# MARYLAND ARTS DAY

**FEBRUARY 16, 2023**
**VIRTUAL**
**#MDARTSDAY2023**

MCA
maryland citizens for the arts

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MARYLAND ARTS DAY

**9:00AM**

## OPENING REMARKS AND GREETINGS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

**Hosted by Nicholas Cohen, Executive Director, MCA**
Dawn Moore, First Lady
The Honorable Brooke E. Lierman, Maryland Comptroller
Kevin Anderson, Secretary of Commerce
Senate President, Bill Ferguson
The Honorable Marc Korman, House Majority Leader
The Honorable Sarah Elfreth, Maryland Senate

**9:30AM**

## SUE HESS LEGACY MARYLAND ARTS ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD PRESENTATION

**Presented by Terri Allen, Sue Hess Nomination Committee, MCA Trustee**
Named in honor of the late Sue Hess, the first MCA Board Chair and longest-serving Trustee, this award recognizes individuals and organizations whose efforts significantly increase support for and public recognition of the arts in Maryland.

**2023 Recipient**
**Rina Thaler, Executive Director, Art League of Ocean City**

**9:45AM**

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**Maggie Villegas, Executive Director, Baltimore Creatives Acceleration Network**

**10:15AM**

## BUDGET REALITIES AND LEGISLATIVE TALKING POINTS

Marva Jo Camp Esq., Vice Chair, Board of Trustees, MCA
Nicholas Cohen, Executive Director, MCA

**10:30AM**

## COUNTY DELEGATION COORDINATION

Virtual Delegation Rooms are breakout rooms within the Zoom Meeting.

**11:00AM**

## LEGISLATIVE VISITS

Lawmakers Arrive in Virtual Delegation Rooms

# SUE HESS LEGACY AWARD

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## RINA THALER

### Executive Director
### Art League of Ocean City

Rina Thaler is the executive director of the Art League of Ocean City, a nonprofit community arts organization established in 1963 in Ocean City, MD. In 2010, after over a decade of serving on the Board, including five years as Board President, Thaler spearheaded a public/private campaign to build the Ocean City Center for the Arts. It is the largest facility in Worcester County dedicated solely to providing year-round opportunities for artistic expression and appreciation for the visual and creative arts in the community. She was appointed the first Executive Director of the organization in 2013.

Through her dynamic leadership, the Art League has grown from a small grassroots organization into a beloved regional arts institution providing unmatched access to the arts. The Center for the Arts has been visited by over 151,000 people since its opening and has served over one million people worldwide - through community opportunities and online events.

Thaler's sheer determination to bring art and culture to an area thought of as simply a "vacation town" has stimulated the growth of what is now a vibrant arts community. Her personal mission: to design and implement innovative and collaborative programs that advocate for social change and address pervasive social issues on the Lower Eastern Shore, including diversity, poverty, addiction, animal welfare, and mental health through art.

Previous awards for Thaler's arts advocacy efforts include the 2015 Henson Award from the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore to the Art League of Ocean City, the 2017 Worcester County Commission Woman of the Year Award, and the 2019 Distinguished Women of Ocean City Award from the Ocean City Chamber of Commerce.

Thaler served on the Ocean City Arts Advisory Board, which established the 1,200 seat OC Performing Arts Center, the only theater of its kind on the Lower Eastern Shore. In addition, She has also served on state-wide panels and committees for the Maryland State Arts Council, MD Citizens for the Arts, and Governor Hogan's Maryland Arts Recovery Task Force during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A working artist herself, Thaler is known for her contemporary water media paintings. She is a founding partner at Gallery One in Ocean View, DE. She is the proud mother of Brandon Thaler and DC-based theater artist Chelsea Thaler. Rina has resided with her husband Jeff in Ocean City since 1980, where they have been actively involved in the local business community for over 40 years. In honor of the couple's hard work and generosity, the Thaler Gallery at the Ocean City Center for the Arts was named in their honor.

Art League of Ocean City website: artleagueofoceancity.org
Rina Thaler's artist website: rinathaler.com

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

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## MAGGIE VILLEGAS

### Executive Director, Baltimore Creatives Acceleration Network

Maggie Villegas is a Baltimore-based creative producer and launched the Baltimore Creatives Acceleration Network in Fall of 2017. Prior to her role at BCAN, Maggie spearheaded community-driven arts initiatives throughout the City of Baltimore on behalf of the Baltimore Office of Promotion and The Arts, including the creation of signature programs such as the Art@Work mural artist apprenticeship program in partnership with Jubilee Arts, the Neighborhood Lights public artist residency of Light City, and the Lots Alive vacant lot activation program developed in collaboration with the Office of Sustainability. She led the revival of the Baltimore Mural Program as well as the investment of over $300,000 in public art projects. Her 2015 retrospective on the 40-year history of the Baltimore Mural Program, *Beautiful Walls for Baltimore*, was named “Best History Lesson” by the *Baltimore City Paper* in 2016.

In 2009, she co-founded the nonprofit arts incubator, EMP Collective, and served as its first Director until 2014. During her tenure, EMP served as a platform for over 60 multidisciplinary and experimental visual, performance, and literary art projects annually and was recognized by the *Baltimore City Paper* as “Best Collective” in 2012 and “Best Multi-Use Art Space” in 2014.

Maggie has served as a Baltimore facilitator for Artists U where she coached artists through developing their personal strategic plans, as Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Bromo Arts District, as an organizer for Artists for Truth, and ran her own independent practice as an international stage and production manager for clients in opera, theatre, dance, and special events. Maggie was named a Young Cultural Innovator in 2017 by the Salzburg Global Seminar and is a graduate of the 2019 GBC Leadership program.

When she’s not working toward the economic empowerment of Baltimore’s creatives at BCAN, Maggie mentors emerging Latina entrepreneurs with Empowered Women International and serves as a trustee of the Baltimore chapter of the Awesome Foundation and Live Baltimore.

# THANK YOU

MARYLAND ARTS DAY

## MCA SUPPORTERS

William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios

MSAC maryland state arts council

WT WHITING-TURNER

### STATEWIDE FUNDERS FOR THE ARTS

The **Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC)** is an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive. Funding for MSAC is also provided by the NEA, a federal agency, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.

**County Arts Agencies of Maryland (CAAM)** is a nonprofit, statewide assembly of County Arts Councils established to foster, promote and develop skills and articulate the needs of the arts communities in Maryland.

### MARYLAND CITIZENS FOR THE ARTS

**Maryland Citizens for the Arts (MCA)** is a statewide arts advocacy organization, founded in 1977 to represent all Maryland artist and arts organizations. MCA works to increase public recognition and support of the Arts and the role they play in the education of our children and in the quality of life and economic vitality of Maryland. MCA achieves this goal by advocating for the arts across the state and by promoting adequate public funding at the local, state and federal levels.

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Marva Jo Camp, Esq.
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Terri Allen

## MCA STAFF

Nicholas Cohen, Executive Director
Amanda Morell, Deputy Director
Safiyah Cheatam, Program Coordinator
Tracy Stevens, Urban Arts Leadership Fellow

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