

Ocean Alliance holds fundraiser

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Events over Labor Day weekend are highlighted by the fundraising party on Saturday evening, featuring complimentary food and drinks, a series of art installations and performances, and a view of the ongoing Parade of Lights and fireworks from the annual Gloucester Schooner Festival. Artistic involvement will be curated by Matthew Swift, owner of Trident Gallery, and Sarah Slifer Swift, curator of the Trident Live Arts series. The buildings will be open free to the public all weekend long as well.

By Keith Powers / Correspondent

If you go...

WHAT: The Deep Sea Has its Stars, fundraiser

WHERE: Tarr & Wonson Paint Factory, 32 Horton St., Rocky Neck

WHEN: Fundraiser is Saturday, Sept. 3, 7 p.m. Open house Sept. 3 through 5

TICKETS: Open house is free. Fundraiser to benefit restoration of the paint factory complex, with performances, complimentary food and drink, \$100 per person. Visit gloucester.center or call 978-281-2814.

Everyone on Cape Ann has seen the Paint Factory, the weathered red complex that juts out into Gloucester Harbor at the tip of Rocky Neck.

Not many people know what's happening inside.

Ocean Alliance, which purchased the complex in 2008 and has been cleaning and restoring the site, has ambitious plans to install an oceanographic research facility in the massive complex of buildings, and to open parts of the structure to the public for arts presentations and educational outreach.

Part of the restoration is complete, and Ocean Alliance, a non-profit research organization that studies whales and ocean health, has occupied a corner of the space since 2013. Now an effort to restore the remainder of the structure is underway, and Ocean Alliance, teaming up the Gloucester's Trident Gallery, hosts a fundraising party and open house over Labor Day weekend to welcome the public and bring attention to the project.

The Paint Factory, originally built in the 1880s and noted for its groundbreaking advances in protecting ocean-going vessels, was long contaminated because of those advances with large amounts of lead, copper and other heavy metal materials. Almost \$1 million has already been spent restoring the complex, and more funds are needed to complete Ocean Alliance's ambitious goal of creating an advanced scientific station as well as a public space.

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Artistic involvement will be curated by Matthew Swift, owner of Trident Gallery, and Sarah Slifer Swift, curator of the Trident Live Arts series. The buildings will be open free to the public all weekend long as well.

Visual artists on display include Jeff Weaver, Peter Lyons, Susan Erony and Nadine Boughton. Performers include dancers Emily Beattie, Alexandra Berger and Slifer Swift, and musicians Andy Bergman and Kristen Miller.

Complete information about the performances, entitled "The Deep Sea Has its Stars," as well as tickets and scheduling information, is available at **gloucester.center** or by calling 978-281-2814.

Keith Powers covers music and the arts for GateHouse Media and WBUR's ARTery. Follow @PowersKeith; email to keithmichaelpowers@gmail.com

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