

# discover together

2024 COMMUNITY REPORT

stronger  
arts for a  
stronger  
region



# your gift's journey

## Gifts to ArtsWave

### 25,000+ ARTSWAVE MEMBERS

give each year through workplace campaigns, corporate gifts, individuals, foundations and more.

## Arts Investment

### ARTSWAVE INVESTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Each year, ArtsWave invests those gifts right back into the Cincinnati region through impact-based grants including YP, Pride, Catalyzing Impact, Sustaining Impact, artist commissions and more.

## Impact

### ARTS ENLIVEN NEIGHBORHOODS

- When after-school arts programs are available, neighborhood crime drops up to 5%.
- Residents of arts-rich neighborhoods are almost 2x as likely to feel connected.
- Last year, 2.3 million people attended free or low-cost events held by ArtsWave-funded organizations.

### ARTS BRIDGE CULTURAL DIVIDES

- Students with arts experience are 40% more likely to have a diverse group of friends.
- 73% agree that art enhances our understanding of other cultures, fostering empathy.
- ArtsWave is building culturally curious local audiences through Flow Pass — a 5-event subscription series celebrating Black artistry.

### ARTS PUT CINCINNATI ON THE MAP

- Cincinnati's creative industries lead Ohio in economic contribution.
- Cincinnati ranks No. 1 in the nation for street art.
- BLINK®, illuminated by ArtsWave, welcomed 2+ million people in 2022. The largest immersive art experience in the nation returns in 2024, bigger than ever.

### ARTS FUEL CREATIVITY AND LEARNING

- Low-income students engaged in the arts are 5x less likely to drop out and 2x more likely to graduate college.
- ArtsWave's "More Arts, More Kids" Initiative will make 50,000 arts field trips possible, reaching 1st-6th graders in CPS, CISE and Northern Kentucky schools.

### ARTS DEEPEN ROOTS IN THE REGION

- 40% feel more positive about their community after participating in the arts.
- 9 out of 10 arts participants report making new friends through their arts experience.
- 5,600+ joined ArtsWave affinity groups, connecting to each other and the community.

## Stronger Arts for a Stronger Region

### THE RIPPLE EFFECT: Vibrant Economy, Connected Community

"ArtsWave exists for the benefit of the community and is supported almost entirely by the community. The wide-ranging impact of the arts in our region is fueled by ArtsWave's annual community Campaign, which is consistently the largest such campaign in the country."

Alecia Kintner  
ArtsWave President & CEO



Photo credit: Helen Adams Photography

# Campaign Cabinet

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Lisa Sauer, P&G retiree

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Wealth Advisors  
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Photo courtesy of altafiber

**“If you ever question the impact and importance of the arts in this region, look at the prospect of becoming the new home of a world-renowned film festival. The arts are front and center, shining a bright light on Cincinnati. All boats rise with that tide. The arts and the city grow together. Period.”**

**Leigh Fox**  
ArtsWave Board Chair  
altafiber President & CEO

# campaign highlights



(From left): Courtesy of Cincinnati Arts Association  
Credit: Mikki Schaffner  
Credit: Melissa Kyriach

## Cincy Arts Accolades

The arts bring positive attention to the region, putting Cincinnati on the map...

## Cincy Climbs the Arts Vibrancy Index

For the third year in a row, SMU DataArts listed the Cincinnati region as one of the top 20 large regions on its Arts Vibrancy Index. The index analyzes over 900 communities across the United States and ranks Cincy among regions like Los Angeles, New Orleans and Seattle.

## Cincy: A Sundance Kid?

Cincinnati shone as one of only three city finalists being considered as the new long-term home of the Sundance Film Festival. Festival director Eugene Hernandez noted that each finalist city "has enabled creativity to flourish in their cities through their support of the arts."

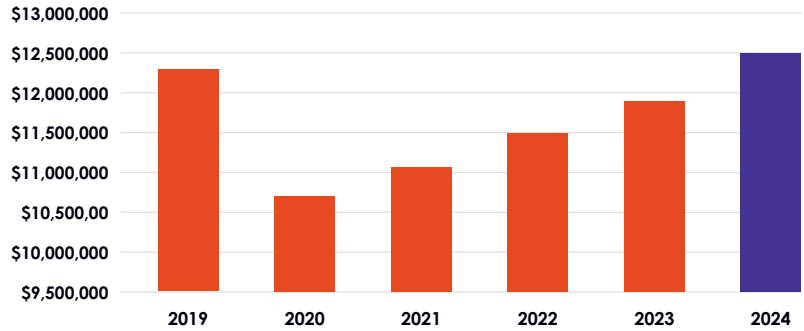
## Championing Public Art

The Cincinnati region receives national recognition for its public art. In 2024, Cincy received the USA TODAY "10Best" Readers' Choice Award for Best City for Street Art.

