



**2022-2023 MCC Governing Board
Regular Meeting and Public Hearing on FY2025 Programs
March 22, 2023 6:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

- Board Members present:** *in-person:* Barbara Zamora-Appel; Lisa Mariam; Sarah Tran; Anna Bartosiewicz; Charlotte Loving; Melanie Sletten
virtual: Ari Ghasemian (*Madison, WI; 5th virtual*)
- Board Members absent:** Shivani Saboo; Rasheq Rahman; Kristina Groennings; Bill Glikbarg
- MCC Staff present:** Betsy May-Salazar, Executive Director; Mike Fisher, General Programs Director; Holly Novak, Executive Assistant; Catherine Nesbitt, Special Events Manager; Matthew Hockensmith, Special Events Assistant Manager
- Guests:** Kevin Kierce; James & Barbara Katz; Laurelie Wallace; Gloria Marrero Chambers; Cole & Kathleen Mallard; Camila Alfonzo Meza; Katharine Gorke; James Lawless; Paul Kohlenberger; Dave Hatcher; John David; Gloria Chambers; Lori Carbonneau; Katherine Gorke; Jamie Loving; Puneet Ahluwalia; Alcindor Rosier; Linda Pellegrino

CONVENE MEETING

On March 22, 2023, at 6:33 p.m., Chair Zamora-Appel convened the Governing Board of the McLean Community Center to hold a Regular Meeting and a Public Hearing on FY2025 Programs. This meeting was open to the public attending in-person and was audio-recorded; a courtesy verbal announcement about audio recording was stated by the Chair. It was requested for McLean Project for the Arts summary to occur earlier; the agenda was adopted with this change made. A member of the public requested clarification about protocol for general public comments to happen earlier (during Public Hearing on FY2024 Programs) as well as at the ending ‘Public Comment’ segment - if people are not able to stay through the entire meeting. Chair Zamora-Appel clarified that the Public Hearing segment will focus on feedback about FY2025 programs while public comments given at the end of the meeting can be about any topic.

APPROVE MINUTES

Minutes of February 22, 2023 Regular Meeting were reviewed. No changes were requested; accepted as written.

MOTION: To approve Minutes of February 22, 2023, Regular Meeting.

Approved by a vote of seven: Barbara Zamora-Appel, Lisa Mariam, Sarah Tran, Anna Bartosiewicz, Charlotte Loving, Melanie Sletten, Ari Ghasemian – all voting “AYE.”
Rasheq Rahman, Shivani Saboo, Kristina Groennings and Bill Glikbarg were absent.

PUBLIC HEARING ON FY2025 PROGRAMS

Chair Zamora-Appel thanked everyone for attending and called on Programs & Outreach Committee Chair Bartosiewicz to officially convene the “Public Hearing on FY2025 Programs.” Mike Fisher, General Programs Director, then gave a brief overview of programming at MCC. He reiterated that MCC staff is excited to hear the public’s comments and recommendations this evening. The presentation explained the various ways public comments come in and how MCC staff processes and utilizes the information. It also highlighted updates on some public comments that have been received in the past and current progress on those ideas.



PROGRAMMING AT MCC

—
Responding to public
comment and interests.



Overview of Feedback Source and Collection/Retention

- Comment cards
- Post-event/performance/class surveys
- Direct contact with patrons in person or by email or phone
- Patron feedback emailed to MCC (main inbox)
- Strategic planning and community survey feedback
- Public comment at board meetings
- Comments on vendor sites
- Annual Public Meeting on Programs, including public survey.



How We Handled Data from Previous Public Hearing (**Collection/Retention**)

Filter and Categorize

A substantial number of suggested programs are ones that we already offer. This gives us the opportunity to rethink how we market these programs.

If the requested programs duplicate or compete with those that are being offered by Fairfax County within the tax district, we set those aside.

If a suggestion requires significant alterations to the building, we set those aside as well.

The remaining suggestions are weighted by popularity and feasibility:

- We select which we can action in the short-term and which will be incorporated into future budgets.
- Responses are analyzed to ensure that they are aligned with One Fairfax and MCC's strategic plan.

MCC receives lots of feedback in different ways and staff evaluates it carefully:

A large majority of comments about programming are requests to do activities that we are already offering! We view that as a barometer on getting our public information out. Maybe we can improve how we're communicating with the public to make sure they understand who we are, what we are doing, and what MCC's brand stands for.

