

CONTACT:

Rina Thaler

Art League of Ocean City

Ocean City Center for the Arts

410-524-9433

rthaler@artleagueofoceancity.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ART LEAGUE OF OCEAN CITY OFFERS FREE ART CLASSES
FOR YOUTH THANKS TO EMERGENCY CFES GRANT**

OCEAN CITY, MD — *April 25, 2020* – The Art League of Ocean City is providing a series of free online art classes specially designed for youth who are learning from home. The free classes are funded in part by an emergency grant from the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore.

“It is vitally important that we keep area students engaged in creative learning while schools are closed and classes go online,” Rina Thaler, executive director of the Art League, said. “We thank the Community Foundation for their vision in helping us fund free online art classes so these students can continue to learn from home.

“While this grant funds our free classes for now, every bit of support we receive would help us continue to offer art classes at no charge,” Thaler continued. “Please consider donating to our COVID-19 Emergency Operating Fund on our website.”

Every week starts off with a free “Monday Storytime” where a member of the community reads a children’s story on the Art League’s Facebook page. Each story will be accompanied by a craft project that relates to it using commonly found objects. Storytime premieres at 10 a.m. every Monday and is available on Facebook all day.

On Friday, May 1, fine art painter Ryan Vai will teach a free online class for teens 13-18 on “Spiral Drawing.”

On Wednesday and Thursday, May 6-7, Ash’iz Cuffee will instruct a free class for teens ages 13-18 called “Expressing Your Voice through Spoken Word Poetry.” Cuffee has been a teacher for 15 years and is a certified Child Development Associate. “I think we all can remember our awkward days of youth, trying to find our voice and where we seem to fit within this massive puzzle we call life,” Cuffee said. “We have an opportunity to gift them with a more productive way of traveling their journey of self-expression and awareness.” This class is limited to the first 15 students to sign up. Students must have the Zoom app and preregister at <https://reg131.imperisoft.com/ArtLeagueOfOceanCity/ProgramDetail/3530323434/Registration.aspx>

Every Friday, Lindsey Winters, art teacher at Showell Elementary School, will offer free online classes from 1-1:45 p.m. for children 6-12 years old. This class is limited to the first 12 students to sign up. Students must have the Zoom app and preregister at <https://reg131.imperisoft.com/ArtLeagueOfOceanCity/ProgramDetail/3530323032/Registration.aspx>

Also on Fridays, the Art League’s Facebook page posts a new and creative activity that children can do at home with materials they find around the house.

The Art League of Ocean City is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing the visual arts to the community through education, exhibits, scholarship, programs and community art projects.

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Elaine Bean
Marketing & Communications Director
cell 443-944-3398

