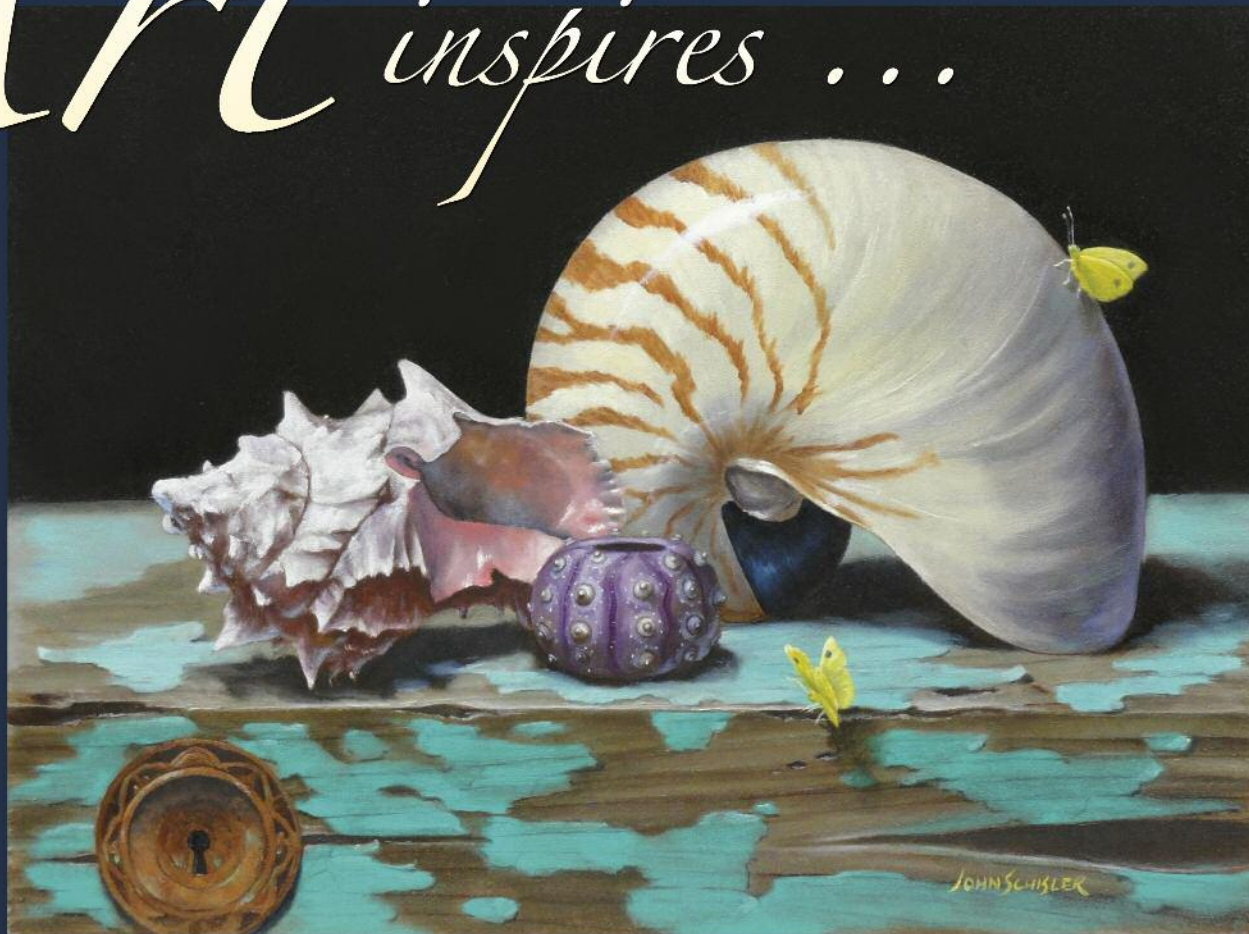


Art *inspires ...*



LEARNING
YOUTH
VOLUNTEERING
GATHERINGS
EVENTS
PARTNERSHIPS
COMMUNITY
HEALING
GIVING

ANNUAL REPORT 2015 ~ 2016

THE ART LEAGUE OF OCEAN CITY
CENTER
FOR THE ARTS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

ART INSPIRES! To the artist, the process of making art is stimulating and calming, actually said to lower blood pressure. An idea, resonating in the mind, may evoke a memory or emotion, capture an observation of life, the majesty of nature or the mood and splendor of light. It inspires viewers in the same way, unifying them with the artist through feelings, emotions and imagination. Both the artist and viewer are somehow touched inside – a mystery that intrigues.