Then we categorize the comments: 1. We set aside those comments asking to augment the building or add a facility structure (there is a process through Capital Facilities Committee and sometimes it is not feasible). 2. Other comments are set aside because they are about programs that are currently being run within the McLean tax district by another Fairfax County agency. We try not to compete with other county agencies in those circumstances. 3. What remains (after what we are already doing and what we cannot do) are ideas that we synthesize and try to prioritize based on number of responses and frequency of a given response. 4. The recommendations are also evaluated against MCC's strategic plan and One Fairfax policy to make sure they adhere to both as we move forward.

Top Recommendations and Progress

Programs Tied to Cultural Heritage Months

- Fiesta del Sol, celebrating Caribbean and Latin cultures, will take place on March 25, 2023.
- Foreign-language movies correspond to cultural heritage months
- Theatre performances tied to cultural heritage months will continue

Adult Game nights

- Added to OFC schedule in Spring 2022

Knife Skill Classes

- Have been offered since the Fall of 2022.

Informational Classes/Talks on Environmental Issues

- Informational classes/talks on environmental issues
- Expansion of Earth Day to include several info talks this year

Seniors in Action

- Crafting demonstrations and classes since Spring 2021

Focus on Local Artists

- McLean residents have performed and will continue to perform in The Alden and at outdoor concerts.
- McLean Day stage is exclusively McLean district resident performing groups.
- Half of the outdoor concert artists were from the area

EV Charging Stations (capital facilities)

- In funding discussion with Fairfax County

Community Mural

- Researching locations, open to partners—will possibly tie to 50th anniversary

*As a whole, there was significant public interest asking for more robust senior programming; in response, MCC developed our Seniors In Action (SIA) program. We've had a wonderful response and excellent participation – we're very proud of it. A specific request was for crafting demonstrations that we have been providing since the beginning of the SIA program.

*Focus on local artists: McLean Day 2023 stage will again feature local artists. McLean residents perform frequently on The Alden Theatre stage – both in local community groups and as individual presenters. Most summer concerts in the park are performed by McLean residents.

*EV charging stations – this recommendation requires Capital Facilities Committee conversations. We are trying to make sure MCC does it in conjunction with Fairfax County's emphasis and timing for respective priority locations. MCC will adhere to how county agencies are directed to administer the program.

*A community mural is a recommendation many MCC programmers really like! We're trying to tie it into MCC's 50th Anniversary celebration in 2025, which we are looking forward to and are already actively planning. This committee has community members on it and we welcome additional public participation in that committee's efforts.

In-person attendees: Chair Bartosiewicz invited the public to express their individual comments and suggestions about future programming – to be recorded into the public record of this meeting. Attendees wishing to speak first stated aloud their home address to verify they are a resident of Small District 1A-Dranesville. Each person was allotted three minutes to speak. The following individuals were thus qualified to speak:

1. Kathleen Mallard

Thank you so much. I have recommendations here (submitted materials in writing to the Clerk). Good evening, thank you so much! My husband is 80 years old today! Happy Birthday! Our three children and our respective parents have been MCC taxpayers for 40-some years. We've enjoyed many hours here. Thank you so much for the wonderful programs and entertainment. Recently my 7-month old granddaughter joined the music group and she got a rating of "excellent!"

You've had great programs over the years. But we were very upset by the Drag Queen programming last year and recently the 1619 Project with Nikole Hannah-Jones. Ms. Hannah-Jones does not create community. This is McLean Community Center, right? But rather, she divided the community. And also, the payment for her talk of one hour was rather exorbitant – \$38,000 – during which, she continued to talk about descendants of slaves and reparations at least four times. She talked about white settlers as white bloodsuckers, murderers, rapists... just full of it. So, I would recommend for programming that you invite, as a credible African American scholar, Robert Woodson founder of The Woodson Center to point out the 1619 Project historical inaccuracies and provide the true history of early African Americans. He calls The 1619 Project "junk history." So, perhaps you could put him down as a future speaker.

Also attached to my written remarks is a more accurate timeline of early Virginia history put together by a friend of mine, Bonnie Kenny. On the topic of early Virginia history, she would willingly address the MCC audience. She doesn't live in McLean but she is in DC.

While you are looking at African American history, why don't you invite someone to talk about what is called "The Negro Project" (the original name for Planned Parenthood). Maybe somebody could tell you that Margaret Sanger's original plan was to eradicate the Negro population (African American) population from the United States.

Today, I've also attached a flier from FCPS in January 2022: they put out a resolution to declare the month of January "human trafficking awareness" month. We have more slavery today in this country than ever before – but it's hidden. It's sex trafficking; it's human trafficking. It is a form of slave-trafficking. So, I would enjoin you to get some of these people here to protect our young people – let them know. You need the information. Every high school in Fairfax County has had reports of human trafficking; equally – sex trafficking. So that is the concern I have.

