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 ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 2024 MANGA & ANIME YOUTH ART CONTEST

OCEAN CITY, MD — Apr. 22, 2024 — The Art League of Ocean announces the winners of their annual Manga & Anime Youth Art Show. The art show was open to all middle, high school, and college students, and homeschoolers regardless of residency.

The entered artwork was on display as part of the Art League's monthly First Friday opening on April 5 and remained on exhibit through the weekend.

Manga and Anime styles of animation originated in Japan and are characterized by stark, colorful graphics depicting fantastic or futuristic themes. The Art League developed this exhibit to promote creativity among students outside formal art programs and to increase community awareness of the Manga and Anime art form.

Collin Byrd, Elvin Hernandez, and Brad Hudson, professors of art from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, judged the show and awarded cash prizes based on creativity, originality, and artistic merit. The \$500 in cash prizes was sponsored by Art League President John Sisson, and James Dufendach of Ocean City Comic Con awarded swag and merchandise to the winners.

The Best in Show award went to Jordyn Welch, Wicomico High School.

The middle school winners are: First place, Keisi Townsend, Snow Hill Middle School. Second place, Levi Phillips, Worcester Prep. Third place, Bella Burgett, Magnolia High School. Honorable mention, Carlos Espinoza, Easton Middle School.

The high school winners are: First place, Alexia Shepherd, Pocomoke High School. Second place, Katie Quintiliano, Charles J. Colgan High School. Third place, Harmony Carter, Crisfield High School. Honorable mention, Ian Johnson, Crisfield High School.

The college winners, all students at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, are: First place, Matthew Pattison. Second place, Diontraye Bratter. Third place, Torrence Coffin. Honorable mention, Ava Hudson.

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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EDITORS: Photos attached. IDs in file names.

Anime Winners L to R: Katie Joyce, Gallery Director, Art League of Ocean City; Keisi Townsend, Snow Hill Middle School; Jordyn Welch, Wicomico High School; Diontraye Bratten, Post High School, Snow Hill; Alexia Shepherd, Pocomoke High School; unknown student, Ian Johnson, Crisfield High School.

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













