



“Truth & Reconciliation”: Project Grants for Black and Brown Artists funded by City of Cincinnati, ArtsWave and Duke Energy

ArtsWave, City of Cincinnati and Duke Energy announce \$200,000 to be awarded through a new joint grantmaking program for Black and Brown artists. Artists are invited to propose projects on the theme of “truth and reconciliation” that help lead the community toward a more just and equitable future.

Funding from the City of Cincinnati will help support the visions of eight or more city-based artists, chosen through a competitive application process. Duke Energy's funds will expand the program around the larger Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky region. ArtsWave will match both investments with additional grant dollars and commissions. We anticipate this will result in a total of 20-25 projects that explore the program's strategic focus on truth and reconciliation. All artists will be asked to involve community partners and to exhibit or present their work to the public in summer 2021 in partnership with the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and the Robert O'Neal Multicultural Arts Center (ROMAC).

The projects funded through this grants program follow significant artistic expressions seen this year in response to systemic inequities and injustices exposed in 2020's health and racial injustice crises. These foundational initiatives, with involvement by ArtsWave, include the creation of the “Black Lives Matter!” mural by Black Arts Speaks and the Urban League; the Outdoor Museum project of the Cincinnati Museum Festival; and the Black & Brown Faces exhibition by Paloozanoi in partnership with the Cincinnati Art Museum and others.

The “Truth and Reconciliation - Black & Brown Artist Grants” program will provide financial support so that Black and Brown artists in Cincinnati, and the region, can continue to explore the themes of our times. **Projects should use the arts to document this profound moment and/or help move the city and region forward to a more better future.**

Projects should leverage the power of the arts in one or more ways as outlined in ArtsWave's [Blueprint for Collective Action](#) (see Appendix A): to heal; to deepen roots; to bridge divides; or to promote learning and understanding. Projects should also involve some aspect of collaboration with neighborhood or community groups or partners. In this way, members of the Cincinnati region will participate in reconciling the moment and imagining a more just and equitable present and future through the arts.

Eligibility

Applicants for a “Truth & Reconciliation” project grant are:

- An individual artist (either working as a sole proprietor or under an organized LLC as the sole member of the LLC), or teaching artist, working in any artistic discipline* and
- Black, African American, Indigenous, Bi-Racial or of Latino descent

**For the purpose of this program, artistic disciplines include Dance, Music, Opera/Musical Theatre, Theatre, Visual Arts, Design Arts, Crafts, Photography, Media Arts, Literature, Folk/Traditional Arts, Performing Arts, Spoken Word or Interdisciplinary Arts*

You must also meet the following requirements:

- 18 years of age or older;
- Full-time resident of the City of Cincinnati (for City funded grants) or in one of the 15 counties served by ArtsWave (for Duke Energy/ArtsWave-funded grants) at least since January 1, 2020 and at the time of the grant award;
- Have reported taxable income related to your work as an individual artist or teaching artist in your most recently filed tax return; and/or have a verifiable body of work through digital work samples or website.

Proposal and Documentation Requirements:

1. Application narrative including project description and how your proposed project relates to the theme of Truth and Reconciliation
2. Identification of community collaborators or neighborhood partners and their roles
3. Project Budget and Project Timeline (projects must be completed by June 1, 2021)
4. Any plans for project presentation, installation or display for the general public beyond the planned joint Grantee exhibition at the Freedom Center
5. Artist Statement and artistic work samples (digital format)
6. Proof of residency (deed, lease, utility bill or other documentation)
7. Completed W9 and Vendor Survey
8. Optional: Completed Cincinnati Artist Census

Funding Amounts

We anticipate that between 8 and 16 grants of up to \$10,000 will be awarded to artists residing in the city of Cincinnati. We anticipate that between 4 and 8 grants will be awarded to artists in the Cincinnati region but outside of the city of Cincinnati.