## A Coveted Host City

Americans for the Arts will hold its first National Convention since the pandemic in Cincinnati in June 2025. That convening is one of many recent and upcoming major conferences, including the American Association of State and Local History, Association of Anglican Musicians and National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts.

## ArtsWave Campaign Totals



Credit: Mikki Schaffner



**85**

donors increased to \$5,000+, raising \$1.048 million

**206**

Cincy Leaders for the Arts, raising \$2.38 million

**5,222**

new donors, contributing \$1.26 million

**160**

workplace campaigns, raising \$5.6 million



**24**

new corporate gifts, adding \$215,000



Courtesy of Nrityarpana School of Performing Arts

Credit: Mikki Schaffner



Courtesy of P&G

**"These investments in the arts are integral to making the region a compelling location for employees and visitors."**

**Jon Moeller, 2024 ArtsWave Campaign Co-Chair, CEO of P&G**

**"From across the business and philanthropic community, we came together to ensure our region could attract and retain the best talent, connect through shared experiences, and fuel creativity and learning through the arts."**

**Lisa Sauer, 2024 Campaign Co-Chair, retired P&G executive**



Photo provided



Courtesy of Triversity Construction

**"I am excited to chair the 2025 Artswave Campaign because our contributions to the arts generate an amazing return on investment for our community. The arts not only bridge cultural divides like nothing else can, but the arts also create jobs, stimulate tourism and are a proven economic driver."**

**Mel Gravely, 2025 ArtsWave Campaign Chair, CEO of Triversity Construction**

# kickstarting the campaign

The 2024 Co-Chairs challenged community leaders to incrementally increase their gifts, raising \$1 million before the official kickoff in February. These early gifts helped the Campaign to raise the largest amount in ArtsWave history while supporting key initiatives:

## Racial and Cultural Equity

The *Flow* event series was reorganized to become the **Flow Pass**, an innovative subscription model that showcases Black artistic excellence across multiple arts organizations. Each event features a *Flow Social*, providing an opportunity to connect with other culturally curious patrons of the arts, cultivating a connected and enthusiastic audience for Black art.

## Regional Connectivity

ArtsWave has hired a **Northern Kentucky Director of Creative Placemaking** and will soon open a satellite office in Northern Kentucky to help forge stronger links between artists and opportunities across the river. Northern Ohio counties like Butler and Warren are watching this model and might replicate it in time.

## Youth Engagement

"More Arts, More Kids" aims to send every CPS 1st to 6th grader on an arts field trip. It has sent **5,000 students** on field trips to our partner organizations, The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Art Museum and Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. *In the coming year, the program will expand to Northern Kentucky, sending 15,000 students on arts field trips.*

## Leaders for Cincy Arts

New in 2024, Leaders for Cincy Arts are C-level executives, business and community leaders who made a personal commitment of \$5,000 or more to the ArtsWave Campaign.

Evie Alessandrini  
Colleen and Dean Athans  
Ms. Ellen H. Baker  
Jennifer Baker  
John Barrett  
Ron Bates  
Gale and Dave Beckett  
Laura Blackorby  
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Bobenread  
Glenn Bouillier  
Eric Breissing  
Tom and MC Brennan  
Archie Brown  
Bill Butler  
Missy and Kerry Byrne  
Kevin Canafax  
Shannon and Lee Carter  
Castellini Foundation  
Melanie M. Chavez  
Bridgit Chayt  
Mark Clement  
Susan and Burton Closson  
Sheila and Christopher Cole  
Garren Colvin  
Brendon Cull  
Wendy and H. Lawrence Culp, Jr.  
Dan Cunningham  
Steve Davis  
Bruno De Weer  
Mr. and Mrs. William O. DeWitt, Jr.  
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Mr. John Dovich  
Phil Duncan  
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Leigh Fox  
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Tom Gilman  
Sean Givler  
Tracey Grabowski and Joe Stagaman  
Regina and Dereck Gray  
Mel Gravely  
Chris Habel  
James Hagerty  
Theresa Hanlon-Bremer  
Lauren Hannan Shafer  
Amy Hanson  
Tom and Jan Hardy  
Mark J. Hauser  
Deborah Hayes  
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Rolf Hefico  
Josh Heuser  
Guy M. Hild  
Vada Hill  
Teresa Hoelle and Scott Provancher  
Carol Hoffman  
David and Karen Hoguet  
Jane Ruwet Hopson  
Terence Horan  
Dave and Debbie Horn  
Roger and Joyce Howe  
Kevin Hughes  
M Katherine Hurley and Jens Rosenkrantz Jr  
Gregory T. Hyland II

