



**Hamilton  
County**



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### **Hamilton County Commissioners and ArtsWave Award 53 COVID-relief Grants Totaling \$2 Million to Hard-Hit Arts and Cultural Nonprofits**

**April 19, 2022** – Hamilton County Commissioners are providing a much-needed boost for struggling arts and cultural nonprofits in Hamilton County that are still trying to make up for significant losses during the pandemic. For the second time, Commissioners partnered with ArtsWave, the engine for the region's arts, to distribute \$2 million in federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) dollars.

In this round, 53 arts and culture organizations are receiving grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$150,000 based on financial losses. The grant criteria considered pre-pandemic budget size, pandemic-related revenue losses, amount of COVID relief funding already received through other programs and projected deficits for the next two years.

"So many of our arts and cultural organizations have not fully recovered from the financial blow they received when the pandemic started," said Commission President Stephanie Summerow Dumas. "These grants allow us to invest in the entities that make Hamilton County so creative, vibrant and innovative."

"Beyond the social benefits, supporting the arts is supporting economic development. These artists are business owners who create jobs, generate tax revenue and help attract investment in their neighborhoods," Commissioner Alicia Reece said. "Providing these grant dollars to the hard-hit arts and culture sector strengthens the very fabric of Hamilton County."

"Strengthening arts and culture organizations makes Hamilton County a great place to live and work," Commissioner Denise Driehaus said. "We hope these grant dollars help put them on solid footing moving forward."

ArtsWave President & CEO Alecia Kintner is grateful that Hamilton County elected to deploy ARP monies in support of the arts, noting that "more than \$140 million in revenue has been lost since the start of the pandemic, when many organizations shut down due to the state's ban on public gatherings in March 2020. This allocation of \$2 million in government relief funds, combined with individual gifts to the ongoing ArtsWave Community Campaign, will help arts organizations rebuild and get back to driving the vibrancy of the entire region." The arts in the Cincinnati region have an economic impact of \$300 million annually and employ 10,000+ people.

In 2020, Commissioners allocated \$3.5 million to local Arts and Cultural organizations through a grant program administered by ArtsWave.

### **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 100 arts organizations, school outreach programs, festivals, community centers, neighborhoods and various collaborations through impact-based grants. ArtsWave has set a goal of \$11.5 million for its 2022 Campaign, an amount necessary for the arts, given the difficult health and economic crisis that has spanned nearly two years, affecting the entire region. Donations can be made at [artswave.org/give](https://artswave.org/give).

### **About Hamilton County's COVID-Relief Programs**

In response to the economic fall-out caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency, Hamilton County received over \$300 million dollars from both the Federal Government's Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocations. Hamilton County Commissioners created 513Relief.org, a one-stop, mobile friendly website to promote its COVID-19 Relief programs including COVID-19 Testing, Nonprofit and Small Business Relief, Rent and Utility Assistance, the 513Relief Bus and more.

[\(Attachment- 2022 Awardees\)](#)

## 2022 Hamilton County ARP Recipients, Administered through ArtsWave

### Organization

American Legacy Theatre

American Sign Museum

Art Academy of Cincinnati

ArtsConnect

ArtWorks

Bi-Okoto Drum & Dance Theatre

The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati Inc.

Cincinnati Art Museum

Cincinnati Arts Association (Aronoff Center for the Arts/ Cincinnati Music Hall)

Cincinnati Ballet

Cincinnati Black Theatre Company

Cincinnati Boychoir

Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra

Cincinnati Choral Society

Cincinnati Landmark Productions

Cincinnati Memorial Hall Society

Cincinnati Museum Center

Cincinnati Music Accelerator

Cincinnati Opera

Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park

Cincinnati Shakespeare Company

Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra

Cincinnati Youth Choir

Clifton Cultural Arts Center

Contemporary Arts Center

Creative Aging Cincinnati

DE LA Dance Company

Elementz

Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati

Film Cincinnati

Kennedy Heights Arts Center

Know Theatre of Cincinnati

Learning Through Art, Inc.

Linton Chamber Music

Manifest Creative Research Gallery

The May Festival

Mercantile Library

Music Resource Center – Cincinnati

Mutual Dance Theatre and Arts Centers

Nancy & David Wolf Holocaust & Humanity Center

National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Inc.

Price Hill Will

Professional Artistic Research Projects

Queen City Opera

Revolution Dance Theatre

Sharonville Fine Arts Center

Taft Museum of Art

Visionaries + Voices

Vocal Arts Ensemble of Cincinnati

Wave Pool Gallery

WordPlay Cincy

Wyoming Fine Arts Center

Young Professionals Choral Collective

