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BOARDway Bound, competitive professional development program, begins September 12

Cincinnati, OH – August 21, 2018 — Selections have been made for the 2018 class of BOARDway Bound, ArtsWave’s signature professional development program, with this year’s class of 30 individuals representing 22 corporations, organizations and institutions across the region.

Networking events for this year's class are being sponsored by the law firm Thompson Hine. Cincinnati office partner-in-charge Shane Starkey notes, “BOARDway Bound provides a unique opportunity for business professionals to grow their connections within the business community while adding their expertise to our region’s exceptional array of arts organizations.”

BOARDway Bound provides all the tools necessary to become a successful arts board volunteer, while offering a unique peer learning environment across companies and the chance to interact with Greater Cincinnati’s arts professionals. For the first time, 2018’s program is being led by ArtsWave President & CEO Alecia Kintner, whose career in arts administration spans two decades.

Comprised of six, 2.5 hour sessions from September 12 - November 14, BOARDway Bound blends directed learning and classroom interaction with videos, case studies and panel discussions. The first session enables candidates to hear directly from arts organizations looking for new board members in an elevator speech-marathon session. Information on best practices, industry trends, and the Greater Cincinnati arts scene is shared over the course of the program. Topics range from advocacy, fundraising and marketing to understanding arts budgets and nonprofit governance. In the final session, candidates meet with 25-30 arts groups in a fast-paced, speed-dating approach. The program culminates with an “observership” period with a carefully chosen arts board and in many cases, with a subsequent invitation to join it.

Over the last decade, BOARDway Bound has placed more than 300 candidates on various arts boards throughout the region. Candidates have come from a wide variety of organizations, which typically underwrite the program fee for their employees, including The Cincinnati Business Courier, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital & Medical Center, Duke Energy, Fifth Third Bank, GE Aviation, Kroger, Macy’s, PNC Bank and many more. Applicants are accomplished and motivated business professionals who wish to engage in leadership opportunities within the region’s arts sector.

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About ArtsWave

ArtsWave, a nonprofit serving the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky Region, is the lead planner, promoter and fundraiser of 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 ripple effect 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 2018, ArtsWave raised more than \$12 million for the region's arts, marking its fifth year in a row of this funding magnitude. ArtsWave remains the largest community campaign for the arts throughout the country, both in total contributions and number of donors. In addition, the organization partners with the Cincinnati USA Regional Tourism Network to fund an additional \$1 million for arts marketing, grants and services.