I thank you so much for this time; I think that's about it of what I have to say. But I do appreciate so much of your programming. We are coming to that Fiesta del Sol Saturday program – we are very, very pleased with a lot of what you do. But I ask that, if you are going into the historical realm, to be balanced and fair. Thank you so much.

**Written materials submitted by Ms. Mallard that are referred to in these remarks are on file at MCC.*

2. Kevin Kierce

I love MCC. I have been a longtime volunteer over many years – at the McLean 5K or special events. I'm also a member of CERT and I'm a member of the McLean Trees Foundation. I'm on the board of MCA – on three different committees in MCA. I'm here to ask you guys and to suggest that we do a promotion for offering the Community Emergency Response Team training (CERT). I've been a member of CERT since 2017. When we have special events, we've actually called out for CERT volunteers. This is an opportunity for residents of McLean to get free training so that you understand what to do in an emergency: whether it's a traffic accident (first person

on the scene – able to do triage; stop the bleed); CPR training; traffic and crowd management training; AED training; first aid training. All of that (which is very expensive cross-training) is FREE if you have taken the basic CERT training. I would suggest that MCC is a fantastic venue to bring free training to McLean residents! It's an opportunity – all you have to do is just schedule it. We've got lots of instructors, so you don't have to go down to the Fire & Rescue Academy. I just wanted to bring that to your attention. I love what you do here! Keep rocking everyone!

3. **Laurelie Wallace**

I'm a former MCC board member and previous Chair of the board. I'm actually here to speak on behalf of my mom who is also a taxpayer, and who is thrilled with the Seniors In Action events that have been going on. I just wanted to read this into the record (this is supporting the SIA program): I want to add my support for the SIA program. The exercise classes are designed for folks just like me and have the added benefit of focusing on fall prevention, which is so helpful to those of us who are not as stable as we used to be. Learning Mah Jong has been enjoyable and meeting others who live in and around McLean who have similar interests has been wonderful. And I can't say enough good things about Carrie Conley - she has put together a great program during the fall and winter and is always available to SIA members. We look forward to some of the offerings she has in mind for the spring and summer and I hope the Board will continue to support Carrie and SIA. Continue the great work of all your programming!

4. **Puneet Ahluwalia**

Regarding the question of youth, we've seen a lot of banks which are shutting down/closing down. We saw the failure [of SVB]. Any kind of financial acumen which should be taught in school, especially being a steward of how do we invest your money... how to keep your money... and translate it to the next generation. Would that be something interesting to the kids?

Response by youth board members: It's definitely a huge problem right now in our generation and I think that's a great idea we'd probably implement that into the community center; but we haven't figured out how yet. But we are open to suggestions because we have just started a new Youth Ambassador program and are trying to get more high school events.

Puneet Ahluwalia continued...

The other thing which I want to propose which I was speaking to the CEO of the Fairfax Co. Economic Development Corporation is: to have a program for K-4th Grade (job opportunities that exists within the region). And from 5th – 8th a mentorship program; and from 8th-12th grades - internship program. Which means that you will have certain opportunities to look with the changes that is happening in the business environment. That would help you all to get directions and also to know what your passions are. It's so important for us to be able to showcase those to you all so that you can really say: "Gee – I want to be an opera singer but how am I going about doing it?" Kids are gifted and brilliant, right? We want to give them the wind beneath their wings. And that's the reason it's more about you guys, of course. I love to shake your hands for doing such a great job. But more importantly for the you is: tell us what you want and we have ample resources in Fairfax County which should be at your disposal.

Response from Mike Fisher: Youth members Sarah Tran and Charlotte Loving have been quite modest! It was their idea and initiation that put together the 12-member Youth Ambassador program we are working with now. These 12 Youth Ambassadors selected (6 from each high school – Langley and McLean) have provided invaluable feedback to MCC programmers through focus groups and detailed conversations. We have a much clearer picture of what they are looking for and how we can develop some things that will be more appealing and more rewarding for high school youth. We are very appreciative of Charlotte and Sarah for putting together the Youth Ambassador program and seeing it through!

Several written comments that were submitted in advance for the Public Hearing on FY2025 Programs were read aloud by Chair Bartosiewicz into the Minutes record as "public comment" in lieu of verbal remarks.



1. **Rebecca Horahan**

I am a long time supporter of the McLean Community Center. It is a wonderful place that my family enjoys on a regular basis. I am hoping that the center will bring back the bus trips that so many use to enjoy. It would be nice to have not only short local trips, but also longer day trips as well as overnight trips again. Please give this suggestion your consideration. Thank you.

