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## **ArtsWave Annual Meeting includes announcements on Kahn scholarship and Sachs Fund Prize honorees and more**

**CINCINNATI** (November 2, 2022) – At ArtsWave’s Annual Meeting held yesterday at Hard Rock Casino Cincinnati, Kahn scholarship recipients and Sachs Fund Prize honorees were announced; new officers were elected; and upcoming campaign and other plans were shared.

Through endowed gifts made nearly 100 years ago to the nonprofit engine for the arts, two sets of recognition in the arts, the Kahn Scholarship and the Sachs Fund Prize, have been made possible.

The Lazard and Coralie L. Kahn Arts Scholarship, via the Bertrand B. Kahn Trust, is an annual scholarship used to help individuals in the Cincinnati region pursue a career in the arts. Undergraduate students Garrett Steagall and Courtney Hammons received the scholarships for 2022.

2022 recipients of the Rosa F. and Samuel B. Sachs Fund Prize, a bequest from the late Samuel B. Sachs to honor outstanding artistic accomplishments and contributions to the cultural life of the Cincinnati Region, were announced and awarded to retired long-time artistic Cincinnati Ballet leader Victoria Morgan and to artist, author and arts educator Annie Ruth. ArtsWave President & CEO Alecia Kintner notes, “This is among ArtsWave’s greatest joys: to pay tribute to the impact made on our community by visionary individuals through their work in the arts. Victoria Morgan shaped the Cincinnati Ballet to become the

nationally recognized dance company it is today while also elevating the prominence of contemporary female choreographers. Annie Ruth has used visual art, art education and poetry to change minds and hearts, impacting all of us in Cincinnati with her artistry and commitment to youth education. We thank them both for their many contributions that have brought distinction to our region.”

The annual meeting serves as the forum where new and returning officers are approved and outgoing officers are thanked. Leigh Fox, President & CEO of altafiber was elected as Board Chair of ArtsWave’s Board of Directors. Tony Mathis, President & CEO of GE Edison Works and Debbie Hayes, President & CEO The Christ Hospital Network were appointed as Vice Chairs. Matt Stautberg, CFO of Burtch Works, was appointed Treasurer. Rhonda Whitaker-Hurt, Vice President, Community Relations, Duke Energy, was re-elected for a third year as Secretary.

Six new trustees were elected to the board for their first three-year term: George Goldhoff, President, Hard Rock Casino Cincinnati; Priya Dhingra Klocek, President & CEO, Consultant on the Go; Joe Muraca, Assurance Partner, EY; Reggie Stapes, Partner, Dinsmore; Kelly Wittch, Senior Vice President, Wealth Management, FTB Financial; and Dave Voelker, Senior Vice President, Individual Operations, Ameritas.

Three trustees were re-elected for a second three-year term: Leigh Fox, President & CEO, altafiber; Debbie Hayes, President & CEO, The Christ Hospital Health Network; and Megan Shaffer, Vice President of Retail Operations, Kroger.

Matt Stautberg, Chief Financial Officer, Burtch Works, was elected for a third three-year term.

Outgoing Board Chair James Zimmerman, Partner-in-Charge, Taft Law, was elected for one more year of service.

Four ex-officio trustees were elected: Lauren Hannan Shafer, Board Chair, ArtWorks (representing grants of \$50,000 or more) and Bruce Preston, Board President, Cincinnati Men’s Chorus (representing grants of less than \$50,000). New ex-officio trustees include: Melanie Chavez, Board President, Cincinnati Opera and Jill McGruder, Board Chair, Taft Museum of Art.

Outgoing trustees, Linda Antus and Evans Nwankwo, along with ex-officio trustees George Yund and Matt Heston were thanked. Special recognition was made to outgoing Board Chair, James Zimmerman, for his service in leading the Board. “Throughout the pandemic, James kept the ArtsWave Board focused on helping the arts weather the Covid storm. We thank him and all these leaders for serving as ArtsWave Trustees or stepping up to board leadership beginning now,” said new Board Chair Fox.

“More Arts, More Kids,” a challenge to raise \$1 million for 50,000 arts field trips as part of the 2023 ArtsWave Campaign, was previewed by 2023 ArtsWave Campaign Co-Chair Scott Robertson, and during the meeting, Hard Rock Cincinnati’s President George Goldhoff presented a surprise donation from the corporation of \$25,000 to jumpstart the campaign.

ArtsWave’s Kintner closed the meeting with a five-year plan to commemorate ArtsWave’s centennial in 2027. ArtsWave is the oldest endowed local arts agency in the country, started in 1927 with a public fundraising challenge from Charles and Anna Sinton Taft to create a permanent arts endowment.

For more information on ArtsWave's accomplishments in 2022, please refer to its [2022 Community Report](#). To support the region's arts, please go to [artswave.org/give](https://artswave.org/give).

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**About ArtsWave:**

ArtsWave, a nonprofit serving the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky Region, is the engine for the arts. Its roots stem back to the late 1920s when the Cincinnati Taft family provided initial investment matched by community support. In the late 1940s, it evolved to become the first united arts fund in the nation and in the mid-1970s, the first organization to initiate workplace giving for the arts. ArtsWave continues to innovate while leading, as illustrated by its No. 1 rank nationally in community arts fundraising; coordination of a sector-wide Blueprint for Collective Action; piloting of new technologies to maximize arts engagement; and development of resources for the arts.

Strong funding for the arts has allowed Cincinnati's arts and culture scene to become a national draw and regional asset, creating a wave of economic and community benefits. Each year, ArtsWave supports the work of over 150 arts organizations, school outreach programs, festivals, community centers, neighborhoods and various collaborations through impact-based grants. These grants create thousands of concerts, shows, exhibitions, arts for school children, public art, festivals and events like BLINK®. ArtsWave met its 2022 Campaign goal, raising \$11.5 million for the arts, an amount necessary, given the difficult health and economic crisis that has spanned more than two years. Donations can be made at [artswave.org/give](https://artswave.org/give).

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