Jason Jackman  
Heidi Jark  
Nandagopal Jayaram  
Denise M. Jeavons  
Jocelyn Gant Jones  
Jerry Kathman and Liz Kathman Grubow  
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Alexis Krulcik  
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George and Mary Alice Leasure  
Beth and Peter Levin  
Tom Liser  
Carl H. Lindner III  
S. Craig Lindner  
Whitney and Phillip Long  
Joshua Lorentz  
Cynthia A. Lyons  
Tony Mathis  
Holly Mazzocca  
Rob McDonald  
Candace McGraw  
Jill McGruder  
Ms. Debra S. Merchant  
Mr. John Merchant  
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Jon Moeller  
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Jennifer Mottier  
Tony Munafio  
Joe Muraca  
Valerie L. Newell  
Mr. Shawn T. Newman  
Bill and Karen Neyer  
Peter and Betsy Niehoff  
Oliver Family Foundation  
Greg Olson  
Pamela L. Page-Boykins and Billy C. Boykins, Jr.

Jacqueline G. Parker  
Francie and John Pepper  
Bruce Petrie  
Anne and Charles Pierce  
Robert Pitcairn  
Jane and Rob Portman  
Wym and Jan Portman  
Jason Praeter  
Jim Price  
Marc Pritchard  
Andrew Quinn  
Marty and Nick Ragland  
Maribeth Rahe  
Jackie Reau  
Vicky and Rick Reynolds  
Martin and Fiona Riant  
Ellen Rieveschl  
Scott Robertson  
Michael T. Rohmiller, M.D. and Kimberly S. Draud, M.D.  
Cheryl Rose and Jeff Chapman  
Rosenthal Family Foundation  
The RUGiving2? Fund  
Lisa Sauer  
Kent Savage  
Charles Scheper  
Jack Schiff  
Thomas R. Schiff  
Rosemary Schlachter  
Digi and Mike Schueler  
Michael Schuster  
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Stern Family Charitable Fund  
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Ellen K. Stillpass  
Dudley Taft  
Justin Taulbee  
Cenona A. Taveras  
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The TQL Foundation  
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Margaret and Michael Valentine  
Ellen and Ray van der Horst  
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Gerald Weigle, Jr.  
Susan Whaley  
Thomas Wiedemann  
Mr. Brian R. Wildman  
Thomas L. Williams  
W. Joseph Williams, Jr.  
Sallie Willingham  
Mr. Joseph J. Wilke  
Justin Wyborn  
Alex Yastrebensky  
Susan B. Zaunbrecher  
Alison and Jim Zimmerman  
James Zimmerman

**\$1.6  
BILLION**

# impact of the arts

**This year, ArtsWave commissioned the Economic Impact of Arts & Culture in the Cincinnati Region report from the Center for Research & Data at the Cincinnati Regional Chamber. The report underscores the transformative power of the arts in the Cincinnati region.**

**The arts are not a luxury but a necessity for a vibrant, inclusive and economically prosperous Cincinnati region.**

**Continued support for ArtsWave and the arts sector is crucial for maintaining and expanding this impact.**

*For more detailed insights, visit [artswave.org/artsimpact](http://artswave.org/artsimpact) to read the report.*

## A Booming Arts Economy

From 2019-2022, Cincy's arts and culture sector generated a **\$1.6 billion economic impact**. This includes direct expenditures by arts organizations and their ripple effect throughout the local economy. The arts sector **created or supported 6,518 local jobs**, which is 48% higher than expected for a region of this size.

*Arts organizations return \$42.47 to the regional economy for every \$1 ArtsWave invests.*

## Resilience and Growth

The local arts sector showed remarkable resilience despite the challenges posed by the pandemic. In 2022, the economic impact of the arts **rose 44.3%** from the previous year, reaching **\$488.5 million**. By 2027, that impact is projected to grow to **\$586.7 million annually**.

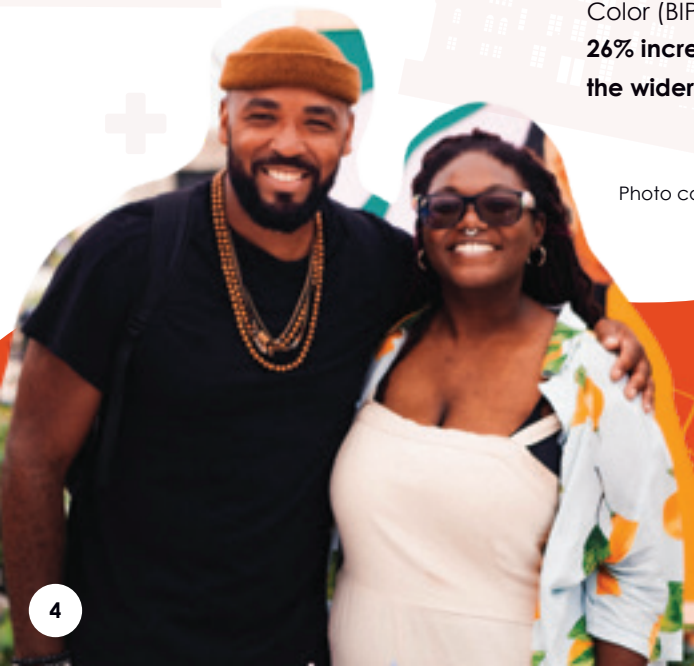
## The BLINK® Effect

BLINK® 2022 contributed **\$249.3 million to the local economy**, supporting 1,687 jobs. The event highlights a key power of the arts: to draw tourism and foster community engagement.

