

Art MATTERS



Art is a language

that cuts

across social,

cultural and

economic barriers.

Its healing qualities

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body and spirit.

ANNUAL REPORT

2014 - 2015

THE ART LEAGUE OF OCEAN CITY

CENTER FOR THE ARTS



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I assess all the events and activities held at the Ocean City Center for the Arts this past year, there is no better proof that art matters to so many people in our community.

It is clear that art is a language that cuts across social, cultural and economic barriers and its healing qualities integrate the mind, body and spirit. I am proud that the Art League of Ocean City can provide a place in our community that provides fuel for imagination, inspiration and creativity for so many by a committed staff under the leadership of our Executive Director, Rina Thaler.

We are most grateful for the financial support from our community – from individuals, foundations, the business community as well as public support. In addition to cash donations, I continue to be amazed at the number of people and businesses who have given their time and talent to creatively provide resources for the Art League.

- ~ John Everson and family who created a golf tournament in memory of his wife, Betty Grace Everson, which raised over \$12,000 for the Art League.
- ~ Phyllis Jaffe who created and paid for an ad on the back of an Ocean City Bus – “Follow me to the Ocean City Center for the Arts.”
- ~ The numerous restaurants that graciously provide a sampling of their food at our monthly opening receptions.
- ~ People who have advised us they have named the Art League as a beneficiary of a part of their assets or estate.
- ~ People and businesses that have purchased legacy pavers for our courtyard.
- ~ Memorial gifts that have been given in honor of loved ones.
- ~ Loyal volunteers who assist staff, serve on the board and committees, serve as docents on the Sand Castle home tour, provide oversight for the Play it Safe event, and hang the monthly shows.
- ~ Members of the community who participated in bowl making for the Empty Bowl Project.

Because the arts matter to so many, we are able to be operating from a strong financial position and have been partnering with other community non-profits in community outreach. This past year saw exhibits partnering with the OC Writers Group, local florists with Art in Bloom, Animals in Art with the Worcester County Humane Society, the Empty Bowl Project and Soup Dinner with Diakonia, as well as other creative fundraising events.

None of this would be possible without your continued support and loyalty. We are grateful for the generosity of our donors, corporate partners and sponsors, and it is an honor to play a role in an organization with such a positive influence in our community.

~ Marian Bickerstaff

Front cover painting by Kirk McBride



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"I recently experienced a lot of loss in my life. Taking classes at the Arts Center has helped me cope, giving me something else to focus on and allowing me to deal with the loss and relax."

Deborah Howe

Member & Adult Student



Art Adventure Camp students created a hands-on mural outside the Arts Center.



Pasta & Pottery students made luminaries.

Part of the mission of the Art League of Ocean City is to educate, and we reached out with a wide range of classes.

Colors flowed during Brushes and Bubbly, Sushi and Ceramics and many inspiring painting classes and workshops instructed by talented and distinguished artists and educators.

In 2014 and 2015, 158 children explored their creative sides during the summer Art Adventure Camp held in conjunction with the Ocean City Recreation & Parks Department.

We also offered jewelry making classes, glass classes, fiber arts classes and other exciting learning opportunities.

ART EDUCATION



Laila Pascucci creates during Art Adventure Camp

VOLUNTEERS

Where would we be without our dedicated volunteers? Not where we are now!

Volunteers step up with all manner of assistance to the cause of art. A virtual army of volunteers mans the private homes during the annual Sand Castle Home Tour, providing information and guidance. Every month, a team comes into the galleries to take in art and hang the monthly shows. During openings, volunteers graciously keep the hors d'oeuvres and drinks stocked and served.

Our volunteers greet visitors at the front desk, do paperwork and help address mailings. They assist with our special events, like Play It Safe and the Black & Gold Cocktail Party.

Our hard-working Board of Directors and many committees are all made up of volunteers, too.

We thank them for their service!

Volunteer Bebe Antonini works the front desk at the Arts Center.



Volunteers Cathy Angus and Donna Becker ladle out soup to Megan, Emily and Jennifer Sandt during the Empty Bowl Project with Diakonia.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Art League has been awarding \$1,000 scholarships since 1991 to local art students seeking a college degree in visual arts. In 2014, the Art League supported five art students, and in 2015, four.

The scholarships are funded by contributions from the Art League and from the Katherine Ellen Brown Fund administered by the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore.

Graduating seniors who attend public or private high schools as well as homeschoolers are eligible, and also past recipients who are continuing to pursue a visual arts degree.