Because of this connection, art stimulates a sense of community – a common bond and connection between artists and art appreciators alike. I am in awe of how the Ocean City Center for the Arts has begun to create an art community. New artists are emerging and are able to interact with well-known professional artists. People continue to tell me how they bring family and friends to the Center and how they are totally blown away! Thank you to our hard working and outgoing staff and board of directors for making this an Ocean City destination!

I am happy to report that this year we have been able to focus on enhancing our infrastructure. Because we continue to operate in a strong financial position, we have invested in a more sophisticated financial reporting system, a new point of sale system to better track inventory and sales, and a donor tracking system which will allow us to track and honor donor contributions since moving into our new facility. Plans are in process to re-do our Wall of Honor so that we can include new donors and corporate partners and continually update cumulative donations received over the years. To ensure financial strength for the future, we have established an endowment fund with the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore. The Art League of Ocean City has become an important part of Ocean City and we are grateful for your continued support and loyalty. I hope every visit to the Ocean City Center for the Arts leaves you inspired!

~ Marian Bickerstaff

The Art League of Ocean City was the proud recipient of the prestigious Richard A. Henson Award for Nonprofit Excellence, presented by the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore. Rina Thaler and Marian Bickerstaff, center, receive the award from Melody Nelson, left, and Erica Joseph, right, of the Community Foundation.



*Art is not what you see,
but what you make others see.*

– Edgar Degas

Painting by Stan Sperlak

Front cover painting by John Schisler

Art

INSPIRES LEARNING



The Arts Center holds classes in all media, including living plants. Here, Carol Breslau shows her creation.

