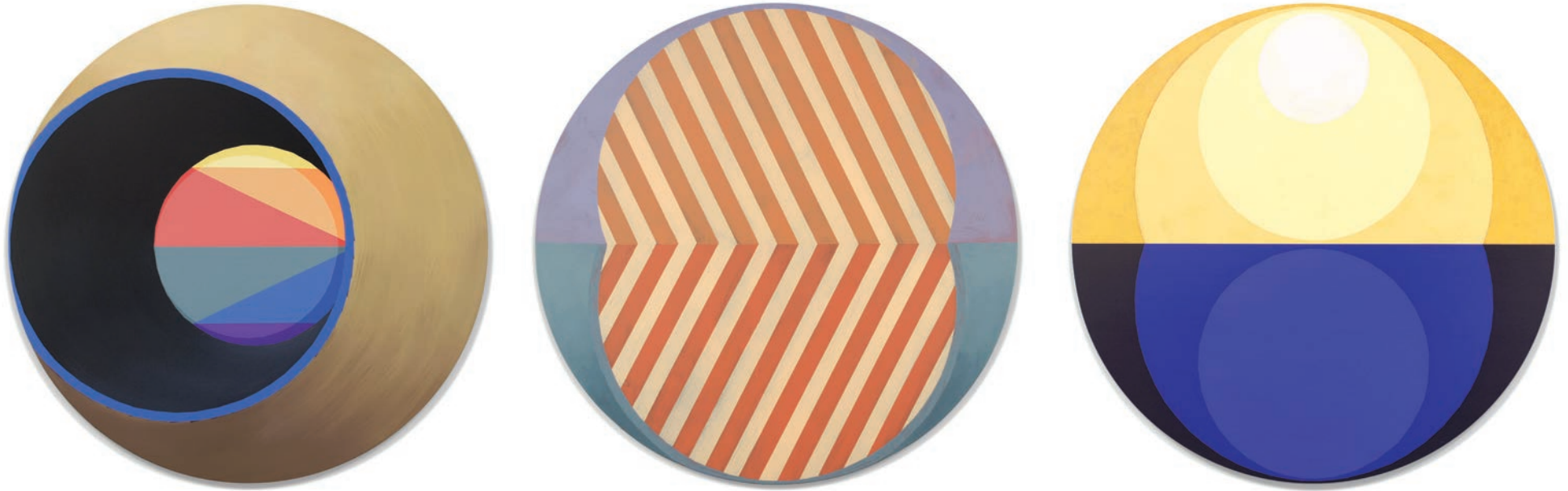


# ART SPARKS IDEAS



ANNUAL REPORT 2018 - 2019

ART LEAGUE OF OCEAN CITY  
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

It has been an amazing year at the Ocean City Center for the Arts.

With an expanded mission and a vision that reaches out to a larger and more diverse community, the Art League of Ocean City has indeed become a regional cultural and educational asset.

This report demonstrates just some of the ways we serve. As a former teacher, I am proud of our growing outreach to youth. The new Resident Fellow program is raising our reputation as a magnet for lifetime learning and growth. Our annual Film Festival has gained international recognition, and the Plein Air and ArtX events draw artists and spectators from far and wide.

In an era of partisanship and division, the Ocean City Center for the Arts is a haven for creativity, self expression and personal development, in an atmosphere that draws us together to share our common humanity and love of life.

And we do, indeed, have fun!

All this is made possible by the generosity of our donors and corporate partners, listed later in this publication, a dedicated staff, and an amazing cadre of volunteers.

They deserve our admiration and thanks.

*John Sisson  
President*



UP-AND-COMING artist Ian Postley exhibited his illustrations in Studio E in March as part of our artist-in-residence program.

"ARTISTS PAINT OC" drew 54 artists from seven states to compete in our annual plein air event in August. Barbara Kern-Bush paints on The Boardwalk during the "Quick Draw" competition.