The scholarships are based on the student's talent, recommendations, citizenship, scholarship, academic awards, extracurricular activities, motivation and skill.

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Celebrating the college scholarships awarded by the Art League of Ocean City and the Katherine Ellen Brown Fund at the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore are (left to right): Lyn Burr, Marian Bickerstaff, Kayla Isaacs, Molly Wooten, Rina Thaler, B.J. Summers of The Community Foundation, Kasey Jones and Judy Tremellen. Not pictured are scholarship recipient Trent Carpenter and committee member Nancy Fortney.



*"I've been waiting
40 years for this
building (the Ocean
City Center for the
Arts) to open.*

*As a professional artist,
it matters to me."*

*Patrick Henry
Artist*



Above: Berlin artist Patrick Henry at his one-man show.

*Below: Best in Show winner, Megan Burke, a student at
Salisbury University, with Pam Washbaugh and Lucy
Greenwell, daughters of Beverly Bassford at the annual juried show.*



EXHIBITS

Every month the galleries at the Ocean City Center for the Arts change personality with the different monthly members shows and the guest featured artists. They include:

Barbara Beauchamp
Ed Challenger
Katie Engberg
Lois Engberg
Sandra Esham
Evan Fitzgerald
Kevin Fitzgerald
Richard Alan Fox
Diane (Dee) Gray
Michele Green
Patrick Henry
Laura Hickman
Jinchul Kim
Lynne Lockhart
Paul Lockhart
Kirk McBride
Brooke Rogers
Deborah Rolig
Jonathan Spivak
Bill Wolff
Dennis Young

*Marble sculpture
by
Pete Hassler*





Jody Veader and daughter-in-law, Lesley Veader.

GOOD-BYE, JODY

Art mattered to Jody Veader. A celebration of Jody's life was held at the Arts Center in August after her passing at age 88 in May.

Jody will be remembered for the energy she brought to everything, her determination to live her life the way she wanted, her wonderful giving spirit and her passion for the arts. Her wealth was measured in the people who loved her, the influence of her art and her love of life.

BROWN BOX



Brown Box Theatre Project, under Kyler Taustin's direction, performs regularly at the Ocean City Center for the Arts.

BLACK & GOLD PARTY KICKS OFF HOME TOUR

It was the event of the year! The Cirques des Artes Black & Gold Cocktail Party in September at the Gateway Grand was a grand success, raising funds for the programs sponsored by the Art League and honoring the homeowners who opened their door for the annual Sandcastle Home Tour.

Judy Tremellen, Rebecca Galyon, Jamie Albright, Eileen Stamnas and Nadine Wieder greet guests at the "Cirque des Artes" Black & Gold Cocktail Party



11th SANDCASTLE HOME TOUR OPENS DOORS

It's the event that planted the seeds for the building of the New Ocean City Center for the Arts. And it gets better and better every year. In 2015, 11 homes and condos from Ocean City to Bishopville graciously opened their doors to the public. A huge staff of docent volunteers guided almost 1,000 visitors.

The Kristick home in Ocean Pines was featured on the 2015 Sand Castle Home Tour

GOLF TOURNAMENT HONORED EVERSON

The inaugural golf tournament in memory of Betty Grace Everson, who passed away in 2014, was held in June at the Bay Golf Club in Berlin, sponsored by Everson's family and the Art League. Everson was a painter and an active member and dedicated volunteer of the Art League, painting under the moniker of Betty Grace.

An enthusiastic team of red shirted volunteers guided the activities at the Betty Everson Memorial Golf Tournament



SPONSORS / CORPORATE PARTNERS

We were able to build the new Ocean City Center for the Arts through a strong public/private partnership. We thank our dedicated partners — **The State of Maryland, Worcester County and the Town of Ocean City** — for bringing our dreams to life. And thank you to the local businesses who have committed to yearly corporate partner memberships, helping make art matter in Ocean City.