## Inclusive Growth

Organizations led by or primarily serving Black, Brown, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) showed significant growth from 2019-2022, with a **26% increase in economic impact, compared to 19% growth for the wider local arts sector**.





Photo courtesy of AGAR



**stronger  
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# a more inclusive region

Acting on its sector-wide Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access plan, “**Lifting as We Learn,**” ArtsWave continues to increase resources for underrepresented artists and audiences. ArtsWave has taken these actions to lead the charge:

-  **Built the region’s largest funding mechanisms** for local, Black-led arts organizations and Black and Brown artists.
-  **Cultivated a culturally curious audience** and amplified the voices of world-class Black artists through the *Flow Pass*.
-  **Hosted ongoing professional development** and DEIA learning sessions for arts leaders and staff.
-  **Offered board training and matching** through *Boardway Bound*.
-  **Created a supportive networking group** for people of color working in local arts organizations.

(Left to right) Credit: Kevin J. Watkins | Credit: Alexander Pamelee

**Every organization ArtsWave supports with Sustaining Impact grants is asked to have a board-approved DEIA plan.**

**Supported organizations are advancing DEIA in the arts and culture sector in the following ways:**

#### **Developing internal DEIA strategies (49% of supported organizations)**

- **43%** are fostering board diversity.
- **26%** are tracking audience demographics.
- **30%** are adapting hiring practices.
- **22%** are performing overall policy reviews.

#### **Changes to programming (60% of supported organizations)**

- **11%** are making substantial changes to increase accessibility.
- **46%** are focusing on hiring artists of color.
- **25%** are seeing an increase in participants of color.



## Steady Support

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### Sustaining Impact Grants

Support for operations is awarded in three-year cycles, with grant amount tied to budget size and community impact as assessed by panels of volunteer stakeholders.

# \$10.4 MILLION IN GRANTS

### \$1 Million+ Operating Budget

- ArtWorks
- The Carnegie
- The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati
- Cincinnati Art Museum
- Cincinnati Ballet
- Cincinnati Landmark Productions
- Cincinnati May Festival
- Cincinnati Opera
- Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park
- Cincinnati Shakespeare Company
- Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra
- Contemporary Arts Center
- Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati
- Fitton Center for Creative Arts
- Price Hill Will
- Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park & Museum
- Taft Museum of Art

### \$300,000 to \$1 Million Operating Budget

- Behringer-Crawford Museum
- Bi-Okoto
- Cincinnati Boychoir
- Cincinnati Youth Choir
- Clifton Cultural Arts Center
- Elementz
- Kennedy Heights Arts Center
- Kentucky Symphony Orchestra
- Know Theatre of Cincinnati
- Over-the-Rhine International Film Festival
- Oxford Community Arts Center
- Summermusik (Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra)
- Visionaries + Voices
- Wave Pool
- Wyoming Fine Arts Center

### Less than \$300,000 Operating Budget

- American Legacy Theatre
- ArtsConnect
- Cincinnati Men's Chorus
- Learning Through Art
- Linton Chamber Music
- A Mindful Moment/The Well
- MUSE Cincinnati's Women's Choir
- Mutual Dance Theatre and Arts Centers
- My Nose Turns Red Youth Circus
- NrityArpana School of Performing Arts
- PAR-Projects
- Pones
- Queen City Opera
- Vocal Arts Ensemble
- Young Professionals Choral Collective

## Artist Commissions

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### Black & Brown Artist Commissions

**The Black and Brown Artist Program is made possible by those who give to the annual ArtsWave Campaign, as well as the City of Cincinnati, Duke Energy, Fifth Third Bank, the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, Macy's, Cincinnati Children's**

**Hospital Medical Center, Walter C. Frank, and Peter and Betsy Niehoff.**

**This year's artists created work based on the theme of "Truth and Innovation." They unveiled their projects to the community at the Truth & Innovation Artist Showcase in July.**

