



ART TOUCHES LIVES

ANNUAL REPORT 2017 - 2018

ART LEAGUE OF OCEAN CITY

CENTER
FOR THE ARTS

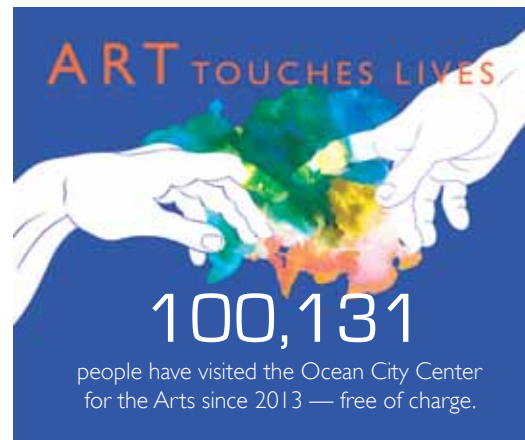


FROM OUR PRESIDENT, MARIAN BICKERSTAFF

As you peruse this report, I believe that, like me, you will be uplifted by the heartfelt stories of how the Ocean City Center for the Arts touches the lives of so many people. These personal stories reflect how creativity is part of our true nature - it's all about engaging, problem solving, experimenting with new ideas or materials, immersion with our senses,

and connecting with others who share a passion for the arts! To me, this process of making art surpasses the end result, be it an award winner or one juried out of a show!

Our sincere thanks to all of you who continue to provide support that is vital to our ability to provide creative opportunities for an entire spectrum of people. I am also delighted to share that our newly formed Legacy pARTner Society now has 10 members! We invite you to consider becoming part of this group who have affirmed the importance of the arts for generations to come.



INVITATIONAL EXHIBITING ARTISTS WHO TOUCHED OUR LIVES

Kim Abplanalp
Jim Adcock
Irene Averitte
Mary Back
Karen Bearman
Judy Benton
Petra Bernstein
Kathy Bohs
Margaret Bradach
Mary Ellen Bradley
Anthony Chiffolo
Mary Ellen Clark
Clay Guild of
the Eastern Shore
Pete Cosby
Wendy Cossman
Christy Cox
Abbi Custis
Debbi Dean-Colley
Michel Demanche
Teri Edgeworth
Janice Elder
Laura Ellison
Pat Ellison
Patti Euler
Autumn Faber
Kevin Fitzgerald
Eva Fox

Joy Galicinao
Gerilyn Gaskill
Kathy Gibson
Raye-Valion Gillette
Sandy Glassman
April Goodman
Dee Gray
Sandra Grzybowski
Joanne Guilfoil
Han-Mee Artists Association
Mary Jane Hastings
Patrick Henry
Darien Henson
Tyler Henson
Angela Herbert-Hodges
Debra Howard
Cancan Huang
Brad Hudson
John Lampieri
Laura Jenkins
Elizabeth Kauffman
Mehves Lelic
Lynne Lockhart
Joan Lok
Marisa Longo
Kirk McBride
Dave Messick
Nina Mickelsen

ART TOUCHES LIVES ~ “Isaiah took such joy in adding colors ... He just wanted to keep working.”

~ Gwen Lehman, Ocean Pines

Isaiah and Gwen were part of the Exceptional Abilities program, a collaboration between the Art League and Worcester County Public Schools. Spearheaded by Pocomoke High School teacher Alex Tobiasson, artists paired with students to create works together that were auctioned off at an event held at the Ocean City Center for the Arts in April 2018.

I met Isaiah Foreman one morning in the fall of 2017 at Pocomoke High School while joining other artists in a project called “Exceptional Abilities” that paired adult artists who worked in various mediums with students from Pocomoke High School and Cedar Chapel. As an abstract artist working with mixed media and acrylics, I planned to work with my student partner to explore the use of color and texture. I had brought along extra canvas boards, spray inks, sponges, and several tubes of acrylic paint to add to what was being provided by the school. Isaiah quickly got into layering the gesso onto canvas boards, intent on creating interesting textures. While we let the gesso dry, we picked a color palette for the various canvases. Isaiah took such joy in adding colors to the heavily gessoed canvases. So much so that it was a good thing I had brought extra canvas boards. He just wanted to keep working. By the end of the day, we had completed five canvases.

From laying on the gesso, to blowdrying the canvases, to adding colors, to trying spray inks, we both had a great time working together to make something happen that would please your eye, and maybe speak to your soul. I know Isaiah spoke to mine that day with his openness, his warmth, and his joy in the experience of being with a room full of other students and artists who were all making art.