Albright's Associates LLP
 Atlantic Dental Cosmetic & Family Dentistry
 Atlantic Planning Development and Design
 Kay Ayres Interior Design
 Ayres, Jenkins, Gordy & Almand
 Bank of Delmarva
 Bank of Ocean City
 Bayside Skillet
 Berlin Interventional Pain Management
 BJ's on the Water
 Bonfire Restaurant
 Candy Kitchen Shoppes
 Cayman Suites
 Chesapeake Landscaping
 Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel
 Clean Team Janitorial
 Comcast Spotlight
 Commander Hotel
 Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore
 D3Corp.
 Delmarva Power
 Donaway/Kim Messick
 Katy Durham and Rick Meehan
 East Coast Property Management
 Sandra R. Esham and Robert Esham, DDS
 Fagers Island Ltd.
 The Framing Corner
 Glitter & Gold
 Russell T. Hammond Surveying

Harrison Group
 Henry Fine Arts
 Heritage Financial Consultants
 Hotel Motel Restaurant Association
 Insurance Management Group
 Kokkinos Jewelers
 Macky's Bayside Bar & Grill
 Mancini's
 Mann Properties, Inc.
 Ocean City Development Corp.
 Ocean City Elks Lodge # 2645
 Ocean City Parrothead Club
 Old Pro Golf
 Planet Maze-Lasertron
 Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel
 Robin Walter Day Spa
 Sea Quest Fashions
 Sello's
 Sunsations
 Tow Boat US Ocean City
 Trattoria Lombardi's
 Tyler & Company, PA
 Vanderbilt Weddings
 Sonia Vargas and Larry McDaniel



Maryland State Senator Jim Mathias visits during the Wet Paint Sale at the Ocean City Center for the Arts.



Worcester County Commissioner Joe Mitrecic, his mother Bonnie Mitrecic and Ocean City Mayor Rick Meehan attend a First Friday opening at the Ocean City Center for the Arts.

"I have always been a strong advocate of the arts because it allows people of all ages to express themselves"

*Jim Mathias
 Maryland State Senator*

Art
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"The Art League has long been a valuable partner with the Town in providing a cultural amenity to the resort."

*Rick Meehan
 Ocean City Mayor*



Art League of Ocean City Staff

Rina Thaler, Executive Director

Jacquie Warden

Katie Brown

Mallory Hanback

Nancy Barnas

Katrin Huber

Elaine Bean

Debbi Dean-Colley

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

First and foremost, I would like to share my gratitude with all who have participated in the many cultural opportunities this past year at the Ocean City Center for the Arts. It has been extremely rewarding to see the impact the arts have had on so many people in our community.

Since opening the new building in March of 2013, we have welcomed over 50,000 people to our beautiful Arts Center, and the progress we have made is staggering.

As a non-profit arts organization, it is our mission to enrich our community through artistic engagement. This past year we have shown that art truly does matter by presenting innovative exhibits, presentations, workshops, and even theater productions from Brown Box Theatre Project.

We collaborated with other area non-profits to raise awareness for those affected by issues such as hunger, Alzheimer's, hearing impairment, mental health, and animal adoption — all through the pursuit of creating art. These offerings have provided a new standard for the visual and performing arts in our area.

Thank you to President Marian Bickerstaff and our dedicated board for their vision and support, our small but hard working staff who passionately and cheerfully keep everything on an even keel, and our enthusiastic volunteers and members, who together make the Art League of Ocean City an outstanding arts organization and a true asset to our local economy and community. I am humbled to be a part of this amazing team.

~ Rina Thaler



PLEIN AIR EVENT WITH WET PAINT SALE AND QUICK DRAW CONTEST

More than 50 artists filled the scenic spots around the resort with their easels and paints for three days in August during the annual Plein Air "Artists Paint OC," then filled the galleries at the Arts Center with their work for the Wet Paint Sale.

The Quick Draw Contest Sunday morning on the Boardwalk drew artists and spectators as artists painted against the clock at the finale of the Plein Air Event. Sponsored by the Ocean City Downtown Development Corporation.



PLAY IT SAFE

Every year, the Art League sponsors safe activities for high schoolers who come to Ocean City to party during Senior Week. Here a student makes a tie-dyed T-shirt.

"The Art League has grown their facilities and programs to the point where they are a major influence on the art scene in the region."

Spicer Bell

Former President of the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore

Art

M A T T E R S



SPECIAL EVENTS

PET PORTRAITS AND SHOW

The Art League partnered with the Worcester County Humane Society to celebrate man's best friends. Pets were honored in portraits, paintings, drawings and sculpture, and the event raised funds for both non-profits. Here, Sara Timmons photographs a family pet on Pet Portrait Saturday.

THE EMPTY BOWL PROJECT AND SOUP DINNER

The Art League partnered with Diakonia to invite the community to hand-make soup bowls at the Arts Center, then host a soup dinner where the bowls were filled with warming donated soup. The project was funded by a grant from First Shore Federal. Here, Worcester County Commissioner Bud Church and Allyson Church show off their bowls.