- Asha the Artist, "Bodies in Flux: Exploring Reproductive Choice Through Art and Words"
- Ethan Avery, "Shot Clock"
- Markus Cook, "The Coming Sleep"
- Jori An K. Cotton, "Voices of Healing: Connecting Back to Our Inner Girl and Finding Our Joy and Freedom"
- Ashley Glass, "Breaking the Silence: Black Nursing Documentary"
- Brandon L. Hawkins, "Where Honor is Due"
- Douglas J. Hilson, "Strokes"
- Chaya J., "In My Mind"
- Faith Marie Lewis, "HeartSpace Poetry Project"
- Noel Maghathe, "Rooted in the Land"
- Lisa Merida-Paytes, "Flow:Flux"
- Anupa Mirle, "DOR (Strings)"
- Emily Hanako Momohara, "Mother's Tongue"

- Yemi Oyediran, "King of Them All: The Story of King Records"
- Alicia Redmond, "The Village of Lincoln Heights: The History, Splendor, and Uncertainty of an (African) American People"
- Sarah Rodriguez, "PatchWORK"
- Gauravi Shah, "Up the As\*pirin: Pain Management"
- K.A. Simpson, "FLIPd: Cincinnati, Ohio's Historic Places, Spaces, told through African American Stories"
- Derek J. Snow, "The Ravenside Occurrence"
- tt stern-enzi, "Stepping In (To Fatherhood)"
- Margaret Tung, "Going Beyond Traditional Classical Music: Innovative Music for Horn"
- Ingrid Woode, "Be Still"





## Catalytic Support

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Catalyzing  
Impact Grants

**One-time project grants are awarded to organizations using the arts to build a more vibrant regional economy and more connected community.**

Activities Beyond the Classroom, for the CPS International Jazz Festival  
African Professionals Network (APNET), for AfriFest Cincy 2024  
Alliance of Chinese Culture & Arts USA, for World Drums  
Art Equals, for Creativity Connects  
Back2Back Ministries, for Neighborhood Play 2024  
BasketShop Gallery, for "To be close, closer"  
Ben Carlson-Berne Scholarship Fund, for additional music lessons for Shroder High School orchestra students  
Butler Philharmonic, for "Springtime" concert  
The Carthage Civic League, for Putting the ART in Carthage  
The Center for Great Neighborhoods, for Arts in the Eastside  
Church of Our Saviour/La Iglesia de Nuestro Salvador, for Community Piano Lessons  
Cincinnati Art Club, for Art for Kids  
Cincinnati Asian Art Society, for "Kokeshi Dolls: Japan's Living Tradition"

Cincinnati Center for Autism, for STEAM Ahead for Autism  
Cincinnati Fusion Ensemble, to expand its High School Vocal Music Education Program  
Cincinnati Museum Center, for Young at Art  
Cincinnati Music & Wellness Coalition, for Learning Culture and Improving Wellbeing through the Arts  
Cincinnati Nature Center, for Earth Expressions: Forest Portals  
Cincinnati Song Initiative, for The Fellowship of the Song  
Cindependent Film Festival (CIFF), for the 2024 Cindependent Film Festival  
Community Matters Cincinnati, Inc., for the "Outerspace" exhibition series  
Creative Aging Cincinnati, for Arts Inclusion for All  
Fourthwall Youth Studios, for the "Shut Down the Stigma. Turn Up the Talk" film series  
The Ghostlight Stage Company, for Ken Ludwig's "Sherwood: The Adventures of Robin Hood"  
Greater Cincinnati Arts & Education Center, for Cincinnati Future of the Arts  
Greater Cincinnati Dance Alliance, for the Synergy Dance Series  
Greater Cincinnati Lapidary and Faceting Society, for Grow Community through Lapidary Arts in Our Region  
Indigo Hippo, for Material Play  
International Foundation for Contemporary Music, for The Response Project: "Tremor"  
Jazz Alive, for Jazz in the Camp at the American Sign Museum  
Jhankar, for "Trinaad: An Indian Classical Fusion Instrumental Concert"  
Juneteenth Cincinnati, for the 37th annual Juneteenth festival  
Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, for Future Blooms  
Lydia's House, for a mural at an affordable housing site for low-income families  
Maketank, for "Illustrated Memoirs: Exhibition of Original Artwork"

Nancy & David Wolf Holocaust & Humanity Center, for The Center for Storytelling  
National Commission for Black Arts & Entertainment, for Family Heritage Hop: A Black Arts & Culture Museum Tour  
Norwood Together, for the Norwood International Art Show  
Play in the Park, for Art, Music and Us: A Community-Engaged Vision for Play in the Park  
Popped Art, for "Great Things Ahead"  
Robert O'Neal Multicultural Arts Center (ROMAC), to add performing arts to the Teen ARTrepreneurship Program  
Skirball Museum Cincinnati, for "Faces of Israel: A Photographic Conversation by Larry Roberts"  
SkyVengers Cartoon, for The SkyVengers Mobile Cartoon Lab- LEVEL 2  
University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, for CCM Prep String Program  
Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio, for Roofing Change through Art and Community  
Vulcan's Forge Performing Arts Collaborative, for Spirited Musings  
Westwood Works, for "We Can All Grow Here," an interactive community mural  
Whited Sepulchre Records, for the Cincinnati Experimental Music Festival  
WordPlay Cincy, for WildHome: Free Urban Nature Immersions