2. **Small District 1A-Dranesville resident (name withheld by request)**

I am writing in response to the requested input regarding McLean Community Center Programming. My family and I have been using the McLean Community Center for about 30 years, including the Alden Center, baby and toddler programs, and adult classes. The latter, most recently. I am requesting that my name not be publicly available. Thank you.

In the last ten or more years, it has become apparent that the adult (under 55) fitness classes are geared toward seniors (over 55) - even the classes that are NOT senior classes. Seniors have several classes of their own! I am pointing it out because there is an enormous segment of the McLean proper population that is not served, or at the very least, severely underserved.

Specifically, if one (under age 55) signs up for adult fitness classes, one will find that the classes are either "dumbed down" and/or significantly shortened, because of the majority senior (over 55) attendance. Which would be fine, if the majority of McLean proper citizens had other choices - but they do not. Attending senior (over 55) classes when one is not a senior (under age 55) is absurd and inappropriate. It seems the senior (over 55) residents either do not sign up for senior classes, or usurp the non-senior (under 55) classes. At one point in time, prior to covid, there were adult (under age 55) classes offer at the Old Firehouse, but that seems to no longer be the case, so there are literally no options for those of us who would like to take a challenging class, in its entirety - without the class being shortened (via first hand experience, by about 20 minutes!) and/or dumbed down.

Do you not agree that there should be adult fitness options for all McLean proper residents, not just those who are over 55? MCC is not a Senior Center, it is a Community Center, and all people should feel welcomed, not just seniors. There should be viable, enjoyable, safe options for all residents who pay the taxes of residing in McLean proper. No classes should be usurped by those who are not designated for the class. I am certain if someone (in this case, a non-toddler) from Falls Church decided to disrupt a toddler class, there would be something done about it, promptly and efficiently.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter. McLean proper residents need options, not just "senior center" options.

3. **Suzanne LeMenestrel**

I am a former MCC Board member and chair and am unable to attend the public listening session. I am writing to both first commend the board and staff on their continual emphasis on having programs that are inclusive, welcoming, and recognize the diversity of our community. I also appreciate the implementation of paper-free program guides. As a board member, I worked on this for several years and I am very pleased to see that this was finally implemented.

I have several suggestions for programming that I would like to see. These are continuations of initiatives that were suggested by myself, other board members, and community members several years ago but were not implemented: 1-More programs and special events focused on sustainable practices-a Green festival showcasing local "green" businesses, practices, and programs; The Earth Day event is terrific but does not have any accompanying programming

2-More programs that are short-term and geared toward working adults such as "paint and sip" classes or lectures from famous authors, journalists, and others who can speak to current events and issues that our important to the community. The 1619 Project author event had a waiting list and I wished that there were multiple sessions and a livestream option so more people could have participated.

3-the creation of a recording studio that community members can sign up to use for a minimal cost with accompanying courses on podcasting, music composition, or other creative ways to use the studio

4-Electric vehicle charging stations. I know that this was approved in the budget by the board when I served on the board but am wondering when they will be installed. Thank you!

4. **Andrea Wamstad Brown**

Hi, my name is Andrea Brown and I live in the MCC district. Here 's my input.

—more organized day trips. I have enjoyed several in the past.

—more bridge lessons

—more targeted social and other activities for retired singles over 55 in our area. Need to get these people together and back out there after being isolated with Covid. I think there are a lot of older lonely people out here looking for companionship and purpose. Might want to start by identifying this population in the MCC district, surveying them, if not already done in last survey, and encouraging them to come to the Center to meet and mingle with other older singles. The MCC could also encourage them to come to existing programming too. I think this is an underserved population. Thanks for asking for my input.

5. **Bonnie Weston**

I have very positive thoughts about this new program [Seniors In Action]. During this past year, I have spent more time at MCC than any other year. And I have met many new friends and learned new things.

Caroline Conley is so creative finding us new ventures for learning, exercising and socializing. She keeps us informed through emails and handouts.

I am learning and playing Mahjong, came back to playing bridge, took a line dance class and look forward to Ikebana in April. There have been other events that I have not been able to attend due to a conflict. The potlucks and cooking programs have been popular according to my friends. I also attend the exercise class on Thursdays. It seems that this program will expand as more of us tell our friends about its possibilities. Thank you for supporting this program.

6. **Marylou Brosso**

Ms. Conley has worked extremely hard to make SIA and wonderful program with so many facets!! I am prejudiced because I was the first SIA customer and have watched it grow along with Carrie!! She is constantly creating new programs to keep the already happy SIA members and to constantly bring in new members!! I cannot say enough about SIA and Ms. Conley!! I came to Virginia to live with my daughter and her family! My daughter enrolled me in the SIA program!! I was miserable till I met Carrie who was beginning to create SIA!! She has done a fantastic job and everyone of the members in SIA will agree with me!! She is wonderful!!!!!! I cannot praise her enough!!!