Dean Peterson
PLB Comics
Kurt Plinke
Helen Prah
Pauline Rakis
Skylar Reed
Deborah Rolig
Gregg Rosner
Steve Shreve
Barbara Siskind
Patti Smith
Helen Smith
Joan Smith
Sophia Smith
Brianna Sorenson
Salisbury University
Environmental Studies
Students
Cassie Taggart
Clytie Whitson Taylor
Rina Thaler
Chelsea Thaler
Dot & Bob Truitt
Irene Volke
Peggy Warfield
Robert Bruce Weston
Heidi Wetzell

Autumn Faber of Berlin was the Ocean City Center for the Art's 100,000 visitor since opening our doors in 2013. Autumn visited with her son on September 30, 2018.



ART TOUCHES LIVES

"My goal is to study hard and work at the Arts Center one day."

*Heather Toth,
Lorton, Virginia*

Heather watches plein air painter Susan Webster compete in the Quick Draw event in August on the Boardwalk.



When my daughter, Heather, attended her first Art Camp at the Arts Center, I was that nervous mom. Heather is autistic, has trouble communicating, has meltdowns, and wants to make friends. You told me not to worry, that your instructors have worked with children with special needs. Your classes and camps helped Heather flourish and develop a talent for drawing. Her drawings are so detailed that you can tell she places a lot of thought into them.

Heather has progressed to where this summer she volunteered at the Art Camp and with the pottery classes. When Heather graduates from high school, she plans to major in the arts (art and violin) and possibly attend Salisbury University so she can be near the Arts Center – that's how much she loves you all and would ultimately love to work there!

Tammy Toth, Heather's mother

The Ocean City Center for the Arts hosts many different genres of artistic events including live performances, lectures, pop-up exhibits, student exhibits, and inspiring classes for all ages and talents.

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Waterman's Inn Crisfield



The 2nd Annual Ocean City Film Festival, made possible by a grant by the Town of Ocean City, established the event as a true success story. Over three days in March, more than 600 people from as far away as London, England enjoyed 100 films entered from around the world. Left: Danielle Troumouliaris and Alex Agisilaou traveled to the resort from New York City.



ART TOUCHES LIVES ~

"Art & Soul was an excellent therapy tool I continue to use."

Jessica Bowman
Frankford, Delaware

I began attending the Art & Soul program at the Art League of Ocean City this past Spring. It has been an amazing resource for me. I live with Bipolar disorder, as well as some other mental illness issues. The program allowed me to explore art that I

wouldn't have had access to. It was an excellent therapy tool I continue to use.

Since taking the classes, I've offered the knowledge to others I believe can benefit. I remind people that the work isn't about the end result, but the process; it can clear the mind and regulate breathing. The knowledge and experience I gained is part of my daily routine. As a result, I have begun creating art and displaying it publicly.

Rolfe Gudelsky of the Homer & Martha Gudelsky Family Foundation and Marsha Howarth of Sea Quest receive their awards at a reception to honor the Art League's corporate partners, donors, legacy partners, and sponsors.



Above: Sabra Hendon and Alex Stamnas enjoy crab soup at the Big Get-Together in May, a fundraiser for the Art League of Ocean City.



Left: Brown Box Theatre performs live in the Thaler Gallery at the Arts Center.

ART TOUCHES LIVES ~

"I hope to repeat my Art League teacher's wise words to a young artist many days from now."

~ Alison Menke, Silver Spring



When I was in middle school, I asked my mom for painting classes, and being a wonderful mother, she took me all the way from Clarksville, Md. to the Art League of Ocean City for a three-day workshop with Caroline Jasper. I learned so much about color and so much about art! Her energy was encouraging and interesting, and I couldn't help but admire this artist and teacher. Coming back to Ocean City now fills me with thoughts of Caroline and my first introduction to painting in oil.

We met up at a plein air event a couple of years ago and reconnected. She was so happy to see how I've embraced painting and told me how proud of me she was... I'll never forget it. There are a few words from our last visit I will always hold dear. Wise and true. With a full heart, I hope to repeat them to a young artist many days from now. Caroline may no longer be here with us today, but her spirit is held with us in paint. I will always remember her and all that she taught me.

ART TOUCHES LIVES ~
“I’ve never experienced
a world
without the Arts.”

Patrick Henry, Berlin

I’ve never experienced a world without the Arts. From my early youth, my parents maintained a nurturing environment for me and my siblings to express ourselves creatively, and that concept was carried on with our grade school instructors. Miss Eleanor Harris, my junior high art teacher and member of a fledging Art League in Ocean City in the middle 1960s, instilled a structured discipline necessary for the development of one’s creative passion.

I’m proud to have been a charter member of the Worcester County Arts Council, formed in 1976, which was created with the mission of bringing the Arts to the local grass-roots community. Visionaries like the late James Barrett, Ed Hammond, and Tom Patton deemed it necessary to incorporate the Arts in the plans to revitalize downtown Berlin in the 1980s, a plan that been replicated in nearby towns.

