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Morgan Arts Council – Berkeley Springs, WV

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## BE PART OF THE ART IN STAIRWAY MURAL PROJECT

The Morgan Arts Council invites residents and visitors, youth and adults, to “be part of the art” with the second community public art-making workshop of the Engage Berkeley Springs project, Saturday and Sunday, March 21 and 22.

Artist Patty Ray Avalon, who led last fall’s community mural project, again guides the weekend project. Up to 20 participants create a mixed-media mural of Avalon’s design, which draws inspiration from Henri Matisse’s collages. During the class, participants gain experience in organizing a large, multi-media mural project. They learn how to incorporate textures and transparent color layers in the mural and how to apply pre-painted cut paper in the larger mural design. All supplies are provided and the work is done indoors. “Everyone is welcome – residents and visitors alike,” said Jill Klein Rone, project manager. “No experience is needed, just the desire to have fun together and learn some new creative skills.”

Engage Berkeley Springs aims at creating permanent public art that is made by and enjoyed by both local residents and visitors. “Working together to make long-lasting artwork is a way to invest in our community,” said Anne Beckley, MAC Executive Director. Last November, program participants made several large, vibrantly painted wood panels featuring the Ice House logo. “As soon as spring arrives, we’ll be installing the panels on the building.”

Students from MAC’s Digital Media Center for Community Engagement will be on hand with their video equipment to document the weekend’s activities. “We are excited to be able to share the process of the community making this piece of public art,” said Beckley.

Avalon is an experienced fine artist with a BFA and an MFA from Indiana University. She also studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Central School of Art and Design in London. She has led community art projects in Arlington and Lovington, Va. “Creating public art is a way to strengthen communities by people of all ages and every group joining their energy to make something beautiful for their town.”

Hours for the stairway mural collage workshop are Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is no charge, but preregistration is requested. Please call MAC at 304-258-2300 to register.

Grant support for this program comes in part from the National Endowment for the Arts, the West Virginia Commission on the Arts and local hotel/motel taxes. The Ice House is at the corner of Independence and Mercer Streets in downtown Berkeley Springs, WV. For more information on this and other MAC activities, call 204-258-2300 or visit [www.macicehouse.org](http://www.macicehouse.org).