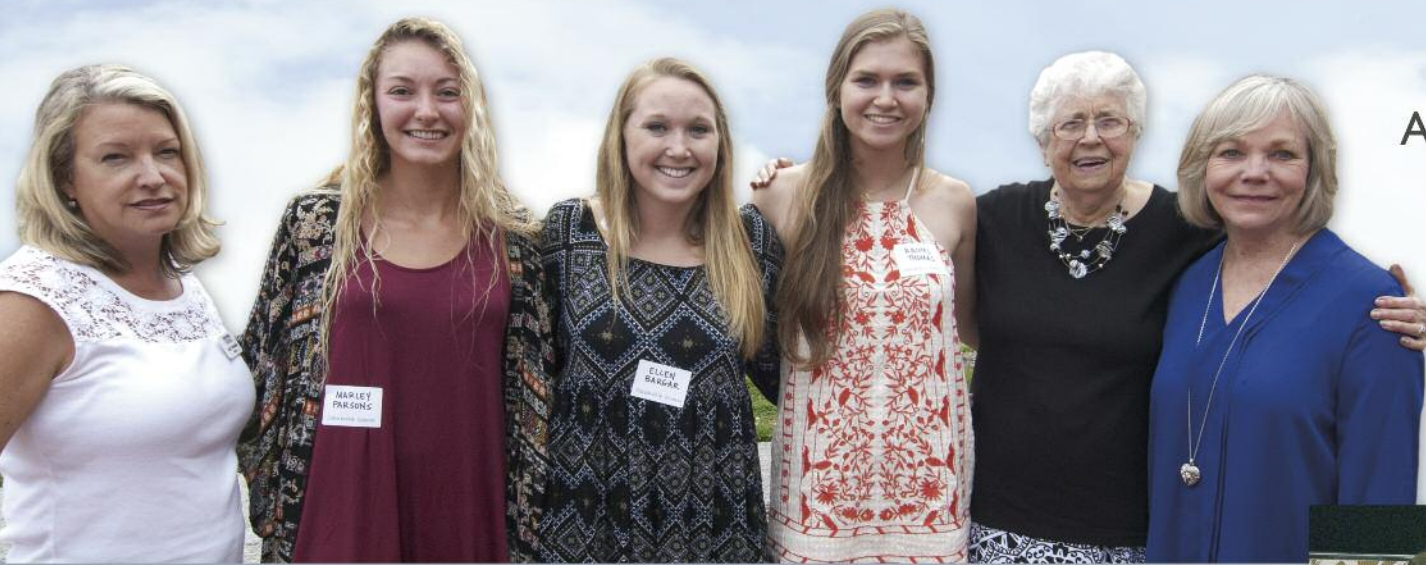


Danielle Barnas works the pottery wheel in the Arts Center's dedicated pottery studio where classes are held for adults and children.

A hands-on mural at Summer Art Adventure Camp



Free Family Arts Days encourages children and adults to make art together.



ART INSPIRES YOUTH

Below: Student anime/magna art inspired cosplay with enthusiasts Alex Schachter, Jaiden Denk, Brooks Travers, Eddie Aksu and Serap Aksu.

The Art League of Ocean City annually awards scholarships for art education, funded by the Art League and the Katherine Ellen Brown Fund at the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore. Left to right: Judy Tremellen of the Art League; scholarship winners (all from Stephen Decatur High School) Marley Parsons, Ellen Bargar and Rachel Thomas; Lyn Burr of the Art League, and B.J. Summers of the Community Foundation. Not shown: Rachel Eure from Snow Hill High School.



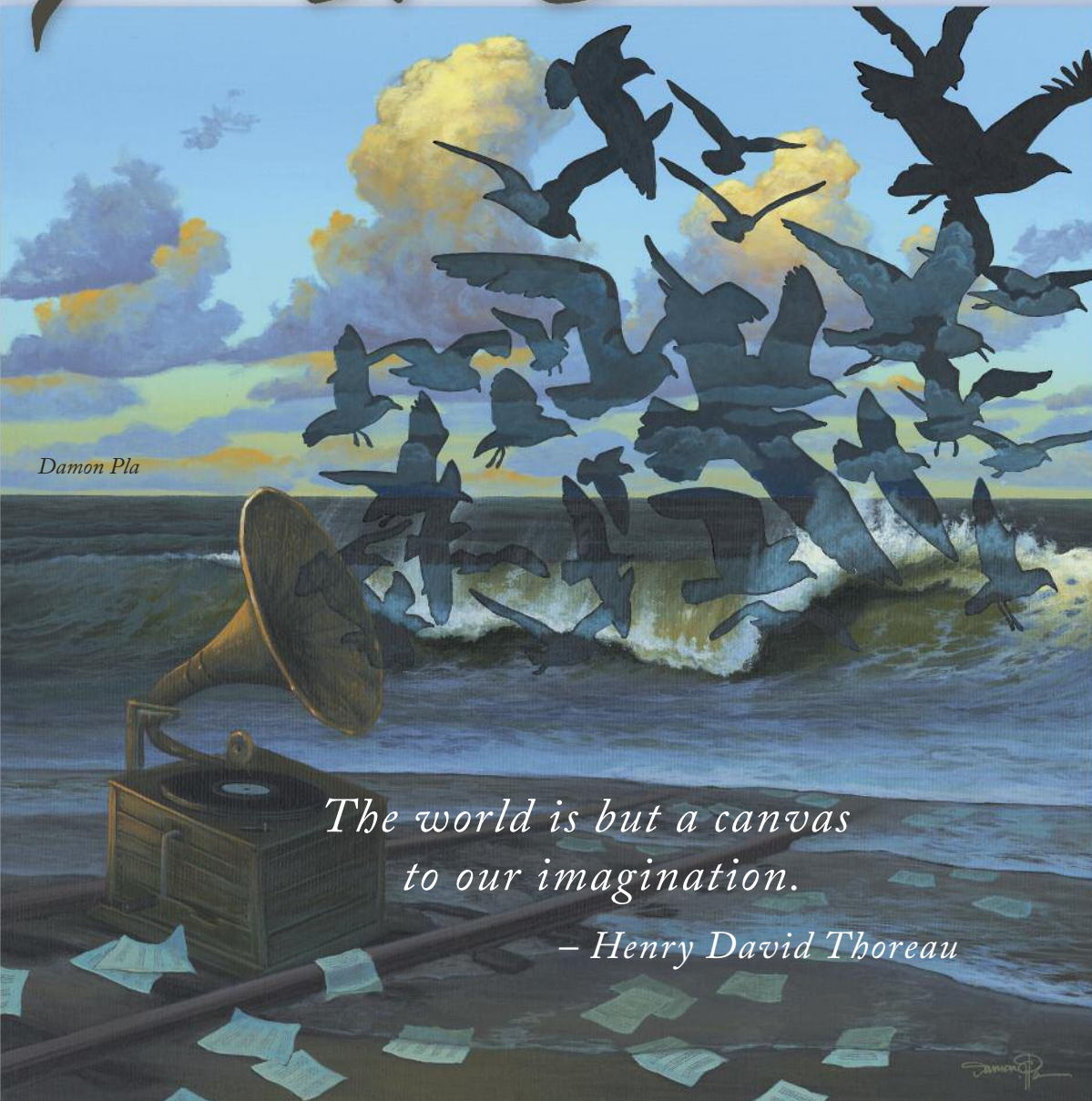
Far left: Volunteers Evelyn Hartman and Velda Henry serve soup with a smile at the annual Empty Bowl Soup Dinner, benefitting the programs of both the Art League of Ocean City and Diakonia.