7. **Patricia Oxley**

Subject: SIA Outstanding program!!!! So many venues....something for everyone.

8. **Joanne Robinson**

Hello, I just wanted to say how much I am enjoying all the activities provided to the Seniors in Action at the McLean Community Center. I love the variety of activities and meeting so many lovely women in McLean. And a big shout out to Caroline (Carey) Conley for all the hard work she does to bring us all together. SIA is a huge huge plus for McLean seniors. Thanks for the continued support.

9. Eleanor Dasenbrook

I filled out the recent MCC survey and just want to add that I have really enjoyed the Senior in Action activities, especially since Carrie Conley has been the director of this program.

The list would be a long one of the many involvements that have sustained my interest. Carrie has done an exceptional job getting a variety of activities/speakers/instructors - all presenting us with engaging, enjoyable and much welcomed learning opportunities. Highlights include the SAIL exercise classes, the technology speakers, cooking with Staci, the Emerson Art Gallery learning experiences, the line dancing classes and the Friday potlucks. There are others, as well - all carefully curated to entice seniors like me to look forward to coming to the Center several times a week.

Thank you, the McLean Community Center staff and of course, Carrie and her team for reaching out and enriching the lives of the senior community.

10. Moon and Brian O'Connor

We want to compliment Caroline Conley on the really fantastic job she is doing building up and running the Seniors In Action (SIA) program. She has many organized activities for seniors as well as programs with guest speakers and activities such as potluck lunches. She has a great personality and works well with everyone.

11. Gloria Gernstein

I am a member of the Senior In Action Group. What makes this program so positive for me is its leader, Carolyn Conley who has organized and implemented this program. She is so interested in this group and structures the activities around its members. Carolyn listens to what we are interested in and is our guide for different activities that she has heard us mention.

I joined around February 1st. One day I just happened to notice the McLean Community Center program in my mailbox with the specific program for Seniors. I had always wanted to learn Maj Jong and this program was my opportunity. Joined the group and learned to play Maj Jong plus I became interested in many other activities, like the sail exercise program, walking, the book group, the lectures and luncheon activities. Plus, and perhaps more importantly, I met new people from McLean and made many new friends.

I feel so fortunate to be in the first program of this kind at the McLean Community Center with Caroline as our gentle positive/helping leader. Each of us members has an opportunity to input our thoughts into activities we would like to be included in this program. Please include this Seniors in Action Program as a permanent part of the curriculum for the McLean Community Center. Thank you, McLean this is another positive program you have given to the community. We can see our tax dollars at work.

12. Helen Cussatt

I retired for the second time in Feb. 2022 and joined the Seniors in Action (SIA) program at MCC.

SIA members are offered exercise programs 3 mornings a week (Chi Kung & SAIL) which have helped me improve my balance; and with the cardio and strength training I am much more active physically.

Our chairman (Carrie Conley) has arranged for many special presentations including learning games such as Mah Jong which challenges my brain and gives me the opportunity to socialize and welcome new members.

Recently, producer Pat Addiss spoke to our members on "Reinventing yourself after age 50" providing us with much to think about as we venture through our senior years.



Other presentations that have been very helpful: Normal Aging vs Dementia; culinary classes; IT workshops; flower and gardening workshops; cybersecurity; and many more informative classes and workshops.

As a member of the senior community in McLean, SIA has given me so much (physically, mentally and socially) as I venture through the next chapter of my life.

13. Tatiana Paluzzi

Thank you to McLean Community Center for the wonderful programs that are available to senior citizens like me. I retired last year and found a tremendous void in my life. Living alone can be a challenge when you find that you are losing your work friends and spending more time alone.

I discovered MCC and called with a few questions. The next day, I got a call from Caroline Conley telling me about great programs for Seniors, and other classes and events. It sounded wonderful and exactly what I needed. I paid the membership fee and became a member of the MCC and SIA program the following day.

Joining MCC has really changed my life. I have met lots of amazing people, made many new friends, participated in many classes, took interesting seminars and presentations, and learned a couple of new games. MCC has filled my life with wonderful things, events, and friends.