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ArtsWave  
Pride Grants

**One-time project grants are awarded to organizations for arts experiences with relevance to the LGBTQIA+ community, funded in part by ArtsWave Pride donors.**

Church of Our Savior/La Iglesia de Nuestro Salvador, for the LGBTQIA+ Arts Showcase  
Cincinnati Art Museum, for "Queer Possibility: An Open-Source Guide to the Cincinnati Art Museum"  
Cincinnati Men's Chorus, for "Sons of Song," a free community outreach concert  
Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, for the "ShakesQueer" drag show  
Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, for its 2024 Pride Concert  
A Mindful Moment/The Well, for Saturdays on Planet Love: Creativity, Connection, Community  
Revolution Dance Theatre, for The Dream Project: Guest Artist Series  
Visionaries + Voices, for "Joy Fuel," inclusive art workshops and exhibition  
WordPlay Cincy, for Youth Arts in Action

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Artswave YP Grants

One-time project grants are awarded to organizations engaging young professionals in the arts, funded in part by ArtsWave YP donors.

Bi-Okoto, for "Agidigbo"  
Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, for YP Preview Nights  
Contemporary Arts Center, for CAC Co-Lab  
The Ghostlight Stage Company, for the "Shining A Light" series

National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, for Freedom Fridays  
NrityArpana School of Performing Arts, for INDIAN AMERICAN Young Professional  
Sweet Sistah Splash, for AfroArt After Dark  
Taft Museum of Art, for Taft at Twilight



Sweet Sistah Splash's AfroSwag Hair and Fashion Show | Credit: Shot by Elisha

These one-time grants extended ArtsWave's reach and depth of impact across the community.

AGAR, for the Cincinnati Music Festival Outdoor Museum  
ArtWorks, for ArtsVote: Get Out the Vote Ohio  
Black Art Speaks, for Plinth in the Park Plaza Concept Rendering  
The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati, for The Glass Slipper Gala  
The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati, for the More Arts, More Kids "SpongeBob: The Musical" field trip  
Cincinnati Arts Association, for the Arts in Healing Initiative  
Cincinnati Public Radio, to underwrite its 2024-25 season  
Cincy Nice Social House, for Still Smiling Fest  
The Comet Bluegrass All-Stars, for the Sundance Film Festival site visit at Music Hall  
Creative Time, for Charles Gaines, "The American Manifest"

Film Cincinnati, for FC CARES FOR CREW  
Fourthwall Youth Studios, for the Sundance Film Festival site visit at Fourthwall Youth Studios  
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Artist Francesca Miller at the Cincinnati Music Festival Outdoor Museum | Credit: Zach Moning



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Audience members at The May Festival's "Anthems" concert | Credit: Mark Lyons

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(Right) "Le Spectacle du Merde at Cincinnati Fringe Festival | Credit: Kevin Rife

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# women's leadership roundtable



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Pam Kravetz speaks to Women's Leadership Roundtable members at the Contemporary Arts Center  
Credit: Forge Film + Photography

# pride ambassadors



Credit: Shelbey Phillips



**ArtsWave Pride connects LGBTQIA+ individuals and allies. Ambassador membership is open to those who give \$500 or more to the ArtsWave Campaign.**

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# circle of african american leaders for the arts



Cincinnati Opera's "Opera Goes to Church"  
Credit: Philip Groshong

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The Circle welcomes all African Americans who believe in the power of the arts to bridge cultural divides. A portion of these gifts directly fund Black arts projects.

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Panel discussion at the Open Circle event at Cincinnati Art Museum  
Credit: Kevin J. Watkins





# yp leaders

(Left to right) ArtsWave YP Arts Crawl participants | Credit: Wendell Gibbs, Jr.  
Cincinnati Art Museum visitors at the opening of "The Culture" | Credit: Phil Armstrong  
Bi-Okoto at the ArtsWave YP Arts Crawl | Credit: Wendell Gibbs, Jr.