Left: Volunteers Nancy Fortney and Hilda Plisko keep the drinks and hors d'oeuvres ready for guests during every First Friday art opening at the Arts Center.

ART INSPIRES VOLUNTEERING

Art

INSPIRES GATHERINGS



Damon Pla

*The world is but a canvas
to our imagination.*

— Henry David Thoreau

Featured Artists

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Mary Back | Paul Lockhart |
| Marina Borovok | Selena Malott |
| Brigitte Bowden | Maryland Pastel Society |
| Ashley Brown | Kirk McBride |
| Rosemary Burns | Lesley McCaskill |
| Susan Buyer | Joe Merritt |
| Crystal Collins | Mary Murphy |
| Terry Edgeworth | Christian Peterson |
| Sandra Esham | Dean Peterson |
| Charlie Ewers | Fred Peterson |
| Evan Fitzgerald | Marcus Pettit |
| Carl Forsberg | Jon Rees |
| Kathie Gallion | Captain Debbie Ritter |
| Mary Jane Hastings | Brooke Rogers |
| John Davis Held | Chase Rosner |
| Catherine Hellsten | Gregg Rosner |
| Angela Herbert-Hodges | Barbara Doyle Schmid |
| Debra Howard | Ricky Sears |
| Brad Hudson | Becky Simonds |
| Diane Hurwitz-Specht | Stan Sperlak |
| Darlene Jones | Barbara Stepura |
| Betty Latourney | Tuve Tuvevsson |
| Hannibal Lee | Eric White |
| Yuanyuan Liu | Suzanne Wilson |
| Lynne Lockhart | Bill Wolff |



Marcus Pettit

ART INSPIRES PARTNERSHIPS

We thank our dedicated partners — The State of Maryland, Worcester County and the Town of Ocean City — for bringing art to life. Thank you to the local businesses who have committed to yearly corporate partner memberships, helping make art inspirational in Ocean City.

PICASSO \$5,000
Macky's Bayside Bar & Grill

RENOIR \$1,500
Atlantic Planning Development & Design
Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel
Kimmerly Messick/Donaway Furniture
Sello's Italian Oven & Bar

MONET \$1,000
Commander Hotel
Malament Law Firm
Sunsations, Inc.
The Original Greene Turtle

CEZANNE \$500
Berlin Interventional Pain Management
Community Foundation of Eastern Shore
Delaware Elevator
Glitter & Gold
Kokkinos Creative Jewelers
Mancini's Brick Oven & Pizzeria
Ocean City Elks Lodge # 2645
Sea Quest Fashions

GAUGUIN \$250
Albright's Associates, LLP
Atlantic Dental Cosmetic & Family Dentistry
Ayres, Jenkins, Gordy & Almand
Bank of Ocean City

