

**JANUARY FIRST FRIDAY AT OCEAN CITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
FEATURES 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL COLLABORATION  
BETWEEN ARTISTS AND WRITERS**

OCEAN CITY, MD —*Dec. 22, 2025* — First Friday, Jan. 2, 2026, celebrates a collaboration between visual artists and writers during the 13<sup>th</sup> annual “Shared Visions” exhibit at the Ocean City Center for the Arts. All are welcome to the free event that runs from 5-7 p.m., and complimentary refreshments will be served.

“Shared Visions” is a collaboration of the literary word and the visual arts. The exhibition features local writers and artist members of the Art League of Ocean City. This year, the writers submitted poems and short prose they had authored, and the artists created works to illustrate their words. The writings will be displayed alongside the paintings, photography, fiber art, and mixed media artwork.

“This is the 13th year for the collaboration,” Rina Thaler, executive director of the Art League, said. “It is an inspired coming-together of words and images and demonstrates the different forms of self-expression.”

On Tuesday, Jan. 20 from 6-8 p.m., the writers will read their poetry and prose during a free event at the Arts Center, and the public is invited. Guests will enjoy complimentary refreshments.

In January, the Sisson Galleria will feature an exhibit entitled “My Happy Place,” an all-media group show where the artists share the scenes, spaces, and experiences that make them smile. David Hollander will judge the show, and the Art League will award cash prizes to the winners.

Maria Sallese is the artist-in-residence in Studio E in January. A 3D artist, Sallese works in mixed materials of metal, paint, foam, and plywood. “Every surface has a part that contains something 3D or some use of negative space creating an inviting and scenic space for viewers to partake in,” she said.

Joyce Rose is the Schwab Spotlight Gallery artist for January. A self-taught painter, she uses acrylic paint to showcase her love of nature. “Local landscapes inspire me and take me down the path of enchantment,” she said.

Maurice Sevigny occupies the Artisan Showcase in January. Sevigny is an accomplished mixed media artist and a one-of-a kind jewelry designer. “My current body of work has been inspired by extensive exotic travel and collection of beading materials from around the world,” he said.

The Art League's satellite galleries also open new shows on First Friday. Carol Bell exhibits her nature-inspired photographic work in the lobby of the Princess Royale Hotel at 9110 Coastal Hwy.

Kristin Mallery Hooks is the artist-in-residence at the Coffee Beanery at 94<sup>th</sup> St. and Coastal Hwy. Known for her "Hearts Happen" photographs of found hearts, she said, "No hearts are set up, altered or injured in the making ..."

Arts Center exhibits run through Jan. 31. Satellite gallery exhibits continue through March 28.

The Ocean City Center for the Arts at 502 94<sup>th</sup> St. is open daily until 4 p.m., and admission is free. More information is available at [OCart.org](http://OCart.org) or by calling 410-524-9433.