## Young Professional Leaders

**Young Professional Leaders are dedicated to cultivating the next generation of community leaders and supporters for the region's arts. Membership is open to Young Professionals who contribute \$500 or more to the ArtsWave Campaign.**

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(Left to right) Preston Bell Charles III at the YP Arts Crawl | Credit: Wendell Gibbs, Jr.  
An ArtsWave YP member at the Arts Crawl | Credit: Wendell Gibbs, Jr.  
YPCC's "Pure Imagination" concert | Courtesy of YPCC



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Boardway Bound's opening session  
 Credit: Zach Moning

# Boardway Bound Graduates

**Boardway Bound is ArtsWave's acclaimed board leadership program that has trained and placed more than 500 individuals on the boards of Cincinnati arts organizations since its launch in 2004.**

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# legacy giving



## arts wave Visionaries Legacy Donors

**Visionaries are passing on a vibrant arts scene to future generations. Membership is open to those who include a gift to the ArtsWave Endowment, either now or in the future through a planned gift in their will, trust, beneficiary form or any other method.**

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## Legacy and Endowment Gifts

"A Christmas Carol" at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park  
Credit: Mikki Schaffner

**The Citizens of Cincinnati, to match the original endowment gift of Charles P. and Anna Sinton Taft, which established the Cincinnati Institute of Fine Arts in 1927**

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 Estate of John K. Sherman  
 Paul G. Sittenfeld

Estate of Joan Stark  
 Estate of Joseph L. Steiner  
 Estate of S. Charles and Sue B. Straus  
 Estate of Anna Sinton Taft (To transform the Baum-Longworth-Taft House into the Taft Museum of Art)  
 Estate of Mr. & Mrs. Charles P. Taft (To establish the Cincinnati Institute of Fine Arts)  
 Rosalyn Taft Gift  
 Estate of Doris J. Tepker  
 Estate of Morley P. Thompson  
 Estate of Charlotte S. Toewater  
 Estate of Patricia A. Torok  
 Estate of Betty V. Tuttle  
 Albert W. Vontz, Jr.  
 Sallie Robinson Wadsworth (ArtsWave and Taft Museum of Art)  
 Mary V. S. Wagner  
 Ruth V. Wagner Trust  
 Jane M. Wall  
 Estate of Marie Watts  
 William & Carol Watson  
 Estate of Charlotte Froendhoff Whitmore  
 Estate of Lucile W. Weibel (Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra)  
 Harris K. and Alice F. Weston  
 Estate of Ruth C. Wilkerson  
 Gene M. Wilson  
 Estate of Elinor M. Winchester  
 Estate of Dorothy C. Woodruff  
 Richard P. Windisch and Margaret Van Goeben (Cincinnati May Festival)  
 Eugene Wulsin

## Endowment Gifts from Foundations and Other Entities

The William P. Anderson Foundation  
 Commonwealth Hotels, Inc.—The Metropolitan Club of Covington, Kentucky (For Associate Members Endowment)  
 H.G., H.F. and L.T. Dornette Foundation, Fifth Third Bank and Stan Koller, Co-Trustees (For Associate Members Endowment Fund)  
 The Thomas J. Emery Memorial  
 The Ford Foundation (Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra)

LKC Foundation/Mrs. Charles O. Carothers (In honor of the 75th Anniversary of the Cincinnati Institute of Fine Arts)  
 E. W., H. B. and F. R. Luther Charitable Foundation (To establish the Associate Members Endowment Fund)  
 National Endowment for the Arts (For children's education programs)  
 The L&L Nippert Charitable Foundation (In honor of the 75th Anniversary of the Cincinnati Institute of Fine Arts)

The Daniel and Susan Pfau Foundation (For the Associate Members Endowment Fund)  
 Robert H. Reakirt Foundation, PNC Bank, Trustee  
 Robert C. Schiff Fund  
 Louise Taft Semple Foundation, in memory of Louise Taft Semple (Directorship of Taft Museum of Art)  
 Eleanor and Charlie Taft Fund  
 Elsie H. Warrington, Suzanne M. Warrington and the Warrington Family

Foundation, in memory of John T. Warrington (Taft Museum of Art Exhibition Endowment)

\* *Through a fund at the Greater Cincinnati Foundation*

*We compile the above rosters with care. If your name has been omitted or misspelled, please accept our apology. We encourage you to bring any errors or omissions to our attention.*

# in memoriam



## Stanley J. Aronoff (1933-2024)

As a new member of the Ohio House of Representatives in 1960, Stanley Aronoff offered a bill that would create the Ohio Arts Council, beginning a long history of Aronoff's contributions to Cincy's arts community. He served three terms in the House before moving on to the Ohio Senate, where he eventually served as Senate president from 1989 to 1996. The Cincinnati native's most lasting mark on the city, the Aronoff Center for the Arts, was a culmination of his 30-year dedication to championing the local arts community. Entrenched in the arts throughout his life, he dedicated time to organizations such as the Cincinnati Association for the Arts, the Cincinnati Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park and the Classical Music Hall of Fame.



## Raymond R. Clark (1938-2024)

While Ray Clark was a dedicated and respected leader in his community, first and foremost, he was devoted to his faith and family. Ray started his career at the Cincinnati Bell Telephone Company and retired in 1995 as President and CEO of the company. He loved Cincinnati and was grateful to serve on numerous nonprofit boards, including chairing the Fine Arts Fund (now known as ArtsWave) from 1995-2001. Ray also served as a Trustee of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, the Taft Museum of Art, Chatfield College and the Dominican Province of St. Joseph Foundation.