GAUGUIN \$250
Bayside Skillet
BJ's on the Water
Bonfire Restaurant
Candy Kitchen Shoppes
Cayman Suites
Coldwell Banker
Comcast Spotlight
Sandra & Robert G. Esham
Fagers Island, Ltd.
Harrison Group
Henry Fine Arts
Heritage Financial Consultants, LLC

GAUGUIN \$250
Insurance Management Group
Kay Ayres Interior Design, Inc.
Mann Properties, Inc.
Maryland Coast Towing
Old Pro Golf
Planet Maze-Lasertron
Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel
Russell T Hammond Surveying, LLC
Serenity Day Spa
Tyler & Company, P.A.
The Framing Corner
Trattoria Lombardi's

IN KIND
Chesapeake Landscaping
Clean Team Janitorial
D3 Corp
Mail Movers
Robert Mitrecic Building Contractor

RECIPROCAL
Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce
Hotel Motel Restaurant Association
Ocean City Development Corp.

MEDIA PARTNER
Delmarva Public Radio

*The purpose of art is
washing the dust
of daily life off our souls.*

— Pablo Picasso

A

John Davis Held



INSPIRES EVENTS

Virginia Pappas and Jack Burbage enter the Kasbah, at the Art League of Ocean City's "Rock the Kasbah" party at the Gateway Grand, a kickoff to the annual Sand Castle Home Tour.



The Brown Box Theatre Project, directed by Kyler Taustin, regularly turns the Arts Center's main gallery into a performance stage. Here the cast and director of the original play, "Lab Rats," hold a question and answer session with the audience.



Far left: Duane Sabiston shows his technique to Rachael Moore during the 2016 Quick Draw Competition sponsored by the OCDC on the boardwalk, the final event of "Artists Paint OC" plein air event.

Near left: Volunteer docent Becky Simonds guided guests through the Outten home in Bishopville during the 2016 Sand Castle Home Tour.



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This past year, we have presented groundbreaking exhibitions, offered outstanding art instruction and created powerful community collaborations. Our galleries featured the work of 247 artists in exhibits which included: "She Speaks," funded by the Women's Fund, giving voice to female artists; "The Things I Carry," sponsored by SeaQuest Fashion, highlighting art's healing power; "Shared Visions," bringing writers and artists together to explore a common theme; and "Food for the Soul," pairing artists and restaurants through the Hotel Motel Restaurant Association. We were honored to be presented with the 2015 Richard A. Henson Award for Nonprofit Excellence by the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore for collaborations like these.

New this year was "Free Family Art Days," generously sponsored by PNC Foundation. More than 265 children and their parents participated in these monthly workshops that culminated in the planting of a butterfly garden. In total, we had over 2,100 registrations for art classes this year.

Events like "Artists Paint OC" and the Sand Castle Home Tour reached new audiences and raised awareness for the value art brings to the community. Thank you to Maryland's First Lady Yumi Hogan for being our honorary chairperson of the home tour and her commitment to the arts.

I am grateful for our dedicated board, hard working staff and enthusiastic volunteers who collectively allow us to support the mission of the Art League of Ocean City. I encourage you all to let art inspire you by taking a class, becoming a collector, participating in an event or simply making a tax deductible donation.

~ Rina Thaler

Art

INSPIRES COMMUNITY



Above: Free Family Arts Days sponsored by the PNC Foundation culminated with the ribbon cutting for the butterfly garden in front of the Arts Center. Above middle: The courtyard at the Arts Center has become a true community bulletin board. Clubs, businesses, artists and other individuals have stepped forward to fill the pavers with their personal messages, inspirations, tributes and memorials. Right: Music is art for the ears. This year, children, families and adults came together to work with a certified music therapist to learn how music can express emotions and establish connections.



ART INSPIRES HEALING

Veteran Joe Merritt's art show "The Things I Carry" expressed his way of dealing with post combat depression. After seeing combat in Afghanistan, he uses art as a storytelling process, focusing on visual metaphors, creating a dialogue of bold self-portraiture.

The Art League partnered with Coastal Hospice in bringing Joseph Madeiros' Bermudian kites to exhibition at the Arts Center. Creating a folk art of his native Bermuda, Madeiros handcrafts his colorful kites even while dealing with cancer.



