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Funding Arts. Fueling Community.

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region

FY 26 Sustaining
Impact Renewal

February 10, 2025

TOP 40 MOST ARTS-VIBRANT COMMUNITIES OF 2024
data-driven rankings across the U.S.

LARGE COMMUNITIES (population >1M)

#1	San Francisco-San Mateo-Redwood City, CA
#2	New York-Jersey City-White Plains, NY-NJ
#3	Boston, MA
#4	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV
#5	Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI
#6	Philadelphia, PA
#7	Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin, TN
#8	Newark, NJ
#9	Frederick-Gaithersburg-Rockville, MD
#10	Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown, TX
#11	Chicago-Naperville-Evanston, IL
#12	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale, CA
#13	Seattle-Bellevue-Kent, WA
#14	Milwaukee-Waukesha, WI
#15	Rochester, NY
#16	New Orleans-Metairie, LA
#17	Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA
#18	Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO
#19	Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN
#20	Cambridge-Newton-Framingham, MA

MEDIUM COMMUNITIES (population 100,000 - 1M)

#1	Santa Fe, NM
#2	Ithaca, NY
#3	San Rafael, CA
#4	Pittsfield, MA
#5	Kalamazoo-Portage, MI
#6	Boulder, CO
#7	Missoula, MT
#8	Wilmington, DE-MD-NJ
#9	Syracuse, NY
#10	Ann Arbor, MI

SMALL COMMUNITIES (population <100,000)

#1	Jackson, WY-ID
#2	Steamboat Springs, CO
#3	Juneau, AK
#4	Vineyard Haven, MA
#5	Branson, MO
#6	Brevard, NC
#7	Taos, NM
#8	Glenwood Springs, CO
#9	Hailey, ID
#10	Auburn, NY

SMU DataArts releases its 9th Arts Vibrancy Index examining the level of supply, demand, and government support for the arts, which reveals that highly arts-vibrant communities are dispersed broadly throughout the U.S. This year, San Francisco-San Mateo-Redwood City, CA remains in the top spot on the list of most arts-vibrant large communities, while Santa Fe, NM and Jackson, WY-ID top the medium and small sized community lists, respectively. Learn more and explore the interactive map on our website, smu.edu/dataarts

SMU DataArts

Growing Impact

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Sustaining Impact Grants

- **Unrestricted** operating support awarded in 3-year cycles

- Grant amount based on budget and community impact

- *No other community does this at this scale*

A Mindful Moment (The Well)
American Legacy Theatre
ArtsConnect
ArtWorks
Behringer-Crawford Museum
Bi-Okoto Drum & Dance Theatre
Cincinnati Art Museum
Cincinnati Ballet
Cincinnati Boychoir
Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra
Cincinnati Landmark Productions
Cincinnati Men's Chorus
Cincinnati Musical Festival Association (May Festival)
Cincinnati Opera
Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park
Cincinnati Shakespeare Company
Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra

Cincinnati Youth Choir
Clifton Cultural Arts Center
Contemporary Arts Center
Elementz Hip Hop Cultural Art Center
Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati
Fitton Center for Creative Arts
Kennedy Heights Arts Center
Kentucky Symphony Orchestra
Know Theatre of Cincinnati
Learning Through Art, Inc.
Linton Chamber Music
MUSE Cincinnati's Women's Choir
Mutual Dance Theatre and Arts Centers
My Nose Turns Red Youth Circus
NrityArpana School Of Indian Classical Dance
Over-the-Rhine International Film Festival

Oxford Community Arts Center
Pones
Price Hill Will
Professional Artistic Research Projects
Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park and Museum
Queen City Opera
Taft Museum of Art
The Carnegie
The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati
Visionaries and Voices
Vocal Arts Ensemble of Cincinnati
Wave Pool
Wyoming Fine Arts Center
Young Professionals Choral Collective

