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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Art League of Ocean City welcomes Board of Directors 2025

OCEAN CITY, MD — Dec. 16, 2024 — The Art League of Ocean City announces their Board of Directors for 2025 with a new president and three new members joining the volunteer board. The board was sworn in at the Art League’s annual Holiday Luncheon & Meeting on Dec. 12, 2024 at Saltwater 75.

“We welcome our new president and board members and look forward to the new ideas they will bring to the table,” Rina Thaler, the Art League’s Executive Director, said. “We also thank our long-serving board members who have devoted so much of their time and talents to our cause. We send a special thank you to outgoing president John Sisson, who led with honor and distinction for the past six years.”

Crystal Collins is the new president. Born on the Shore, she was raised in upstate New York near Woodstock, spending summers in Ocean City. After her children were born, Collins moved back to the area and is a Media Advertising Executive at WBOC Draper Holdings. She resides in Ocean Pines and is also a working artist, painting in acrylics on canvas.

“I like to say I’m an ideas person,” Collins said. “The late Tom Draper always said, ‘We have a moral obligation to serve Delmarva.’ I have completely taken that piece of advice to heart and try my best to help come up with ideas and be supportive of the people and businesses I

work with. Art matters because it is the expression of someone's feelings, their time, and creativity. The Art League is such a powerful vehicle for personal empowerment, and my goal is to empower everyone we connect with towards their own self-fulfillment."

Sisson continues on the board as past president. Courtney Blackford becomes 1st vice president; David Keil, 2nd vice president; Jan Perdue, corresponding secretary, Ryan Wilde, recording secretary, and Amy Rothermel, treasurer.

Returning to the board are Al "Hondo" Handy, Virginia "Ginny" Outten, Marian Bickerstaff, Barbara Patrick, Ian Postley, Heather Ross, and Patricia Selig.

New board members are Eric Stewart, Susan Deller, and Jocelyn Briddell.

Eric Stewart joins the board after serving on the Art League's Publicity Committee. Stewart is Deputy Chief of Staff to the President of Salisbury University, serving as the senior communications official for the President and the Cabinet. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Maryland College Park. "I am drawn to the Art League because I value creativity as a vital aspect of community, connection, and growth," Stewart said.

Susan Deller is a pottery studio owner from Selbyville who retired to creating and teaching art after a career in sales and marketing. She volunteers extensively including teaching art classes at Brandywine Living in Fenwick. "I would love to help support and promote art appreciation in our community, and I would hope that my career experiences could help within a board position for the Art League in numerous ways," she said.

Jocelyn Briddell has more than 40 years of academic and fundraising experience as Development Officer at Salisbury University, Assistant Director of the Richard A. Henson Honors Program at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and Dean of Students at Rutgers University, Douglas College. “I have long admired the impactful work that the Art League has done, and I aspire to contribute to this vibrant community,” she said.

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. Funding 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:

Photo attached of 2025 board of directors.

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