Like any organization, it is the people that make it a success. In that regard, I would like to give special recognition to Caroline Conley. She is terrific! Her follow up, enthusiasm and dedication to her job is amazing. The efforts that she puts into preparing and coordinating all events, teaching us games, making sure we understand and are aware of the updates in the schedule, and asking us about our preferences for presentations and seminars goes above and beyond expectations. Caroline creates an atmosphere that makes you want to join in!! Cooking classes with Stacie and Caroline are wonderful!!! We share food, nice conversations and spend time together as friends, which is essential for people who feel lonely.

I have talked with many other senior citizens, and they all say the same thing, Caroline's hard work and dedication contribute to our happiness! We are all so appreciative of what she does and how she works to make MCC a success. She replies to our emails not only during working hours, but after hours and on weekends. Her patience has no limits, and we can always count on Caroline!!

Caroline is a gem of a person, she helps us make our lives full and meaningful. She is an asset to MCC. We all hope there will be more programs for people like us, and I hope the ones we now have continue to be available to us.

Comments expressed by board members who received feedback from their neighbors regarding MCC programs:

*A neighbor (stay-at-home mom) would like appealing activities for participation during the day while her children are in school. She specifically mentioned chess lessons for adults (so she can compete with her child!)

*A request for AARP classes: Safe Driving; Aging in Place. These AARP courses should be offered at little or no expense.

**Youth board members:* People [student peers] just don't know what MCC is offering – they couldn't tell us what they wanted because they just weren't aware. Hopefully, we are improving slightly on that. Youth Ambassadors have worked on starting to share stories. Most of the Instagram posts are about MCC events for adults. So, we should add more Instagram posts about youth events, or high school events- or even just what's happening at MCC that highschoolers would be interested in. Also, be sure to highlight McLean Day for highschoolers.

*A person is helping her mother who lives in McLean and they have attended MCC together. Her mother is having some memory issues. There is a desire for support groups and more events offered for caregivers and family members to do together with their family member whom they are caring for.

*Youth Ambassadors are helping to improve MCC's communication on social media. A lot of youth aren't necessarily following MCC's social media, so the Youth Ambassadors are helping us by pushing out our information – including the



program survey – directly to their networks on platforms that the youth are already on. In addition to providing valuable focus group feedback, the Youth Ambassadors are also pushing information out for MCC.

*Scout troops (boys and girls) are always interested in earning merit badges. They have asked if there are any merit badges (like CERT) that could be done at MCC in coordination with local Scout leaders.

Summary remarks by Chair Zamora-Appel:

*There is a gap in MCC programming: appealing to youth. The Youth Ambassador program will make a difference in how we program for the future.

*We need to hear from young families also: What is it that they are looking for? What is it that they would like to see?

* Seniors In Action program has grown from initial concept. The significant feedback on how successful it has been proves it is important to hear what the community wants. SIA is something that was needed... and now it's here!

*other methods to contribute program ideas: write to Executive Director May-Salazar; talk to the staff when you attend MCC events; talk to board members who are elected by the community. All such feedback goes into programming decisions as MCC develops what is possible in response to public feedback. There must be a business case made for everything in programs. If only one person wants something, it doesn't make sense to have it. But, if 3 or 4 or 5 or 10 people ask for the same thing, then it makes sense to offer that.

Attendance levels: Program attendance has been strong; people are happy to be here; they like what they see and they want more of it. During the pandemic, almost everything was offered outdoors and people were coming! Over 1,200 people attended the first Winter Block Party in January 2022. People want such programming, so we offered it again in 2023. Touch-a-Truck for young families (1,200 attendees in 2022; 1,100 attendees in 2023).

SURVEY: Executive Director May-Salazar encourages everyone to fill out the survey if you haven't so already and to share it widely (available online on MCC website; printed flier with a link). It will remain open for another week.

ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC HEARING ON FY2025 PROGRAMS

Programs & Outreach Committee Chair Bartosiewicz thanked everyone for sharing their comments and insights which will enhance MCC's future planning of program offerings for FY2025. She remarked, we are fortunate to have current Youth board members Charlotte Loving and Sarah Tran as our future leaders! Chair Bartosiewicz adjourned the "Public Hearing on FY2025 Programs" and yielded back to Board Chair Zamora-Appel for the remaining items of business of the Regular Meeting.

REPORT FROM MCLEAN PROJECT FOR THE ARTS **Remarks by Lori Carbonneau, Executive Director of MPA*

Similar to previous remarks about Seniors In Action, I want to say that MPA values the partnership with McLean Community Center and we enjoy having seniors visit upstairs to our gallery. MPA was founded 60 years ago and has been in a public/private partnership and relationship in this MCC building for 30 years. We really value our partnership!

