

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 to present “heART Awards 2022” at
annual luncheon at Fager’s Island on Dec. 8**

OCEAN CITY, MD — *Nov. 28, 2022* — The Art League of Ocean City will present the “heART Awards 2022 ” to two outstanding recipients at their annual holiday luncheon and meeting on Thursday, Dec. 8, at Fager’s Island. In addition to the awards presentation, the luncheon will honor the members, volunteers, and supporters of the Art League.

The Art League will present the “heART Award” to Glenn Irwin, Executive Director of the Ocean City Development Corp., and Yumi Hogan, working artist and Maryland’s First Lady. The “heART Awards” honor those who have had a significant impact on the arts in Ocean City.

Glenn Irwin is the leader of Downtown Ocean City, working for more than two decades to revitalize and develop the downtown area. He recognized early on the importance of art in the community and created the Public Art Program that sponsors large and small projects throughout the resort, including the artistic painting of numerous utility boxes. Born in Long Island, NY, Irwin attended Rowan University and Florida Atlantic University, and began his career as a development planner in South Florida. Twenty years ago, scattered development was happening across Ocean City, and city leaders wanted to create a nonprofit organization that would follow design guidelines. Irwin’s OCDC was

created, and, since 2002, he has directed the facelift of more than 250 downtown buildings.

Yumi Hogan, a native of South Korea, is currently Maryland's First Lady. She received her BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art and her MFA from American University. Hogan has had more than 14 solo exhibitions, including one at the Ocean City Center for the Arts in 2017, and was part of a group show at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C. During husband Governor Larry Hogan's cancer treatments, the First Lady befriended many pediatric cancer patients and their families. It was during these interactions that she was first introduced to the positive effects of art as a therapeutic activity for child patients, and in many cases, for their family members, to better cope with the emotional stress and trauma often brought on by a cancer diagnosis. Hogan's "Yumi Cares" nonprofit organization focuses on children's art for recovery, empowerment, and strength.

Reservations for the Art League luncheon at Fager's Island are still available by calling 410-524-9433.

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.

###

Elaine Bean
Art League of Ocean City
Publicity & Marketing Director
elaine@artleagueofoceancity.org
cell 443-944-3398