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McLean Project for the Arts

Our Doors are OPEN!

Five years in the making, MPA is thrilled to announce today's ribbon cutting of the MPA Berlage Arts & Education Center! Thanks to all who joined us!

Our new 5,700-square-foot space joins our existing galleries at the McLean Community Center to establish our second location in the heart of downtown McLean. We invite you to visit, discover, learn, and connect through art.

MPA Berlage Arts & Education Center

MPA to Host Inaugural Exhibition at New Berlage Arts & Education Center on April 30

Opening Exhibition Reception Thursday, May 14, 7-9pm

MPA will open its inaugural exhibition—Yasmine C. Iskander *Life Through the Power of Color*—at the new MPA Berlage Arts & Education Center on Thursday, April 30, 2026, with an Opening Exhibition Reception Thursday, May 14 from 7-9pm.

Guided by her passionate inner life, Yasmine Iskander (1998–2024) expressed her world in brilliantly colored abstract paintings. She built compositions by alternately veiling and revealing shapes, applying washes that soften edges and then marking the plane with geometric or biomorphic elements that assert themselves with decisive clarity.

"My art expresses my feelings about the happy moments in my life, but also about the difficult times I have had, especially my many heart and brain surgeries," Iskander once explained. "When I paint, I feel strong, excited, exuberant and emotions flow as colors! I feel it in my fingers! The colors and shapes that guide my work pop into my head. I use a range of vibrant colors."

Iskander's visual responses were shaped, in part, by her deafness—a condition that sharpened other senses and altered the way she attended to the world. She cultivated a heightened visual attentiveness, a sensitivity to rhythm in form, to the cadence of color shifts, to the spatial qualities of layered shapes.

"As a Deaf artist who wears hearing aids, I know that there are many ways to communicate. Colors are the most direct and powerful," said Iskander, Rather than defining her work by limitation, this aspect of her life enriched it, producing paintings that feel attuned to subtler registers of perception. Her canvases translate experience into a distinct aesthetic grammar.

Yasmine C. Iskander: Life Through the Power of Color marks the first exhibition in the new MPA Berlage Arts & Education Center, located at 6910 Fleetwood Road in downtown McLean. Also showing in the new Berlage Center, in the Sally B. John Simms Gallery, will be David Carlson's exhibit *Subtle Connections*.

A 5,700-square-foot facility featuring three galleries, a state-of-the-art ceramics studio, and dynamic teaching spaces designed to expand access to the arts for all ages, the new arts and education center provides the McLean community with a vibrant hub for community engagement and growth. At the heart of the building sits Café Monet, created in collaboration with Knead Hospitality & Design and located within the signature atrium.

Yasmine C. Iskander: Life Through the Power of Color runs through June 7, 2026.

Upcoming Exhibitions

Spring Solos 2026 On Display Starting Tomorrow, April 30!

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
Zuadgeka 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 Hunt Memorial Foundation.

Viewing the Exhibitions
The Atrium Gallery is available for viewing during MCC operating hours. The Emerson Gallery is available for viewing Monday - Saturday, 10am-8pm.

In addition to our Saturday opening reception, stop downstairs at the MCC and see the Freedom Through My Eyes Art & Writing Competition entries at their reception this Saturday, May 2, from 2-4 p.m., where award recipients will be recognized. Learn more here: https://oai.ly/1k2Ko9Ri0h

(Pictured above, from top left: Zuadgeka Nzinga, Darlene R. Taylor, and Sabine Carlson.)

Upcoming Exhibitions

Last Chance to Secure Your Spring Benefit Tickets

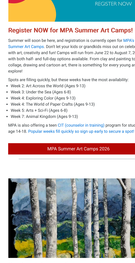
Spring Benefit 2026 is "NEXT" Thursday, May 7, 2206! Please join us for MPA's signature spring fête. Spring Benefit 2026 will take place at the Gardens Residence, Hickory Hill. MPA relies on the funds raised at Spring Benefit to further its mission to exhibit, educate, and inspire our community through contemporary visual arts. Shannon Burwell and Martha Simows will co-chair this year's event.

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!

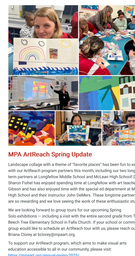
Summer will soon be here, and registration is currently open for MPA's 2026 Summer Art Camps. Don't let your kids or grandkids miss out on celebrating with art, creativity and fun! Camps will run from June 22 to August 7, 2026, with both half- and full-day options available. From clay and painting to sewing, drawing and cartoon art, there is something for every young artist to explore.

Spots are filling quickly, but these weeks have the most availability:

- Week 2: Art Across the World (Ages 9-13)
- Week 3: Under the Sea (Ages 6-8)
- Week 4: Exploring Color (Ages 9-13)
- Week 4: The World of Paper Crafts (Ages 9-13)
- Week 5: Arts + Sci-Fi (Ages 6-8)
- Week 7: Animal Kingdom (Ages 9-13)

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



Creating Artwork with Layered Paper Workshop: Trees in Springtime – May 17

Spring is here celebrate with MPA at a spring-themed workshop! There are still a few spots available in our Sunday, May 17 Creating Artwork with Layered Paper: Trees in Springtime workshop with Ronni Jolles. This one-session workshop runs 1-4pm. Using trees in springtime as inspiration, students will work with hundreds of kinds of paper to create a textured and unique piece of art.

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

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

Register for Spring Art Classes and Workshops

MPA ArtReach Spring Update

Landscape collage with a theme of "favorite places" has been fun to explore with our ArtReach program partners this month, including our two longest term partners at Longfellow Middle School and McLean High School! Director Sharon Fishel has enjoyed spending time at Longfellow with art teacher Diana Gibson and has also enjoyed time with the special ed department at McLean High School and their partner John Marshall. These collaborative partnerships are so meaningful and are bearing the fruit of three enthusiastic students who are looking forward to seeing their work in our Spring Solos exhibitions.

We are excited to wrap up work with the entire school grade from Take I Book Free 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 bcloney@mpaart.org.

To support our ArtReach program, which aims to make visual arts education accessible to all in our community, please visit: https://mpaart.org/annual-giving-2025/

MPA ArtReach

LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE
PRESS

MPA in the News

FFXNow: McLean Project for the Arts unveils First Exhibit in New Center, Opening Tomorrow (04/30/2026)

McLean Community Center News: May 2026 Spring Schedule / Art Events (Spring Solos) (04/29/2026)

DC News Now: Hickory Hill Spring Benefit Supports Providing Arts Access to Community (04/29/2026)

Fairfax Times: McLean Project for the Arts Announces Opening of New Berlage Arts & Education Center (04/28/2026)

Washington Business Journal: Knead Hospitality to open Pan-European bistro inside new McLean arts center (04/27/2026)

FFXNow: New Arts Center with Art-Day Café Takes Shape in Downtown McLean (04/15/2026)

OnComing Fan (Mark Jenkins): Photo Finishes (03/18/2026)

MPA Calendar of Events

April 30 - June 7, 2026: Yasmine C. Iskander: *Life Through the Power of Color*, MPA Berlage Arts & Education Center

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 10, 2026: Spring Arts Tea & Talk, 11am at MPA at McLean Community Center

May 14, 2026: Yasmine C. Iskander's *Life Through the Power of Color* Opening Exhibition Reception, 7-9pm, MPA Berlage Arts & Education Center

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

▲ DONATE NOW

ARTS FAIRFAX

Fairfax County

1234 Kapsalis 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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