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ArtsWave Plans Emergency Supports for Arts Sector and Launches Mindful Music Moments Online Series for the Cincinnati Region

CINCINNATI (March 17, 2020) — ArtsWave, the engine for the Cincinnati Region's arts, has announced plans to help arts organizations remain financially viable during the closures, cancellations and postponements of arts and cultural organizations and venues due to the spread of the coronavirus. In addition, the arts council has launched a new locally made music meditation series that consumers can subscribe to for free.

The financial implications of COVID-19 on the region's arts sector, a sector impacted ahead of other sectors as mass gatherings were banned, are immense. To take steps to keep the arts sector viable and in a position to return strong and vibrant when this is over, ArtsWave is preparing to accelerate \$2.4 million in grant payments by 6 weeks for 44 organizations which receive operating revenues in the form of Sustaining Impact Grants. In addition, ArtsWave will expand availability of \$10,000 Working Capital Bridge Loans for nonprofit arts organizations. ArtsWave also plans to fast-track mini-grants for operating needs during this emergency and to fund artist-led projects that enable virtual arts programming. The public can help fund these efforts at artswave.org/give.

Simultaneously, ArtsWave takes steps to ease the stress of this moment on our larger community by announcing the ArtsWave Edition of Mindful Music Moments, a partnership created by The Well in partnership with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and Cincinnati Opera. Members of the public can sign up for a free 10-week subscription to Mindful Music Moments, brief daily combinations of meditation and music. Mindful Music Moments is one of more than a hundred projects and organizations funded through ArtsWave each year.

Last Thursday, ArtsWave added cancellation and postponement notification capabilities for coronavirus-impacted events to ArtsWave Guide (artswave.org/guide), the region's most comprehensive arts calendar.

As ArtsWave President & CEO Alecia Kintner announced these initiatives today, she stressed, "It's important we help one another get through this challenging time so that

all of us, our arts sector, and our entire region remains healthy and vibrant long-term. While we aren't able to gather at the arts right now, we hope you will enjoy Mindful Music Moments as part of your own and your family's self-care, and continue to connect with the power of our local arts institutions in this surreal time of crisis."

The ArtsWave Community Campaign is the largest single source of annual funding for the Cincinnati region's arts organizations. The 2020 campaign kicked off on January 30th and is currently at fifty percent of its \$12.4 million goal. With performance cancellations and closures of cultural venues, as well as the move of major employers to telecommuting, Kintner stressed that "your gift to ArtsWave matters more than ever."

All resources can be accessed through ArtsWave's Arts Hub for the Coronavirus at artswave.org/corona. To give to the ArtsWave Campaign, visit 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 100 arts organizations, school outreach programs, festivals, community centers, neighborhoods and various collaborations through impact-based grants. In 2019, ArtsWave raised over \$12 million, marking its sixth year in a row surpassing this milestone. ArtsWave remains the largest community campaign for the arts throughout the country, both in total contributions and number of donors. The 2020 ArtsWave Campaign runs from January 30 through April 30, 2020.