Exhibitions: *Langley Pyramid Youth Art Show continues through Saturday – a fantastic show in our Atrium Gallery and Emerson Gallery (collage, mixed media; painting; ceramics; fiber works). It is open 2-4pm Thursday; 1-7pm Friday; and 10am-4pm Saturday. It is exciting to see these future leaders in the arts realm!

*Following this show will be our "Spring Solos" exhibition – opening on April 13 through June 10. Three artists were competitively selected: two sculptors and one painter, with an opening reception Thursday, April 13, 7pm. We are trying to open the galleries to allow people who are here at MCC for one event to also enjoy exhibits in the MPA galleries.

MPA ArtReach: We also have a very strong outreach program through FCPS called "MPA ArtReach" gallery tours. MPA, around our professionally curated shows, creates a curriculum for each show based on the Standards of Learning with the Commonwealth of Virginia. We invite students from throughout the county to appreciate the artworks, with special focus to pay for buses of students from FCPS Title I schools (there are Title 1 schools in McLean, as well as further afield).

We are back to pre-pandemic attendance levels (buses of 45 to 60 kids, on-site three times this coming week). We are welcoming community partner groups, seniors & those with developmental disabilities into our galleries.

Loom: We have just received a loom and are considering how to offer afternoon fiber works classes in DuVal Studio. I see some people nodding heads tonight to show that there is indeed interest in this offering. We will pursue this and see what



we can organize for our fall classes (for which advance information is due next week).

CERT classes: MPA is interested in CERT classes, as mentioned tonight. Every year we do ArtFest in conjunction with MCC; we are always in need of wisdom for how to handle emergency situations/events that we have never had to deal with.

Increased gallery hours: we're also planning to be open on a few special evenings to coincide with Alden Theater performances, offering an opportunity for theatergoers to visit MPA galleries before and during intermissions.

Education: Registration is open now for MPA Spring Art Classes and Summer Art Camps. We offer classes for adults both in DuVal Studio and virtually and will provide seven weeks of half and full-day Summer Art Camps for area school kids, with fun and creative themes for each week. We are looking to increase more engagement with artists in the high schools.

MPA would love to do an outreach with the youth. We find that we've got great young people programs and great adult programs... and we have killer summer camps! But we would love to figure out ways to get more engaged with artists who are in the high schools. So, if you all have ideas, please do share them.

CHAIR'S REPORT

*Board members are encouraged to please volunteer at MCC events. There is always a need for volunteers and it's a great way to hear back from the community at those events.

*Fiesta del Sol is this Saturday, from 5 to 9 p.m. This will be an enjoyable event!

*Special thanks to the youth board members for what you are doing. Everyone is eager to see how we can continue this forward. While the youth board member terms are only for one year, this is your legacy! Thank you for that.

*Focusing on youth and families: What other ways can we engage the youth and young families? Word-of-mouth is very important.

*Social media: A lot of people do not have social media. Emphasizing looking at different ways to get information out; always improving our social media messaging.

*Encouraging attendance and a mechanism for feedback: How do we get people back into the MCC building in a safe way? That's the great question because not everything is for everyone. Emphasis on metrics: showing how many people attend each event and analyzing if a weekend event reached this many people... or didn't have enough attendance. How can we encourage the community to provide feedback and suggestions for programming.

*Appreciation for MCC staff: I want to thank the staff for the programming that is being offered! I'm very thankful for the MCC staff because they have a lot of expertise in bringing amazing new ideas! A recent "behind the scenes" back-stage demonstration of The Alden Theatre explained in-depth the entire sequence: idea/concept; booking an artist; legal contracts; technical details. We also got to see how the theater physical structure works. This year, the Governing Board had to approve a big budget item for repairs in the Alden Theatre – standing beneath the 50+year-old smoke hatch equipment showed that it needed to be replaced. The "behind-the-scenes" look is an opportunity for the community to understand how this building works and how the staff and Governing Board work together to help the community.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE **remarks by Executive Director May-Salazar*

A Special Called Meeting held last week (March 16) focused on the DRAFT strategic plan. The strategic planning process involved numerous stakeholders, including the Governing Board, MCC staff, community partners and residents, and there were several public meetings and surveys to gather input. Last summer (2022) the DRAFT plan was presented for public comment. The presentation on March 16 took into consideration all that feedback and adjustments were made, as appropriate. MCC staff is continuing to work on some suggested changes based on discussion in the March 16 meeting – with the goal of sharing a final document out to the board and posting for public review prior to the April 26 Governing Board meeting. We are really excited as a staff to have a strategic plan to serve as a framework for our activities moving forward at MCC. And we are anxious for you all to see it, as well.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT **other key items of note highlighted by Executive Director May-Salazar*

*Saturday, March 25, we have two exciting programs: 1. We hope you will attend our new Latin American and Caribbean festival, Fiesta del Sol (5 to 9 p.m.) There will be live music, dance lessons & demonstrations, arts & crafts exhibits, great



food. Please consider coming around 4:45 p.m. for the ribbon-cutting and official opening of the festival. 2. In The Alden: Griegol – which hails from New Zealand. It's a mythic, gorgeously-rendered dark fantasy that conjures magic and laughter out of silhouettes, puppetry, live music and animation.

