

McLean Project for the Arts

Fact Sheet: About McLean Project for the Arts

McLean Project for the Arts (MPA) is a leading contemporary visual arts nonprofit organization dedicated to connecting art and community. Our community is rooted in the mid-Atlantic region; our mission is to serve artists and the public by exhibiting the work of emerging and established artists, fostering the understanding of contemporary art, and offering art education and instruction for people of all ages and potentials.

MPA, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, was founded in 1962 by a small group of women artists and celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2022. It began as a professional space to provide exhibition opportunities for artists and to bring a continuing body of high-quality artwork to the community.

In an effort to relocate and develop into a highly professional visual arts organization, MPA was incorporated in 1984 to activate plans for a permanent facility in the community and opened as a visual arts center with the Atrium and Emerson Galleries, in 1990, and the Susan B. DuVal Art Studio, in 2000, all located in the McLean Community Center (MCC).

Exhibits: MPA exhibits contemporary artwork created by experienced and emerging artists throughout the mid-Atlantic Region. Painting, drawing, sculpture, printmaking, photography, computer-generated and new media, installation, and combinations of these art forms have all been shown, and continue to be shown, at MPA. Thousands of visitors each year come to view exciting contemporary art, attend art openings, artist talks, and more that are open to the public and provide an important venue for artistic dialogue in the Northern Virginia and greater D.C. community.

Educates: Each year, MPA offers over 150 art classes taught by professional artist-educators for adults, teens, and children. MPA's education program includes family art workshops, artist-led workshops, and Summer Art Camps. Since MPA's founding, MPA has cultivated many partnerships and collaborations with McLean community entities, expanding understanding of the visual arts and its importance in education.

Inspires: MPA's highly regarded outreach program, ArtReach, welcomes over 3,000 students, young people from under-resourced communities, seniors, those who are physically challenged, and those with special needs to its galleries each year for exhibition tours and hands-on art activities. Through ArtReach, MPA brings innovative art lessons into Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) and community senior centers. For over a decade, MPA has been connecting the process of creating and talking about the visual arts with science, technology,

engineering, and math (STEAM) learning specifically for FCPS Title 1 schools. MPA incorporates the VA Department of Education K-12 Standards of Learning into its ArtReach programming, further expanding students' understanding of the world around them.

New MPA Berlage Arts & Education Center: MPA continues to grow to meet the interests and demands of the region and seeks investment from the community to continue its mission to educate and inspire through the visual arts by building the new 6,000-square foot Berlage Arts & Education Center. The three new galleries will be co-resident with teaching spaces in a welcoming, hospitable, sustainable setting in the heart of the McLean community, and include a cafe for artists and visitors. This expanded presence will complement the existing galleries and studio at the McLean Community Center, and opening is anticipated for Spring 2026.

MPAartfest: The 2025 MPAartfest, in partnership with the McLean Community Center and the Fairfax County Park Authority, took place on Sunday, October 5, 2025, in the newly renovated McLean Central Park. An estimated 6,000 visitors attended MPAartfest in 2025, to view and purchase art, participate in hands-on art activities, listen to fabulous live music, and enjoy local food. Note: Plans for a 2026 MPAartfest are still to be determined.

Hours:

MPA at the McLean Community Center: MPA's office and Emerson Gallery at the McLean Community Center are open 10am-4pm, Mon-Sat. Atrium Gallery exhibitions are available for viewing during McLean Community Center hours of operation.

MPA Berlage Arts & Education Center: MPA's Galleries and Café Monet at the MPA Berlage Arts & Education Center are open 8am-9pm, Mon-Sun. Our offices hours are 10am-4pm, Mon-Sat.

Please check www.mpaart.org/visit for the most up to date information.

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