EXPRESSING HIMSELF,  
*Ron Mehrling and other clients of  
the Worcester County Developmental  
Center in Newark enjoyed making  
art in November at the Arts Center.*

MARYLAND FIRST LADY Yumi Hogan  
*visited the Arts Center in August and discussed  
the exhibit with featured artist Ed Brown.*



# BROOKE ROGERS SPARKS A YEAR OF ABSTRACTION

Ocean City native, Salisbury University professor, and working artist Brooke Rogers is the Art League's inaugural Fellow for Contemporary Art and Community Engagement.

Brooke has taught in the art department at SU for more than 20 years, serving as chair from 2009-15. A gifted painter of contemporary art, he has exhibited his imaginative abstract work extensively in the Mid-Atlantic region.

An inspirational teacher, during his Art League Fellowship, Brooke hosted a lecture series on abstract art, curated exhibitions, sparked inspirational bus trips to important museums, and exhibited his own work in the galleries of the Arts Center.

We are proud to announce that this Fellowship will continue in perpetuity as a gift from Laura Jenkins, in honor of her parents, Orem and Harriet Robinson. "Art was a tremendous joy to my parents," Jenkins said. "This fellowship means a lot to me because of the opportunity for growth it provides the Art League and the fine art community."

*Front cover art by Brooke Rogers*





## OUR IMPRESSIVE FACTS & FIGURES

### 122,260 VISITORS

have come through the doors of the Ocean City Center for the Arts since it opened in 2013.

### 1,094 MEMBERS

individuals and corporate partners, enjoy the benefits of Art League membership.

### 5,326 REGISTRATIONS

for art classes by students took place at the Arts Center in 2018 and 2019.

### 1,052 CLASSES

in painting, pottery, glass, mixed media, photography, and personal enrichment were held at the Arts Center in 2018 and 2019.

### 59 SCHOLARSHIPS

have been awarded by the Art League since 1991 to students pursuing a college degree in the arts.

### 14,071 VOLUNTEER HOURS

were given by 663 dedicated volunteers to the Art League in 2018 and 2019.

### 511 DONORS

generously supported the Art League and our programs with contributions — both large and small — this year.

#### THE EMPTY BOWL PROJECT

*sparked awareness about hunger issues and raised funds for Diakonia. In March, Trinity Davis enjoyed eating soup donated by local restaurants from a bowl she made herself.*



*ART IS FUN for the Brushes & Bubbly class (center) at the Arts Center, bringing friends, food and adult beverages together. And for Girl Scout Ruby Freeland of Annapolis (below) who painted a bench at the Arts Center to remind locals and visitors to treasure the environment.*

#### 1,200 WORCESTER COUNTY STUDENTS

*enjoyed a free performance of Catapult in October. For the second year, the Art League brought a national art-inspired touring company to the stage at the Ocean City Performing Arts Center. Sunday's public performance was a complete sellout. Monday's show was free for the students.*



*166 CHILDREN attended the Summer Art Adventure Camp at the Arts Center in July, getting hands-on play with new art techniques and ideas. The annual camp is presented in partnership with the Ocean City Recreation & Parks Department.*



# THE ARTS CENTER SPARKS HANDS-ON, ALL-AGES EXPERIENCES

Sophia Smith, age 16, a student at James Bennett High School in Salisbury, created an inspirational video for October's RISE exhibition at the Arts Center. Berlin artist Deborah Rolig once again curated the third annual show devoted to women, sponsored in part by the Women's Fund of the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore.

The building-wide exhibition empowered women through art, emphasizing women overcoming adversity, and incorporated all facets of visual art and conceptual art forms, including a book of prose and poetry by the Seaside Scribes, *Women Writing, Women Rising*, curated by Kathleen Martens. The month culminated with the SHERo Awards, honoring women who rose above adversity, nominated by the community.



The annual SHERo Awards, part of the RISE show, honored seven women who had risen above adversity and turned that around into something positive. Left to right - front row: Art League executive director Rina Thaler, SHERo winners Marie Gilmore, Dianne Shearon, and Pamela Greer Buckley. Back row: Amy Wood, Chrissy Ehrhart, Brittney Herz Glenn, Ocean City Council secretary Mary Knight, and RISE show curator Deborah Rolig. Not shown: Robin Cook.





## OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS HELP THE MAGIC HAPPEN

As a nonprofit organization, the Art League depends on its dedicated crew of volunteers to lend a helping hand at events and openings. We salute their service to the arts!



