory Staley. Held on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30pm starting on April 15, this beginning editing class will cover the basics of video editing such as importing clips, making titles, key framing, lumetri color correction, audio effects, and exporting video to an MP4.

Our **Plein Air** class with Stephanie Chang also begins Wednesday, April 15. Students will study both on-site and from a photograph of a scenic landscape, and learn how to simplify the complex elements that make up the scene into a solid composition. Classes will include a combination of demonstration, discussion, and art appreciation, and will meet on-site in different locations each week.

Additional spring offerings with spots still remaining include **Discover Drawing in Motion** with Ahmed Zaidan (**NEW**), **Colorful Mixed Media Paintings** with M. Jane Johnson (Mondays from 10am-1pm, beginning April 13), and **Drawing Basics**, also with Ahmed Zaidan (Saturdays from 2-4pm, beginning April 18).

Our final spring workshop—**Creating Artwork with Layered Paper: Trees in Springtime**, with **Ronni Jolles**—takes place on Sunday, May 17. Learn a fun and playful paper art form where we'll use trees in springtime as our inspiration. Students will use hundreds of kinds of paper to create a textured and unique piece of art.

Open Studio
Our Open Studio is also continuing for the spring, with sessions on **Saturdays** from 10:30am-1:30pm. Attendees are welcome to register for the full session, or pay a drop-in fee of \$20/class.

Youth Art Classes
For our younger artists, we are again offering a range of exciting offerings, including:

- **AbraKadoodle Twoosy Doodlers** (Ages 20-36 months) –Fridays from 10-10:45am beginning April 10
- **AbraKadoodle Mini Doodlers** (Ages 3-6 years) – Fridays from 11am-12pm beginning April 10
- **AbraKadoodle Doodlers** (Ages 7-12 years) – Mondays from 4:30-5:30pm, beginning April 13
- **Drawing Basics** with Ahmed Zaidan (Ages 13+) – Saturdays from 2-4pm, beginning April 18

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

For detailed descriptions on all of our spring art classes, visit our website. Contact Briana Cloney at bclorey@mpaart.org with questions.

Register for Spring Art Classes and Workshops



MPA ArtReach UPDATE

Spring flowers are blooming at the Wellness Center for Older Adults in Fairfax! Enjoy these images of their work!

Director Sharon Fishel's classes with our many community partners are all focusing on Spring themes, including an exciting new eight-session after-school program at Clearview Elementary School in Herndon, a Title I Beech Tree Elementary School in Falls Church. If your school or community group would like to schedule an ArtReach tour with us, please reach out to Briana Cloney at bclorey@mpaart.org.

To support our ArtReach program, which aims to make visual arts education accessible to all in our community, please visit:

MPA ArtReach



MPA in the News

Discerning Eye (Mark Jenkins): Photo Finishes (02/18/2026)
ARL Now: PhotoGenesis 2 Artist Talk (02/04/2026)

MPA Calendar of Events

Through April 6, 2026: Langley Pyramid Youth Art Show

April 30 – June 13, 2026: 2026 Spring Solos

May 2, 2026: Spring Solos Opening Exhibition Reception, 2-4pm at MPA at McLean Community Center

May 7, 2026: MPA Spring Benefit 2026

May 13, 2026: Spring Solos Tea & Talk, 11am at MPA at McLean Community Center

May 30, 2026: Spring Solos Artist Talk, 11am at MPA at McLean Community Center

[→ 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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