



WASHINGTON PROJECT FOR THE ARTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Braids & Threads: Connecting Legacies **December 13, 2025 – March 8, 2026**



(November 19, 2025) **Washington Project for the Arts (WPA)** is pleased to present the inaugural project of their new space in Dupont Circle (1350 Connecticut Ave. NW), opening December 13. ***Braids & Threads: Connecting Legacies***, organized by artists **Monica Jahan Bose** and **Autumn Spears**, is a part of WPA's open call project series, "Lineages: Generations of Creative Resilience in the District," which invited DC-area artist duos to submit proposals for projects that center intergenerational collaboration. The invitation was issued as part of a juried open call conducted this past summer and selected by a panel that included art historian and curator **Martina Dodd**, transdisciplinary artist and filmmaker **Mojdeh Rezaeipour**, and critic and scholar **Tavia Nyong'o**. Conceived in concert with WPA's 50th Anniversary and the recent launch of its [digital archive](#), this prompt reflects on the potential of intergenerational community-building among artists in the District as a way to carry forward vulnerable histories and imagine resilient futures.

Both Bose and Spears lean into their diasporic heritage in their practices, incorporating skills they learned from their elders: sewing/textiles (Bose) crocheting and hair braiding techniques (Spears). Their ongoing conversations—across generations, between Gen X and Gen Z—have opened up new energy and direction in both of their practices. This is their first collaboration. For this project, Bose and Spears will engage in a series of conversations—some recorded as podcasts—about the relevance of exploring connection with heritage, mothers, and ancestors. Together, they will consider how weaving inherited knowledge into contemporary work can promote resilience.

Using the concepts, stories, and ideas arising from these conversations, the two artist-organizers will create an installation in WPA's project space using multilingual text, embroidery, braiding, sewing, fiber art and printmaking. It will be an evolving exhibition and work-space, where other artists and community members are invited to drop in and contribute with their own stories and art-making.

Braids & Threads: Connecting Legacies will begin on **Saturday, December 13, 2025 with an Opening Reception from 3:00–5:00pm**. Attendees are invited to bring vintage vinyl to play along with the artists' selection of intergenerational grooves. The project will be presented in **WPA's new location in Dupont Circle, 1350 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington DC**.

Exhibition dates: December 13, 2025 - March 8, 2025.

Gallery hours: Wednesday–Friday, 12–6:00pm, and Saturday, 1:00–5:00pm.

Please note that the space will be closed from December 21, 2025 through January 6, 2026 for the winter holidays.

Learn more about public programs and the artists below. More information can be [here](#).

Public Programs

A regular weekly Tea Time with the artists, on Fridays from 3:00–5:00pm, will welcome visitors to join in conversation and collaborate on the evolving installation. Workshops focused on crocheting and block printing will also occur onsite throughout the project's duration. Additional public programming will take place offsite, to be announced soon.

About the Organizing Artists



Monica Jahan Bose is a Bangladeshi-American artist and activist whose work spans performance, painting, printmaking, film, performance, and installation. Her socially engaged work highlights the intersection of climate, racial, gender, and economic injustice through co-created workshops, installations, and performances. She has exhibited her work extensively in the US and internationally including solo exhibitions at the Bangladesh National Museum and MACRO Museum of Contemporary Art Rome. She has been awarded five large-scale public art grants in DC, each centering community co-creation and featuring multiple workshops, film/projections, performances, and site-specific installation.

Her ongoing collaborative art and advocacy project *Storytelling with Saris*, started in 2012 with women farmers from her ancestral island village, has traveled to eight countries and 13 US states, engaging thousands of people. Her work has appeared in *The Miami Herald*, *The Washington Post*, *BBC*, *Art Asia Pacific*, *The Milwaukee Sentinel*, *The Honolulu Star Advertiser*, *The Japan Times*, *Prothom Alo* and all major newspapers in Bangladesh. The Smithsonian Anacostia

Community Museum has acquired a collection of her paintings, saris, woodblocks, and archival materials. She has a BA in studio art and mathematics from Wesleyan University, a diploma in art from Santiniketan, India, and a JD from Columbia Law School. She lives and works in Washington, DC.



Autumn Spears is a DC native whose art serves as a powerful medium for reimagining Black histories and diasporic narratives. Her upbringing within communities of color, alongside her experiences navigating predominantly white institutions, has deeply shaped both her identity and artistic vision. Moving between these contrasting spaces sparked her commitment to exploring Black representation and identity across the African diaspora.

In 2020, she received her BFA in Art Education from Albright College. In 2023, Spears held her inaugural solo exhibition, *Becoming*, at the Freedman Gallery in Reading, Pennsylvania. This milestone event showcased her distinctive style and marked the beginning of a promising artistic journey. Additionally, Spears' work has been featured in local cultural institutions such as the MLK Memorial Library, Charles Sumner School, Anacostia Arts Center, and the Anacostia Community Museum. Spears is also a 2024 DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities grant recipient and 2025 Art Bank finalist.

About WPA

Founded in 1975, Washington Project for the Arts (WPA) is a nonprofit incubator and laboratory for artist-organized projects, headquartered in Dupont Circle, Washington, DC. Since its founding, WPA has presented more than 500 exhibitions; 1,000 performances; 700 lectures, workshops, and symposia; 250 screenings; and 58 public art projects. Over the past four decades, nearly every major visual artist in the District has been part of WPA's programming. After renewing its mission in 2018, WPA has carved out a new identity with a national and international scope, uplifting values of collaboration, experimentation, and inclusivity in all of its programmatic and operational activities. Learn more at wpadc.org.

Supporters

Washington Project for the Arts is supported by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts; The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; Hickok Cole; National Endowment for the Arts; The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation; William S. Paley Foundation; MetLife, Venable LLP, ArentFox Schiff, Carl M. Freeman Foundation, Foulger Pratt, Soho House, UBS, Allianz, De Novo Projects, Emmy Squared Pizza, Shulman Rogers, Rubenstein Communications, Capital One, DAVIS Construction, HapstakDemetriou+, Occasions, Outright, HITT Contracting, and many other generous foundations, corporations, and individuals.