DONORS

We thank our generous donors who contributed so graciously to the annual fund, made a memorial donation or sponsored one of our events.

Abi's Diner
Harry & Deborah Adler
Junis B Adkins
Adkins Company
Jeffrey & Jamie Albright
Alpha Beverages/Cheers
American Legion
Atlantic/Smith, Cropper & Deeley
Ann Augustine
BB&T
Karen Badellino
Bank of Delmarva
Bank of Ocean City
Nancy Barrett
Elaine Bean
Honor of Believe in Tomorrow
Tom & Marian Bickerstaff
Blu Crab House
Mary Jo & Thomas Bosley
Allen Brodsky
Kathrine Ellen Brown Fund
Marcus & Lisa Brown
Carolyn Buschmeier
Lew & Betty Bush
Barb & Rick Campbell
William & Madelyn Carder
Casual Designs
Rosemarie Celozzi
Ed & Emmy Challenger
Janet Cherrix
Chertkof Foundation
Stephanie Cohen
Amanda Cropper
D3 Corp
Dazzle
Decatur Diner
Delaware Elevator
DeNovo's

DePalma Dental
Stephanie DeWitt
Dorothy Douglas
Karen Dudley
Katy Durham & Rick Meehan
Sharon Vargas-Elliott & Francis Elliott
Philip & Shirley Eppard
James Everson
John Everson
Fagers Island Ltd.
Joy Faulkner
Teresa & Edward Fazzaloro
First Shore Federal
Brenda Fishbein
Nancy Fortney
Linda Frew
Gannett Foundation
Geri Gaskill
Gateway Grand
Peter & Kathy Gibson
Gillis Gilkerson
Joanne Grason
Kenneth Graves
Lucy Greenwell
Scott & Elizabeth Gregory
Lee Grier
Homer & Martha Gudelsky
Family Foundation
Louise Gulyas
Mary Ellen Gunther
Patricia Haacke
Hannah Haddaway
Barbara & Ron Hager
William & Martha Hall
Howard Hall & Family
Mary C. Hamlin
George & Lois Hamaty
Virginia Harmon
Evelyn Hartman
Stasia Heubeck
Wendy Walker Hibberd
Maude F. Holt
Paul & Carol Horvitz
Terry & Janet Hough

Nancy Howard
William Jessen
Edward Jones
Veronica & Stan Kahn
Brian Kearney
Kelly Companies
Judith E. King
Jordon Koehler
Deborah Kyler
Norma Lasher
Bruce & Cindy Leiner
Little Salisbury Association
Joan Lok
Susan Lucey
Macky's Bayside Bar & Grill
Mercantile Processing Inc.
Richard Marek
Susan & William Mariner
Larry McDaniel & Sunny Vargas
Michael McLeod
Margo & Dick Meeks
Barbara Melone
Mercedes-Benz Salisbury
Eleanor Milles
Susan & Andrew Mona Foundation
Judith Mones
Gregory & Mary Lou Morawski
Gene Morgenthaller
John Morgenthaller
Jeanne Mueller
Marlene Mumford
Karen Neville
Newport Properties
Ocean City/Berlin Optimist Club
Ocean City Elementary
Ocean City Elks
Ocean City Parrothead Club
William & Mary Ochse
Michelle O'Ferrall
Old Pro Golf
Original Greene Turtle
Outten & Golden
Virginia Outten
PNC
Joseph & Alana Parker

Barbara Patrick
Robert & Barbara Lee Patterson
Jim & Jan Perdue
Madelyn Pettolina
Colleen Powell
Judy Prange
Mr. & Mrs. Ian D. Preece
Clark Prichard
Michael Quillin
Penny & Joe Richards
Ronald & Terri Rickards
Harrison & Nancy Rider
James Ritz
Joan Roache
Dorothy Rolfe
Lisi Ruczynski
Patricia Sampson
Don & Barbara Schmid
Joan Schneider
Emily & Paul Schwab
Seacrets
Selbyville Holly Kia
Albert & Betty Sgro
Fred B Shaffer, Jr.
Shamrock Realty
Cathy & Gary Shoemaker
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Ellen Sullivan
Clytie Taylor
Shirley Taylor
Taylor Bank
Jacquelyn Tennant