I was asked recently in a interview what I felt were the most important buildings in Ocean City. Without hesitating, I said the Ocean City Center for the Arts is one of the most important. It represents an awareness that the vitality of an area is measured by its commitment to showcase a thriving artistic climate for its residents and visitors alike.



STEPHEN CHERRY PHOTO



Above: Summer Art Adventure Camp with Ocean City Park & Rec gives one-on-one attention to every camper. In 2018, 168 campers attended the 4-week program. Here, Bob Hulburd helps an interested camper. Left: Girl Scout Troop 96 uses mosaic tiles to help restore Ocean City’s Beach Birds that have come home to roost at the Arts Center.



ART TOUCHES LIVES ~
 “How nice to know that
 your love of the arts can live on
 in such a meaningful way!”

- Lyn Burr, Berlin

Daughter and mother, Kathy Kennery and Lyn Burr



Top: Ellen Howse throws a pot on the wheel in the clay studio at the Ocean City Center for the Arts. Classes teach pottery, painting, and more.

Bottom left: MiAsia Timmons of Snow Hill Middle School displays her artwork during the Lower Shore Addiction Awareness Visual Art Contest, held by the United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore and hosted by the Art League.

For 27 years, I have enjoyed my membership with the Art League of Ocean City. I have participated as a student as well as holding various offices on the Board. I particularly enjoyed being chairman and then a member of the Scholarship committee. I recently was given an opportunity to

make a financial commitment to the Legacy Fund. I consider it an honor to make a small contribution to the future of an organization that does so much for the culture of our area. I urge others to consider such a commitment. How nice to know that your love of the arts can live on in such a meaningful way!



OUR LEGACY PARTNERS

Karen & Spicer Bell
 Marian Bickerstaff
 Lyn Burr
 Barbara Patrick
 John Sisson
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 Judy & Jon Tremellen

Left: Karen and Spicer Bell point to their name on the Wall of Honor at the Arts Center



Art League artist-in-residence Gerilyn Gaskill displayed her work during the inaugural ArtX at Northside Park in August.



ART TOUCHES LIVES ~

“The Ocean City Center for the Arts is one of our county’s gems, not just Ocean City’s.”

~ Mitzi Ash, Ocean Pines



The 2018 student art scholarship winners are shown with the Art League’s committee who selected them. Left to right: Marian Bickerstaff, B.J. Summers of The Community Foundation, Frankie Hanna of Stephen Decatur High School, Katy Durham, Marley Parsons of Salisbury University, Nancy Fortney, Lamont Hall of Pocomoke High School, Kate Carpenter of Stephen Decatur High School, Judy Tremellen, and Trent Carpenter of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.



Baltimore-style screen painter John Iampieri, along with 130 students from several Worcester County schools, painted local scenes on screens, then installed them at the 94th St. tennis courts as a public art project.

I am a resident of Worcester County living in Ocean Pines and an artist in residence at the Art League of Ocean City. The Art League strengthens our community in so many positive ways — socially, educationally, and economically. The Ocean City Center for the Arts is one of our county’s gems, not just Ocean City’s. Local businesses benefit every time the Art League has an event, from Michael’s selling art supplies to restaurants feeding the visiting artists.

It provides a beautiful gallery for tourists to visit, camps for kids, a place for teens to sing and/or play their music with no alcohol, classes for beginning through seasoned artists, and outstanding art shows that inspire. All of these and more. Every time someone receives or provides a service to or from the Art League, the economy of Worcester County is being served.



Clockwise from top left:
The volunteer committee for the annual “pARTy of the Year: Art-A-Ritaville” gathers to thank the Home Tour homeowners. From left: Rina Thaler, Cheryl Taustin, Rebecca Galyon, Marsha Howarth, Jennifer Klepper, Kari Berger, Jamie Albright. Not pictured: Cindy Leiner, Jan Perdue, Nadine Wieder, Eileen Stamnas, Sandy Gillis, Gayle Widdowson.



Ronnie Shockley of the Town of Ocean City’s Public Works Department places a trash can sponsored by The Gateway Grand on the beach in May. More than 30 sponsors stepped forward to support the “Art Can Clean Beaches” program, part of Keep Maryland Beautiful.

Volunteers Mary Wentworth and Patti Lookner of the Ocean Pines Garden Club greet visitors at a Southpoint home during the 2018 Sand Castle Home Tour, the Art League’s biggest fundraiser of the year.

The SHE art show in September, an Arts Center-wide event, was curated by Art League executive director Rina Thaler, visual arts curator Deborah Rolig, and literary curator Kathleen Martens.



FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RINA THALER

Each day that I spend
at the Ocean City
Center for the Arts,
I see the many ways
that art touches lives.
The young children who

attend our summer art camp, free family art days, painting and pottery classes, and our school outreach programs, are so genuine and uninhibited in their joy of creating, they are an inspiration to me.

The Millennials who attend our Originals Only music nights, anime/manga art shows, and annual Film Festival have their own relationship with art. We welcome working folks who attend our evening classes; those with health issues who have found solace in our Art & Soul sessions; and the Baby Boomers who have retired here and are looking to fill their lives with meaningful activity.

All of these groups of people come together here to enjoy our classes, programs, and events. The Art League has made an impact on all of their lives through art.

None of this would be possible, however, without the people who make art happen – our donors. We ask you this season to “have a heART” and help us touch even more lives through art by making a contribution of any size to our annual appeal.

Thank you all for your continued support.

OUR DONORS & GRANT FUNDERS *July 1, 2017 to June 31, 2018*

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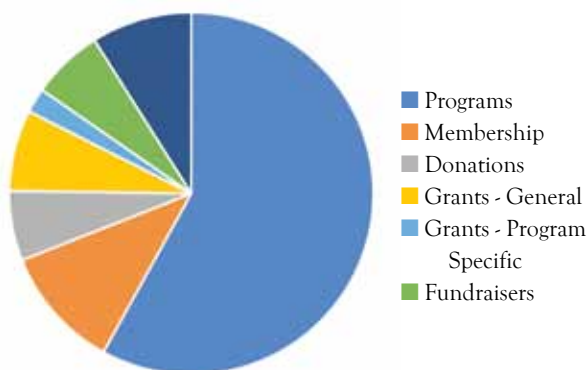


FINANCIALS *January 1 - December 31, 2017*

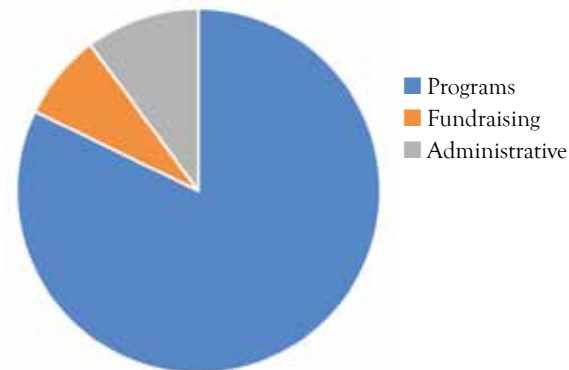
In keeping with the mission of the Art League, the largest components of our 2017 income and expense went to programming, which, combined with memberships, accounted for 74% of income and 82% of expense. Program income for 2017 exceeded budget by 20% while the increase in expense was held to 11%. For the same period, assets grew by 15%, in part due to the addition of the balance of the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore Building the Arts Fund transferred to the Endowment Fund at CFES.

In addition to program income, the Art League continues to enjoy multiple streams of income, and we are grateful for the support of so many individuals and corporate partners in our community as well as our grant funders: Maryland State Arts Council, Worcester County, Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, Town of Ocean City, Worcester County Arts Council, Staples, Humphrey Foundation, and Keep Maryland Beautiful.

INCOME



EXPENSES



HOW TO SUPPORT US

- Donate to our annual appeal online at artleagueofoceancity.org/donate with a credit card. Or donate by phone or mail.
- Become a member or a corporate partner, or volunteer your time and skills.
- Donate a needed item for programming, a reception, or special event.
- Purchase a clay paver in our courtyard to honor a loved one and send a special message.
- Sponsor an exhibit or the Sand Castle Home Tour, provide a grant for tuition or scholarships, or donate prizes for our Artists Paint OC plein air event.
- Honor people or events 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 CFES. Please make your intentions known to us and become a member of our new Legacy Partners.

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ART LEAGUE OF OCEAN CITY MISSION

To promote artistic expression and appreciation for the creative arts in our community.

CORE VALUES

RESPECT: We will treat everyone with respect, encourage different points of view, welcome new ideas in a non-judgmental way, promote diversity, and provide equal access to the arts for everyone in our community.

INTEGRITY: We will operate our business with the highest integrity and be fully transparent in our operations and ethical in our decisions.

CREATIVITY: We will promote creativity and an appreciation of art through innovative and collaborative educational programming and a strong diversity of exhibits.

EXCELLENCE: We will endeavor to always perform with excellence and be dedicated stewards of the quality programming we offer.

EMPOWERMENT: We will campaign for the empowerment of everyone we touch and nurture self esteem and self expression.

The Art League of Ocean City is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. A copy of our current financial statement is available upon request by contacting the Art League of Ocean City at PO 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.