Eligible Expenses

Expenses must be directly associated with the funded activity and include:

- Artist Fee (self-compensation)
- Fees paid to other artists or collaborative partners as part of this project
- Materials/Supplies

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- On-line tools/services
 - Marketing
 - Community engagement activities
 - Other expenses directly associated with the funded activity

Ineligible Expenses:

- Refinance or repayment of existing debt
- Expenses related to gambling or gaming activities
- Expenses related to the purveyance of "adult" materials (i.e., pornographic, lewd, prurient, obscene, etc.)
- Activities, services, products or materials involving nude or semi-nude performances or the sale of sexual aids or devices
- Real estate investment business expenses
- Religious-affiliated organization expenses
- Any expenses that give rise to or support any other activity constituting a nuisance
- Any expenses supporting any illegal activity

Criteria for Evaluating Proposals

Applications will be reviewed by a panel consisting of community volunteers and awarded by the ArtsWave Board of Directors using the following criteria:

- Alignment with the program theme: Truth & Reconciliation
- Potential of the project to document and explore the realities and emotions revealed by 2020's health and social/racial justice crises and/or help move the city forward to a more equitable future. Projects should leverage the power of the arts in one or more ways as outlined in ArtsWave's Blueprint for Collective Action: to heal; to deepen roots; to bridge divides; or to promote learning and understanding.
- Meaningful involvement of and collaboration with community members or neighborhood partners, so that residents are involved in reconciliation and imagining a more just and equitable Cincinnati
- Track record of artistic work
- Project budget and timeline are reasonable and sufficient to execute the project

Application Instructions

All application materials must be submitted via Submittable, ArtsWave's online grantmaking system. We strongly recommend that you begin your online application well before the due date to familiarize yourself with the online grantmaking system and to address any technical concerns. While completing your application, remember these tips:

- Be brief, clear and direct, focusing on what is most important.
- Review panelists may have little or no prior knowledge of your organization. Create a stronger application by:
 - not assuming reviewers have extensive knowledge of all artistic disciplines;
 - explaining acronyms; and
 - explaining the characteristics of your community or audience as needed.

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- We recommend that you prepare your responses offline in a word processing program and then copy and paste them into the appropriate sections of the online application.
 - Limit the use of bullets and other formatting in text fields.
 - Add Impact@ArtsWave.org to your safe senders list to ensure that you receive all communications from the online grantmaking system.
 - Use one of the following compatible browsers: Chrome® v.22+, Firefox® version v.27+, Internet Explorer® v.8-10 (if enabled), Internet Explorer v.11, Safari® v.7+, or Edge®.

The application can be accessed using the following link:

<https://artswave.submittable.com/submit/0ba3c00d-1b9a-487c-97a6-0082784a617f/fy2021-truth-reconciliation-project-grants-for-black-and-brown-artists-appli>

Important Information for Grant Recipients

- Grant awards are competitive and contingent on available funds and the range of proposals received.
- This funding opportunity does not require a match.
- Groups/ensembles/partnerships must identify a lead applicant. If awarded, the lead applicant will be responsible for entering into an agreement and receiving the funds to disperse to the other members.
- Applicants must complete a W9 with data reflecting the appropriate individual/entity for tax purposes. Please consult with your accountant or a tax advisor to determine if the grant is taxable income in your specific situation.
- If an artist has established their artistic practice as an LLC or other business entity and the artist is the sole owner/proprietor of the business then the artist may choose to enter their business entity into an agreement with ArtsWave.
- Grant awards will be paid in two parts: 75% of award payable upon execution of contract between ArtsWave and Artist and 25% of award payable upon receipt of a final report within 30 days of the project's completion and no later than 9/30/21.
- Grantees are required to acknowledge, with name and logos, grant support provided by ArtsWave and the City of Cincinnati and any other funding partners in connection with the project. This may include, but is not limited to, acknowledgment on promotional or press materials (print and digital/online), at the physical installation site, and/or at public engagement events. This also includes submitting event information to ArtsWave Guide (online arts calendar).
- This grant does not constitute a purchase agreement for any artwork produced. The artist retains ownership of work produced with the support of ArtsWave.

Application Deadlines & Key Dates

- Dec 1, 2020 – Application deadline*
- Prior to Dec 31, 2020 - Expected award announcements
- June 1, 2021 - Projects must be completed
- June/July - Exhibition/Performances at Freedom Center

* application closes at 5pm on the deadline

Contact ArtsWave

Additional application questions may be directed to Krista Bondi, Grant Programs Manager, at krista.bondi@artswave.org.

Appendix A: Blueprint for Collective Action

Our Vision – A more vibrant regional economy and more connected community for all.

Overview

By supporting a wide variety of art forms and providing strategic leadership for the arts sector in the broader community, ArtsWave creates an environment where the growing impact of the arts is felt and celebrated by the entire community.

The Blueprint for Collective Action provides a focus for ArtsWave's community investments and strategic initiatives for the next ten years. The Blueprint is designed to achieve three things:

- Align with broader community objectives;
- Provide more clarity and specificity around the kinds of activities and outcomes ArtsWave desires; and
- Leverage more support from the community by demonstrating relevance to the community.