*If art is to nourish the roots
of our culture, society must set
the artist free to follow his vision
wherever it takes him.
We must never forget that
art is not a form of propaganda;
it is a form of truth.*

— John F. Kennedy

Art

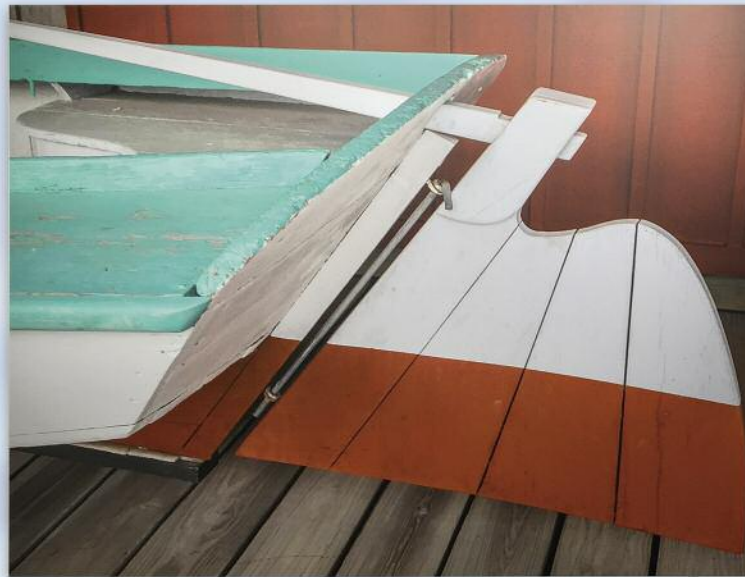
INSPIRES GIVING *July 1, 2015 ~ June 30, 2016*

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

Junis B. Adkins
 Harry & Deborah Adler
 Jeffrey & Jaime Albright
 Jerry & Jennifer Albright
 Robert & Kim Anderson
 Jon & Laurie Andes
 Bebe Antonini
 Susan Appling
 Ann Augustine
 Kay Ayres Interior Design
 Bank of Ocean City
 Karlyn Barker
 John P. Barrett
 Nancy Barrett
 Beverly Bassford Fund
 Sydney & Sherrie Beckstead
 Spicer & Karen Bell
 Joyce Bell
 Richard & Petra Bernstein
 Thomas & Marian Bickerstaff
 Thomas & Mary Jo Bosley
 Robert & Madonna Brennan
 Alyse Brovitz
 Katherine Ellen Brown Fund
 Susan Burch
 Lew & Betty Bush
 Crystal Cahoone
 Rosemary Celozzi
 Edward & Emmy Challenger

Chertkof Foundation
 Grayce C. Cohen
 Connie Collins
 Community Foundation of
 the Eastern Shore
 Rosemary Comstock &
 Elizabeth Riley
 Peter Copenhaver
 Susanna Eisenman

Nancy Fortney
 David & Cindy Fox
 Linda Frew
 Joy Galicinao
 Gannett Foundation
 Julio & Barbara Garcia
 Geri Gaskill
 Glick Award Gala
 by Jack Burbage
 Martha Graham
 Patricia Graves
 Scott & Elizabeth Gregory
 Homer & Martha Gudelsky
 Family Foundation



Charlie Ewers' photograph won Best in Show 2016 during the Beverly Bassford Memorial Art Show, an annual donor to the Art League

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 Geraldine Miller
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 Jeanne Mueller
 Ocean Pines Camera Club
 The Original Greene Turtle
 Outten & Golden
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 Stephen & Jacqueline Tennant
 Terry & Ann Terrell
 Jeff & Rina Thaler
 Jon & Judy Tremellen
 John Veader
 Michael Veader
 Jim & Kim Wagner
 Clifford & Jacque Warden
 Barbara Weber
 Dirk & Gayle Widdowson
 Nadine Wieder
 Jeffrey Wieland
 Worcester County Commissioners
 Worcester County Arts Council

FINANCIALS January 1 - December 31, 2015

Through completing our second full year of operating the Ocean City Center for the Arts, we now have established some operating history and a sense of the level of programming that can be made available to the public in our multi-purpose facility. The focus of our budget is offering highly-desired programming and, at the same time, we have been able to increase our net assets by 6% over the prior year.