*Pete and Kathy Gibson enjoy the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at the Arts Center in June.*



*Bruce Campbell volunteers as the official greeter, welcoming guests to the Arts Center during First Fridays and special events.*



*At 92, Bebe Antonini is one of the Art League's most active volunteers, staffing the Home Tour, addressing mailings, and greeting the public at the Art Center's front desk.*

## 3RD ANNUAL OCEAN CITY FILM FESTIVAL

*soared in March as filmmakers and film lovers mingled to view 100+ films plus pack the OC Performing Arts Center for the local premiere of "The Biggest Little Farm." The film's producer and director, Erica Messer and John Chester, celebrate with Gwendolyn Lehman, the teacher who inspired them from Stephen Decatur High School.*



## SCHOOL OUTREACH

*is a weekly program of the Art League. The Berlin mural was created at Buckingham Elementary School as part of their outdoor classroom.*



*INSPIRING YOUNG ARTISTS is a goal of the Art League, offering many opportunities to show their work, including the annual Shirley Hall Memorial Youth Art Show. Serap Aksu of Stephen Decatur High School won Best in Show in April's Anime/Manga art show.*



*SCHOLARSHIP winners Debrina Rolley of Snow Hill, Colleen Shanahan of Berlin, and Sarah Hancock of Ocean City are among the eight art students receiving \$1,000 in 2019 from the Art League. Not shown: Trent Carpenter, Trevor Hayes, Kendal Snyder, Elle Bargar, Kate Carpenter.*

*FORMER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT Michelle Galello, now an art teacher in Worcester County, looks on as a young artist paints during ArtX. The Art League partnered with the Town of Ocean City to bring this outdoor art and music event to Northside Park in August.*



## OUR SETTING IS A PERFECT SPARK FOR ART



The Art League of Ocean City celebrates and seeks to inspire all ages and skill levels. Student art shows, including the annual Anime/Manga exhibit, honor the work of up-and-coming artists and encourage them to hone their skills. Zach Davis, Art League member and student at Salisbury University, displays his bronze sculpture on the grounds of the Ocean City Center for Arts.

The Art League also reaches out to bring art to the community beyond our walls, co-sponsoring the new ArtX Festival at Northside Park and - for the fourth year - bringing the best in independent cinema to the resort during the annual Ocean City Film Festival in March.

Zach Davis  
"Ecozoic"  
Cast Bronze, Cast Iron,  
Acrylic on Plexiglass  
2019



## OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS

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

**RENOIR - \$1,500**  
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Delaware Elevator  
Dough Roller Restaurants  
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Mancini's Brick Oven Pizzeria  
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### LEGACY PARTNERS

join our staff in Berlin to celebrate the arts. Coming together are John Sisson, Marian Bickerstaff, Barbara Patrick, Karen and Spicer Bell, Lyn Burr, Georgette Greason, Brooke and Dawn Rogers. Not pictured: Laura Jenkins, Jon and Judy Tremellen, and Rina and Jeff Thaler.

### MACKY & PAM STANSELL

*go over and above  
to support Art  
League programs  
with their generous  
and ongoing  
Picasso-level  
Corporate  
Partnership.*



**THE SAND CASTLE HOME TOUR'S 15th year** is celebrated by Gloria Merryman and Cindi Wilde as they don their blue booties.



**"PARTY OF THE YEAR"** committee put on an art-filled extra-vaganza. Georgette Greason, Cheryl Taustin, Sandy Gillis, Eileen Stamnas, Rebecca Galyon, Virginia Pappas, Jamie Albright, Jan Perdue, Jennifer Klepper, and Rina Thaler. Not pictured: Cindy Leiner, Nadine Wieder, Kari Berger, Loretta Spinuzza, and Gayle Widdowson.



## ARTISTS SPARK THE FUN AT OUR EVENTS



Who else but the Art League would ramp up the fun by posing a live “David” at their annual “pARTy of the Year” fundraiser at The Aloft Hotel in September? Kathy Denk painted Drew Berke to mimic Michelangelo’s marble sculpture in Florence. The fun continued for Sylvia Moritz, celebrating with Rina Thaler, who won a raffle for a trip for two to see the original David in Italy.



## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I write this, I am amazed at how much we have accomplished that impacts lives through art, because of the generous support of our members, donors, and sponsors.

Our annual report is titled "Art Sparks Ideas," and the Ocean City Center for the Arts has become a regional catalyst for ideas that inspire people of all ages. Our classes, lectures, exhibits, performances, and events sparked a new level of creativity and continue to make this area a better place to live, work, and visit.

I am particularly proud of our inaugural art fellowship program. Professor Brooke Rogers brings an expanded level of curatorial oversight, a wealth of knowledge about abstract art that he shared in his lecture series, and a connection to the art faculty and student body of Salisbury University that allowed us to develop new connections. Through a generous endowment by Laura Jenkins, the fellowship will be renamed the Orem and Harriet Robinson Memorial Fellowship, and we will continue that valuable program in perpetuity.

As a grassroots community-based arts organization, each and every individual who took a class, attended an event, volunteered their time, or made a donation is critical to our success and will help to ensure that we continue to keep our facility open daily so that we may serve the community through art.

On behalf of our dedicated board and hard-working staff, I thank you for your support, and look forward to another great year for the Art League of Ocean City.

*Rina Thaler*  
*Executive Director*



## OUR DONORS & GRANT FUNDERS SPARK PHILANTHROPY

*July 1, 2018 - September 30, 2019*

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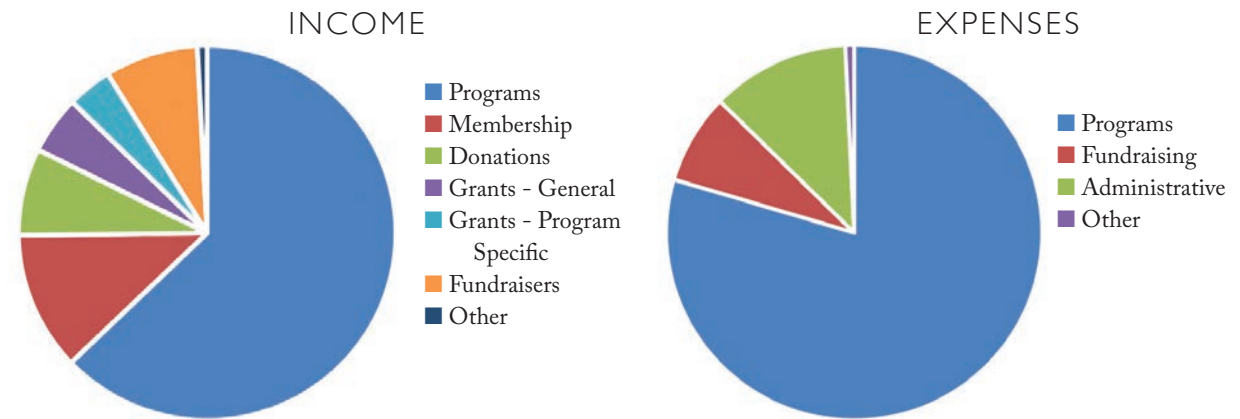
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## FINANCIALS January 1 - December 31, 2018

In keeping with the mission of the Art League, the largest components of our 2018 income and expense went to programming, which, combined with memberships, accounted for 75% of income and 80% of expense. Grants comprised 9% of our income, donations 8%, and fundraisers 8%. Administrative expense was kept to 12% of total expense, with fundraising at 8% of expense.

Investments continue to be held in our endowed and non-endowed funds at the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore.

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, Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, Town of Ocean City, Worcester County Arts Council, Staples, Humphreys Foundation, Coastal Association of Realtors, and the Women's Fund of the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore.



## HOW TO SUPPORT US

- Donate to our annual appeal online at [ArtLeagueOfOceanCity.org/donate](http://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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CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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## ART LEAGUE OF OCEAN CITY

### MISSION

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

### VISION

To be a cultural center and regional catalyst, inspiring creativity, providing accessibility to and promoting an understanding of the value of the arts.

### 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.

## ART LEAGUE STAFF

Rina Thaler, *Executive Director*  
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*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.*