By focusing the ArtWave's investment strategy, the Blueprint is intended to stake a bold vision for the region for enhanced impact through the arts by establishing five community goals and creating a roadmap for their achievement.

Blueprint Goals and Roles

The Blueprint is based on the following principles:

- All goals have equal priority.
- Every arts organization plays a part in achieving our collective goals through a wide variety of activities and programs that create community impact – some new, many already established.
- Individual arts organizations (of any size or discipline) can play specific roles in support of the achievement of each goal.
- No single arts organization can fulfill all roles for all goals all the time. A diverse arts community supporting many different types of organizations and activities is necessary to fulfill all roles and achieve all goals.
- A single activity or program may fulfill several roles and may advance progress on more than one goal.
- ArtsWave, too, has specific roles to play in the achievement of each goal. ArtsWave must leverage its position as leader, connector, aggregator, and partner to build capacities sector-wide.

Arts Put Cincinnati on the Map

Greater Cincinnati's innovative arts scene attracts talent, visitors, and business to the region.

GOAL: To be a more competitive region for talent attraction by leveraging arts that are perceived as extraordinary

Roles for Arts Organizations:

- To design new or unexpected artistic collaborations
- To create arts experiences that are active, immersive, and social; and that stretch the boundaries of the art form
- To improve and employ digital capabilities and use of social media to reach and engage digitally oriented or remote audiences
- To participate in collaborative efforts to increase earned media and leverage paid media/marketing opportunities
- To develop and share stories that distinguish the region through its arts

Arts Deepen Roots in the Region

Residents who are engaged in the arts – whether as volunteers, artists, or audience members – have a stronger and more positive connection to the community.

GOAL: To deepen feelings of engagement and connection to the community by widening participation in arts experiences, especially those that resonate with adults age 40 and under

Roles for Arts Organizations:

- To create arts experiences that are participatory, social, recurring, and encourage personal investment in the organization and/or community
- To create arts experiences for college students and young professionals
- To develop partnerships and collaborations with local colleges and universities
- To involve college students and young professionals at all levels of organizational decision-making

Arts Bridge Cultural Divides

When the arts reflect and celebrate the diversity of our community, residents build a greater understanding and appreciation of cultural differences.

GOAL: To promote cross cultural understanding by increasing the availability and accessibility of arts experiences that include and represent all races and ethnicities

Roles for Arts Organizations:

- To present works of art created by artists of all races and ethnicities
- To create arts experiences that include artists of all races and ethnicities
- To create and/or present art that tells the story(ies) of all races and ethnicities
- To create shared arts experiences for people of all races and ethnicities
- To identify and establish partnerships and collaborations that support equitable access to arts experiences for people of all races and ethnicities
- To involve at all levels of organizational decision-making people who reflect the broadest possible racial and ethnic diversity
- To develop cross-cultural artistic partnerships and collaborations

Arts Enliven Neighborhoods

Community arts centers, galleries, and theaters serve as vital hubs for neighborhood activity that supports local business and builds civic pride.

GOAL: To enhance the vibrancy of neighborhoods, particularly those that are underserved and/or revitalizing, by increasing the availability and accessibility of arts organizations and opportunities

Roles for Arts Organizations:

- To establish partnerships and collaborations within the neighborhood in which the organization is physically located
- To create an environment where all members of the organization's surrounding neighborhood feel welcome
- To increase the variety and frequency of arts experiences embedded in or accessible to neighborhoods throughout the region
- To improve the aesthetics of the region's neighborhoods
- To enliven indoor and outdoor public spaces throughout the region with arts experiences
- To optimize the use of resources already present in neighborhoods throughout the region to support equitable access to arts experiences

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- To improve and employ digital capabilities and use of social media to reach and engage neighborhoods

Arts Fuel Creativity and Learning

The arts have the power to transform education both by improving learning of core curriculum and teaching skills like creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking.

GOAL: To promote the development of 21st century skills by ensuring that all children in the region, particularly those that are underserved, have access to multiple arts opportunities

Roles for Arts Organizations:

- To provide meaningful arts education opportunities for youth at all grade levels
- To optimize the use of resources already present in school and community settings to support equitable access for youth to meaningful arts education opportunities
- To provide professional development and enrichment opportunities for arts educators
- To develop curricula, materials, and training to support arts integration in all subjects and at all grade levels