With an operating budget of \$490K in 2015, we are fortunate to be funded by a wide diversification of income streams – programs that generate income, fundraising, donations, grants, membership fees and corporate partnerships as well as the rental of space for events by artists, community groups, businesses and individuals.

One of the key financial goals our board of directors is an annual increase in our endowment fund with the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore. Additionally, the board has agreed to concentrate on five strategic areas:

Fundraising – Establish a legacy gift program and greater donor recognition.

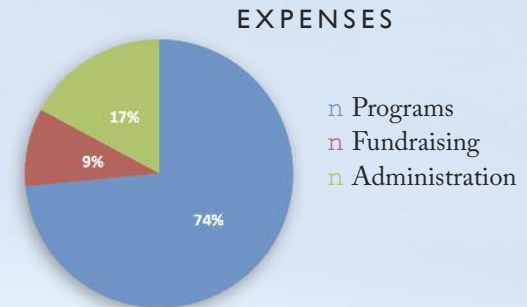
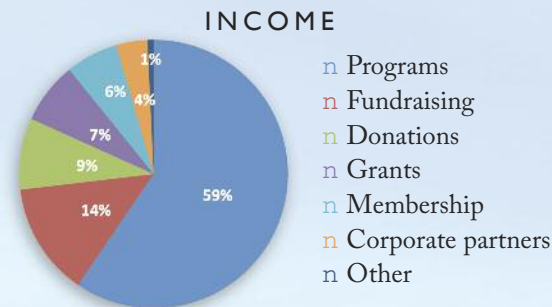
Financial management – Set monitoring metrics and initiate a more productive investment of funds including increasing the endowment fund.

Programs - Establish a formal Program Committee to evaluate, monitor and modify program offerings.

Membership – Sustain and grow a supportive membership base.

Marketing – Create a formal plan to reach current patrons and prospective supporters.

Sustainability – Develop leadership, human resources and financial stability to assure the continuation of the Art League.



Note: In 2015, our accounting system has been improved to breakdown costs associated with programs, fundraising and administration.

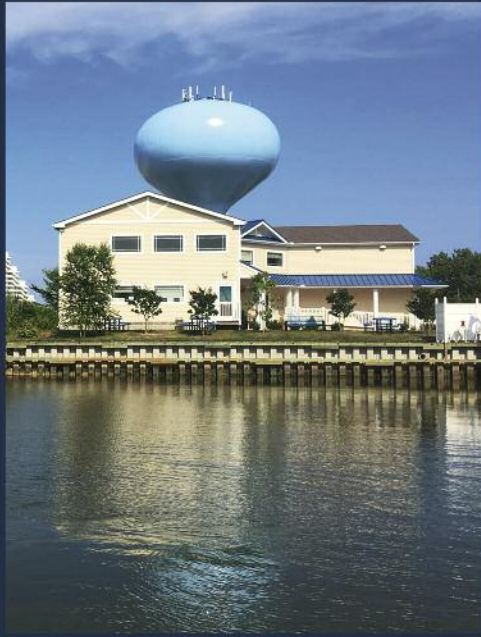
HOW TO SUPPORT US

- 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.

*We make a living
by what we get.*

*We make a life
by what we give.*

— Winston Churchill



THE ART LEAGUE OF OCEAN CITY
CENTER FOR THE ARTS
FOR THE ARTS

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

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marian Bickerstaff, *President*
Emily Schwab, *First Vice-President*
Katy Durham, *Second Vice-President*
Rafael (Rafo) Correa, *Treasurer*
Nancy Fortney, *Recording Secretary*
Jamie Albright, *Corresponding Secretary*
Emmy Challenger
Velda Henry
Joseph Mitreic
Barbara Patrick
Jan Perdue
John Sisson
Judy Tremellen
Gayle Widdowson

STAFF

Rina Thaler, *Executive Director*
Nancy Barnas
Elaine Bean
Katie Brown
Debbi Dean-Colley
Catherine Hellsten
Katrin Huber
Nicole Maskell
Gina Stratchko

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.