*Next week, we have a week-long residency by BLCKSMTH at MCC which is a community engagement project that amplifies the voices of our community. Each day is specialized to a different audience. You're all invited to come to any of them. We hope to see many of you on the first night – Monday, March 27 at 7 p.m., targeted to community leaders.

*Extended offerings this year around Earth Day – addition of NoVa Plants to our SpringFest celebration – where they will have native tree-focused family interactives, and provide native seed packets to the participants. There are also many programs happening throughout the month leading up to Earth Day where we will offer our recycling day program.

*We saw many of you at MCA's recent "I Love McLean" event – MCC supported this event by providing entertainment and opening The Alden Theatre for a behind-the-scenes look. This was wise timing for us to have our Governing Board candidate orientation: in the midst of all the child ballerinas, the food and the entertainment offerings, MCC looked very bustling! Hopefully, our candidates (some are in the audience tonight) experienced a full picture of what goes on here.

*MCA also held a recent job fair of summer opportunities for youth.

*Be sure to watch out for our newsletters and e-mails regarding all the upcoming programs. For members of the public, if you are not on our mailing list for the e-newsletter, please do sign up. There is so much going on at MCC! That's really the best way for everyone to know what is there, what interests you, and what you wish to participate in.

*Alden Theatre roof repair that was approved in February 22 board meeting is moving ahead. Work is tentatively scheduled to start May 15, assuming that the supplies are in; the project should take about three weeks to complete. This repair has been timed with Performing Arts (they were part of the conversation). The projected work schedule was discussed as an overlay to The Alden performance schedule – to make sure it was feasible.

CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

All board members had a chance to read and review this material in advance. They all believe this is a necessary document. There is a purpose for this: it will make everyone better at MCC – the staff, the community, and the board. Chair Zamora-Appel asked if there were any questions about it from the board? There were no questions.

MOTION: To approve the Code of Conduct.

Approved by a vote of seven: Barbara Zamora-Appel, Lisa Mariam, Sarah Tran, Anna Bartosiewicz, Charlotte Loving, Melanie Sletten, Ari Ghasemian – all voting "AYE."

Rasheq Rahman, Shivani Saboo, Kristina Groennings and Bill Glikbarg were absent.

Having thus approved the Code of Conduct, it will now be printed and placed in MCC. It will also be available on MCC website. It will be given to participants who come to MCC and to instructors. It will essentially be everywhere.

The Code of Conduct says: We are a community – let's respect each other. That's the summation of it.

ELECTIONS & NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

In the absence of ENC Chair Saboo, Board Chair Zamora-Appel gave the following update about progress of 2023 election:

As of today, 113 adult ballots have been picked up or requested, and 81 youth ballots have been picked up or requested.

OLD /NEW BUSINESS Nothing was mentioned as a further topic for discussion this evening.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Verbal remarks: Chair Zamora-Appel invited anyone from the public to introduce themselves and give verbal remarks if they wished. Attendees wishing to speak must first state aloud their home address for verification as being tax district resident. Each person would be allotted three minutes to speak.

No one requested to speak.



Written remarks: Incoming letters, e-mails (comments in writing) were likewise prior documented as coming from a verified Small District 1A-Dranesville resident. **The following general public comments by Small District 1A-Dranesville residents were submitted in writing in advance of this meeting:**

1. **A. Reidy** Sent: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 8:42 PM
Subject: I resent...

.... your descent into wokeness with your Project 1619 presentation of lies about American history.

Earlier this year, I sent you a thoughtful email expressing the reasons for my concern. In return, I received a canned gobbledegook of mindless buzzwords. Was that the best you could do? Have you so little respect for McLean residents that nobody would take the time to compose an intelligent answer? Both?

My hope for the center is to see your program managers replaced immediately by people who understand that partisan politics & spreading woke ideology are NOT part of your mandate.

Of course, I'm not under the illusion that you will favor this email with any more thought than you gave to its predecessor. It's so much more comfortable, isn't it, without anything so troublesome as an honest self-critical faculty?

I would like this email included in the record, along with other responses to your official solicitation of comments from the community.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair Zamora-Appel thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Holly Novak - Executive Assistant