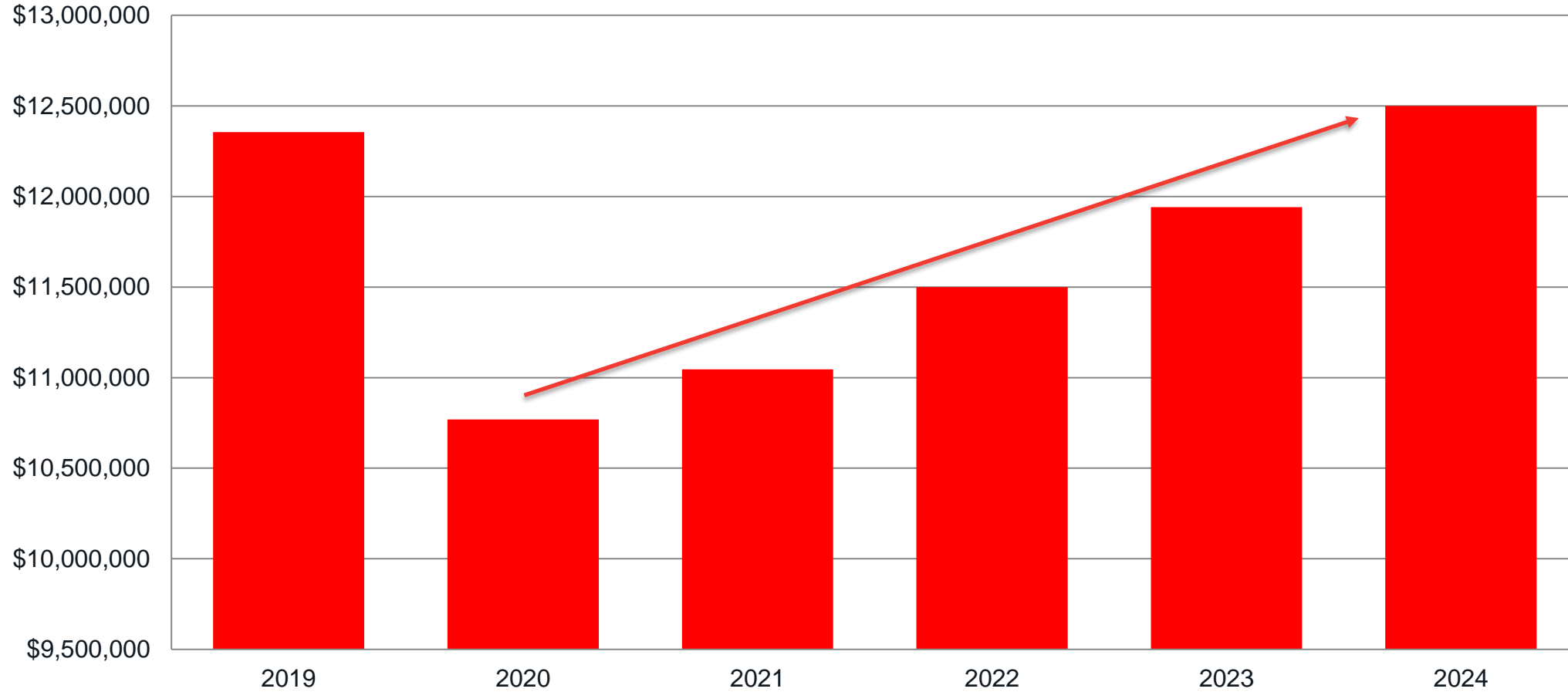arts wave
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2025 Campaign

stronger arts for a stronger region

Beginning with the End in Mind

Campaign 2025

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Sustaining Impact FY26

Year 3 of FY24-26

Timeline 2025

February 3:	**FY26 Renewal Application Open**
April 11:	**FY26 Renewal Application DUE** ***Panel reviews and scores**
May:	**FY26 Renewal Presentations**
June 20:	**ArtsWave Board Meeting**
July 15	**FY25 Semi-Annual Report 2 Due**
September 1:	**FY26 AW Fiscal Year/SI starts**

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Panel Rubric

1. The organization's mission, target audience, board and staff leadership, and program activity seem stable and align with AW goals and values. **Exceptional (15) -Weak (1)**

2. **Based on the narrative presented, the organization demonstrates sufficient CAPACITY to execute a clear, reasonable and sustainable strategy over FY26.** **Exceptional (15) -Weak (1)**

3. Based on the narrative presented, the organization has a track record of intentional PROGRAMMING that shows community impact as defined in the Blueprint. **Exceptional (15) -Weak (1)**

4. **Based on the narrative presented, the organization demonstrates RELEVENCE to the community based on public/consumer demand, size of audience and ability to attract support.** **Exceptional (15) -Weak (1)**

