

CONTACT:

Rina Thaler

Art League of Ocean City

Ocean City Center for the Arts

410-524-9433

[rthaler@artleagueofoceancity.org](mailto:rthaler@artleagueofoceancity.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ART LEAGUE OF OCEAN CITY WELCOMES NEW FELLOW  
FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION**

OCEAN CITY, MD — *July 2, 2024* — The Art League of Ocean City welcomes Collin Byrd of Salisbury, Maryland as their new Fellow for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Byrd is assistant professor of art at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore where he teaches graphic illustration and animation. He was formerly professor of animation at the Savannah School of Art and Design, his alma mater, where he received his Master’s Degree. He also works as a cartoonist for Skipperwing Productions. Byrd constantly experiments with the limits of artistic digital creation tools from 3D printing to interactive comic art.

Byrd will work with the Art League staff to construct activities and events that stimulate conversation around diversity in the community and help to encourage inclusivity. “As an African-American artist, I keep my finger on the pulse cultural zeitgeist and social issues,” he said. “As a fellowship artist, my goal is to broaden the perspectives of the greater Ocean City community partially to raise awareness of social issues, partially to introduce the community to alternative forms of artistic creation, and partially to introduce financially available methods of creating readily distributable art.”

The Art League’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Fellowship creates an organizational culture that aligns with the nonprofit’s core values of respect, integrity, creativity, excellence, and empowerment. Working with the Executive Director, Byrd will develop new programs for otherwise under-represented communities. These classes, workshops, and events give everyone an opportunity to participate in what the Art League has to offer.

*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. Financial support comes primarily through membership dues from individuals and corporate sponsors.*

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EDITORS: Photo of Byrd attached at Arts Day in the Pines 2024

Elaine Bean  
Art League of Ocean City  
Marketing & Publicity Director  
[elaine@artleagueofoceancity.org](mailto:elaine@artleagueofoceancity.org)  
443-944-3398 mobile



