



Contact:  
 Kathy DeBrosse  
 Vice President, Marketing & Engagement  
[Kathy.debrosse@artswave.org](mailto:Kathy.debrosse@artswave.org)  
 937.207.3079

### Cincinnati again makes top 20 most arts-vibrant large U.S. cities

Cincinnati (December 16, 2022) – A seminal arts and culture report has once again named the Cincinnati metro as one of the 20 most arts-vibrant large cities (over a million) in the United States. SMU DataArts, a national center for arts research at Southern Methodist University, released the 2022 [Arts Vibrancy Index](#). Cincinnati first emerged in the top ranks of the Index when it was last released in 2020.

The Arts Vibrancy Index examines the level of supply, demand and government support of the arts in more than 900 communities across the country. Cincinnati is one of only four Midwest cities in the top 20.

ArtsWave President & CEO Alecia Kintner notes, “Cincinnati’s placement on the Arts Vibrancy Index speaks to our history of strong citizen support for the arts, as well as the support of the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, both of which stepped up in the wake of the COVID Pandemic.”

Cincinnati joins the following large sized cities:

Top 20 Large Communities	Region	2021 Population
Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown, TX	South	2,352,426
Boston, MA	Northeast	2,028,753
Cambridge-Newton-Framingham, MA*	Northeast	2,421,816
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights, IL*	Midwest	7,159,394
Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN	Midwest	2,259,935
Cleveland-Elyria, OH	Midwest	2,075,662
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO	West	2,972,566
Frederick-Gaithersburg-Rockville, MD	South	1,334,662
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale, CA*	West	9,829,544
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	Midwest	3,690,512
Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin, TN	South	2,012,476
New Orleans-Metairie, LA	South	1,261,726
New York-Jersey City-White Plains, NY-NJ*	Northeast	12,076,970
Newark, NJ-PA*	Northeast	2,273,431
Philadelphia, PA*	Northeast	2,150,100

Top 20 Large Communities	Region	2021 Population
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA	West	2,511,612
Salt Lake City, UT	West	1,263,061
San Francisco-Redwood City-South San Francisco, CA*	West	1,553,089
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett, WA*	West	3,085,845
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV*	South	5,021,772

Each region's Arts Vibrancy Index score is calculated based on three metrics: level of arts providers (supply), arts dollars (demand), and government support for the arts.

Cincinnati's score was positively influenced by arts demand, which places the city in the top 20 on every component and #12 overall — an upward trend compared to 2020. Government support for the arts in the region improved over 2020 thanks to CARES Act and American Rescue Plan funding allocated by the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, both administered by ArtsWave. The region ranks lower relative to its size in supply, at #150 overall. Here is how Cincinnati ranked on each of the three areas that comprise the overall index:

<b>Arts Providers (Supply)</b>		<b>150th</b>
	Independent artists	218th
	Arts and culture employees	57th
	Arts and culture organizations	213th
	Arts, culture & entertainment firms	212th
<b>Arts Dollars (Demand)</b>		<b>12th</b>
	Program revenue	10th
	Contributed revenue	12th
	Total expenses	19th
	Total compensation	11th
<b>Government Support</b>		<b>32nd</b>
	State arts dollars	57th
	State arts grants	182nd
	Federal arts dollars	68th
	Federal arts grants	79th

“Our rankings show a positive growth in vibrancy and relevancy of the Cincinnati region's arts,” says Kintner. “Organized community arts support is a defining characteristic of the region, going back to ArtsWave's founding in 1927. Now, we have an opportunity to nurture new and emerging arts providers to take our arts to the next level.”

The full lists are available on the SMU DataArts [website](#). In addition to the Arts Vibrancy Index, SMU DataArts provides scores for every U.S. county on its interactive [Arts Vibrancy Map](#) on measures of arts dollars, arts providers, government support, socio-economic factors and leisure characteristics.

The Arts Vibrancy Index is based on data from 2021. Its findings help illustrate the critical role of the arts, both socially and economically, in cities and towns around the nation. SMU DataArts will release a series of in-depth community profiles highlighting the lived experiences of community leaders in January.

"Simply stated, arts vibrancy did not go dormant throughout the pandemic," says Dr. Zannie Voss, director of SMU DataArts. "In this report, we reflect on arts vibrancy from a place of gratitude and express our solidarity with communities as they continue to meet the moment with awe-inspiring resilience."

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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).