Ann & Terry Terrell
Jeff & Rina Thaler
Jon & Judy Tremellen
Janet Trimper
Karen Turner
Maria Vargas
Jody Veader
Jim & Kim Wagner
Wagner & Sons Inc.
Clifford & Jacquie Warden
Bob & Peggy Warfield
Pam Washbaugh
L. Michael & Sharon Watkins
Joann & Ed Wehnert
Nadine Wieder
Seigbert & Lesley Wendler
Dirk & Gayle Widdowson
W.G. Williams III
Carol & Jack Wininiger
Worcester County Tourism



Art MATTERS

*"Hats off to filling
a huge need in
this community and
offering cultural and
creative opportunities
for all to enjoy."*

*Jan Perdue
Board of Directors
Art League of Ocean City*



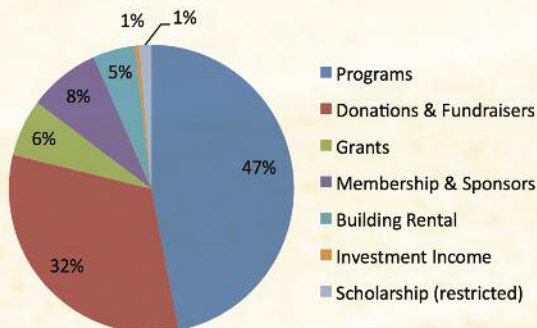
Kevin Fitzgerald teaches Kathy Gibson plein air painting.

In 2014 we were able to increase our net assets by 21% over the prior year as a result of added programming, increased donations and fundraising, increased levels of membership, and funding from corporate partners and sponsors.

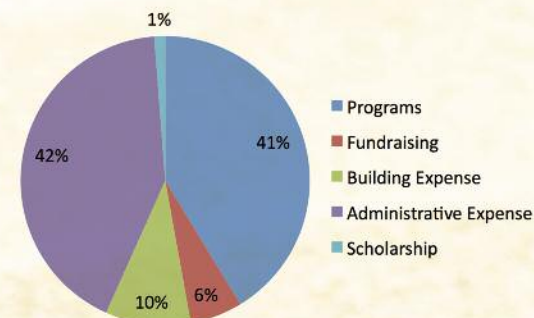
Additional programming added to the cost of instruction and administrative expense. The Art League of Ocean City does not account separately for staffing costs associated with programming. We continue to experience a cost to fund-raising ratio of a moderate 15%.

FINANCIALS

2014 INCOME



2014 EXPENSE



DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In 2015, we initiated a new Resource Development Committee, co-chaired by Emily Schwab and Jamie Albright and created a Resource Development Plan which included the following goals for 2015:

- Increase donor base and level of giving by 10%.
- Increase membership by 15%.
- Establish awareness about planned giving opportunities.
- Increase grant funding sources.
- Increase corporate partnerships by 15%.
- Add an additional annual major fundraiser.

As of July 31, 2015, we are on track to meet the majority of our goals.

HOW TO SUPPORT US

- Donate to our annual appeal online at artleagueofoceancity.org with a credit card. Or donate by phone or mail.
- Become a member or corporate partner, or volunteer your time and energy.
- Donate a needed item for programming, a reception or special event.
- Purchase a red clay paver in our courtyard and honor a loved one or send a message.
- Sponsor an exhibit or the Home Tour, provide a grant for tuition or scholarship or prizes for our Plein Air event.
- Honor people or events in your life by creating a memorial gift or naming an event or area of the Arts Center.
- Consider a legacy gift through appreciated assets and estate planning techniques: Make an outright gift of appreciated assets such as stocks, securities or real estate. Designate the Art League as a beneficiary of your retirement plan or life insurance policy. Leave a tax-exempt bequest of cash or property through your will or trust. Fund a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) with cash or securities. Create an endowment or contribute to the permanent Art League Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore.

MISSION

To promote the visual arts in the Ocean City area through education, exhibits, scholarships, programs and community art events.

VISION

To be a vibrant, fiscally sound arts organization with community sponsorship and service and valued membership benefits, offered in a spacious and functional facility.

THE ART LEAGUE OF OCEAN CITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

502 94th Street, Ocean City, MD 21842
410 .524 .9433
ArtLeagueOfOceanCity.org



The Art League of Ocean City is a 501(c)3, organized in the state of Maryland. A copy of our current financial statement is available upon request by contacting the Art League of Ocean City at P.O. Box 3503, Ocean City, MD 21843. (Phone 410.524.9433). Documents and information submitted to the State of Maryland under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of State for the cost of copying and postage.