## Beverly H. Erschell (1934-2023)

A contemporary painter and first woman to receive a Masters Degree in Fine Arts from the University of Cincinnati DAAP, Beverly Erschell subsequently taught at UC, NKU and the Art Academy of Cincinnati. Beverly and her late husband, Fritz, were avid supporters of the arts and, as a 50-year survivor of breast cancer, of Pink Ribbon. She was a Cincinnati Art Museum shareholder and shared rights to sales of her prints, posters and apparel with the museum. As an author and illustrator, she created "Maple the Lucky Greyhound," "The Art of Beverly Erschell" and "Gathering Places of Greater Cincinnati."



## Lorrence "Larry" T. Kellar (1937-2023)

City leader and Great Living Cincinnati award recipient, Larry Kellar was a successful businessman and generous philanthropist. He served as a Trustee of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati Opera and, most notably, as Chairman and Trustee of Cincinnati Ballet for 50 years. A legendary fundraiser, one of Larry's proudest accomplishments was securing the transformational gift from Margaret and Michael Valentine to build and name the new Ballet Studios. Both the Ballet and CET have studios honoring the considerable contributions of Larry and his wife Barbara.



## Richard "Rich" L. Postler (1963-2023)

Rich had a 32-year career with P&G, including time as Chief Human Resources Officer for various units. He retired in 2018 as Vice President of Global Shared Services and Global Information Technology. A passion for the arts and theatre led to Rich's involvement and support of Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati, where he served as a dedicated member of the Board of Trustees for 20 years. Richard's generosity and innovative thinking allowed Ensemble Theatre to thrive in Over-the-Rhine. His generous legacy gift will help secure its future.

# Special thanks to these 2024 Campaign collaborators:

- 2024 Campaign Co-Chairs **Jon Moeller** and **Lisa Sauer** and their Campaign cabinet, for their outstanding leadership in making the 2024 Campaign a record-breaking success.
- **ArtsWave's arts partners**, for providing venues, activities, speakers, tickets and more to the ArtsWave Campaign.
- **Enquirer Media** and **Cincinnati Business Courier** for their generous media support throughout the Campaign and all year long.
- The **Cincinnati Reds** and **FC Cincinnati** for their partnership in providing Team Cincinnati benefits for ArtsWave donors.
- **Household Books, ADC Fine Art, Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati Ballet, Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Clifton Cultural Arts Center, Contemporary Arts Center, Film Cincinnati, Memorial Hall, Music Hall, Taft Museum of Art** and **The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati** for hosting ArtsWave donor events.
- **Second Story, The Hannaford** and **The Globe** for hosting stops on this year's ArtsWave YP Arts Pub Crawl.
- **Ohio Lesbian Archives** for their gracious hospitality in hosting ArtsWave Pride Ambassadors.
- **Hard Rock Casino** for hosting ArtsWave CincyJams. Thanks as well to CincyJams host **Don Juan Fasho of 101.1 The Wiz**, our judges, **Bridget England, Dean Kuroff** and **Jonathan Sears**. Thanks to event sponsors, **Accenture, Hard Rock Casino, Cincinnati Enquirer** and **Radio One**, as well as prize sponsors, **Gold Star Chili, Cincinnati Music Festival, BLINK**, and **Mixing Night Audio**.
- **Justin Brookhart, the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber, AGAR, ArtWorks, Cincy Nice, Haile Foundation** and **ish** for embracing ArtsWave as BLINK's illuminating sponsor.
- The **Behringer-Crawford Museum, Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber, Clifton Cultural Arts Center, Kennedy Heights Arts Center** and **Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park** for hosting Impact DEIA Roundtables and Lifting as We Learn trainings.
- The **Contemporary Arts Center, Clifton Cultural Arts Center** and **The Carnegie** for hosting the 2024 Truth & Innovation Artist Showcase, and **Orange Barrel Media** for their partnership in creating a Digital Showcase Celebration.
- **Creativity Squared** for its media and fundraising support.
- **AGAR, Artsopolis, Atomic Robot** and **StratusLive** for their support and partnership in developing the ArtsWave App.
- **21C Museum Hotel** for being the official hotel of the ArtsWave App and a fundraising partner.
- The many people who volunteered their time and talent to raise \$12.5 million to support Cincy's arts, and the 65 individuals on our grant review committees who spent hundreds of hours reviewing applications to make recommendations for impact-based grants throughout the region.



ArtsWave staff at the Campaign finale  
Credit: Kevin J. Watkins



**Alecia Kintner**, President & CEO  
**Allison Riddell**, Accounts Payable & Payroll Specialist  
**Amanda Carr**, Coordinator, Data Entry & Donor Services  
**Ben Weinhart**, Contoller  
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