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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Art League of Ocean City welcomes new Board of Directors with five new members for 2022

OCEAN CITY, MD — Jan. 25, 2022 — The Art League of Ocean City announces their Board of Directors for 2022 and welcomes five new members: Don Lehman, Crystal Collins, Virginia Outten, Brooke Rogers, and Al “Hondo” Handy.

John Sisson continues as board president; Marian Bickerstaff as past president; Barbara Patrick as 1st vice president; Laura Jenkins as 2nd vice president; and Jan Perdue as corresponding secretary. Hilari Auxer serves as treasurer; and Ryan Wilde as recording secretary.

Returning to the board are Courtney Blackford, Rafael Correa, Amy Rothermel, and Emily Schwab.

Don Lehman of Ocean Pines came to the Shore while doing Artist-in-Residence work at local schools for the Maryland State Arts Council. He is a retired commercial photographer, teacher, and partner in a marketing business. “The Ocean City Center for the Arts is a dynamic and essential part of our community,” he said. “I believe in the value of the arts. In the years I have spent volunteering at the Arts Center, I have enjoyed working with other volunteers and the dedicated staff. I look forward to doing whatever I can to

promote the continued success of the Art League as a volunteer and board member.”

Al "Hondo" Handy is recently retired after 39 years as Recreation Manager for Ocean City Rec & Parks. He presently serves as the Mid-Atlantic Regional Representative for the National Alliance for Youth Sports and is writing a book about growing up on the Eastern Shore, called “Defying Expectations.” “I decided to join the board after being encourage by Rina Thaler,” he said. “She reminded me that I reached out to her to help with the first Art Camp in Ocean City. I have always had a good feeling about art and have been around art all of my life. This was a good way to give a little back to Ocean City.”

Crystal Collins of Ocean Pines is a graduate of SUNY Ulster in Stone Ridge, NY and currently serves on the board of the John Brune Law Enforcement K9 Foundation as well as a Media Advertising Executive with WBOC. “I would like an opportunity to do more to serve the community that I live in,” she said, “gain additional board and planning experience in the nonprofit sector, support the growth of other artists, as well as inspire my own artistic expressions and be an example to my children of personal and professional development.”

Virginia “Ginny” Outten is a resident of Bishopville and a graduate of Drexel University and holds an Associate Actuary Degree. She is a member of Association of Legal Administrators and president of the Dunes Club of Maryland. “I appreciate that the Art League provides a cultural center for artists and students and that it embraces diversity and inclusion,” she said. “The arts are very important to our cultural heritage. I’ve watched the Art League expand its programs and outreach to a large segment of our community. I’d like to contribute towards those efforts.”

Brooke Rogers of Ocean City is a graduate of Stephen Decatur High School and the Maryland Institute College of Art and is currently Professor of Art at Salisbury University. He was previously the Orem & Harriet Robinson Fellow for Contemporary Art and Community Engagement at the Art League. “What interests me about the Art League mission is what has occupied me for the past 25 years in my professional life,” he said. “I am committed to utilizing all of

my gifts and abilities to support the arts and artists and to contribute to the life and community of my home town, Ocean City.”

The Art League of Ocean City is a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing the visual arts to the community through education, exhibits, scholarship, programs and community art projects. Funding for this event is in part provided by the Worcester County Arts Council, Maryland State Arts Council and the National Endowment of the Arts, organizations dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive.

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EDITORS: Headshots of new board members attached.