Panel Rubric

5.   The organization can articulate how it adds to the region's cultural landscape without duplication. **Exceptional (5) -Weak (1)**

6.   **The organization has proposed GOALS that demonstrate SMART planning and have potential to move the Blueprint forward in FY26.** **Exceptional (10) -Weak (1)**

7. Support materials reflect and demonstrate the information reviewed and assessed through this application. The materials were clear, easy to follow, and timely in the last 12 months. **Exceptional (10) -Weak (1)**

8. **Based on what we know today about the road ahead and based on the financial information in this application, this organization has a viable path or plan to continue impact.** **Exceptional (15) -Weak (1)**

TOTAL: 100 points.

An organization must receive a minimum total score of **70 or higher** to remain part of the cohort and receive proportional funding through the Sustaining Impact grant program in FY26.

Scoring Label	Description	Total Score
Exceptional	The applicant has provided <u>overwhelming</u> evidence throughout the application that demonstrates that the organization has the capacity, programming, and relevance to drive impact in support of the Blueprint for Collective Action.	95 to 100
		90 to 94.9
Strong	The applicant has provided <u>sound</u> evidence throughout the application that demonstrates that the organization has the capacity, programming, and relevance to drive impact in support of the Blueprint for Collective Action.	85 to 89.9
		80 to 84.9
Good	The applicant has provided <u>sufficient</u> evidence throughout the application that demonstrates that the organization has the capacity, programming, and relevance to drive impact in support of the Blueprint for Collective Action.	70 to 79.9
Average		62 to 69.9
Fair	The applicant has provided <u>limited</u> evidence throughout the application that demonstrates that the organization has the capacity, programming, and relevance to drive impact in support of the Blueprint for Collective Action.	31 to 61.9
Weak	The applicant has provided <u>very limited</u> evidence throughout the application that demonstrates that the organization has the capacity, programming, and relevance to drive impact in support of the Blueprint for Collective Action.	0 to 30.9

The Renewal Application

Organizational Information

Responding to Panel

- Contact and staff information (updated)
- Organization Mission
- Target Audience or Population
- Organization's boilerplate description used in press release
- Please list any major changes in the last year or anticipated changes in artistic direction, operations management, or board leadership in the upcoming year
- Board and staff numbers
- Annual organizational data (Summary Outputs: sales, arts education, community engagement)

Counting Numbers:

BE CONSISTENT YEAR OVER YEAR

Total NUMBER of IN PERSON tickets/admissions/registrations sold in FY2024. (Do not include Community Engagement and Arts Education from below). (required)

[ ]

Total DOLLAR AMOUNT of IN PERSON tickets/admissions/registrations sold in FY2024. (Do not include Community Engagement and Arts Education from below). (required)

$ [ ] USD

Total NUMBER of VIRTUAL tickets/admissions/registrations sold in FY2024. (Do not include Community Engagement and Arts Education from below). (required)

[ ]

Total DOLLAR AMOUNT of VIRTUAL tickets/admissions/registrations sold in FY2024. (Do not include Community Engagement and Arts Education from below). (required)

$ [ ] USD

Total number of free and low-cost community engagement ACTIVITIES provided in FY2024 (NOTE: Count number of offerings, not number of programs; for example, if you had a 5-day summer camp, count 5). Do NOT include arts education from below. (required)

[ ]

Total number of PEOPLE served through free and low-cost community engagement programs in FY2024. Do NOT include arts education from below. (required)

[ ]

Total number of TK-12 ACTIVITIES provided in FY2024 (NOTE: Count number of offerings, not number of programs; for example, if you had a 5-day after-school program, count 5). Do NOT include Community Engagement from above. (required)

[ ]

Total number of TK-12 STUDENTS served in FY2024. Do NOT include Community Engagement from above. (required)

[ ]

Organizational Narrative

Please discuss your organizational CAPACITY to create community impact based on the Blueprint for Collective Action in the upcoming FY26.

This question provides you the opportunity to create your narrative. The Review Panel will be using this question to assess CAPACITY and will be looking for information about the following:

- Your overall financial health and where do you see that heading into FY26;

- Your governance and leadership planning process, meaning your board, staff and decision-making processes that make you successful and what concerns you may have; and

- Your strategic plan, including how you implement and assess.

Organizational Narrative

Please discuss your PROGRAMMING philosophy with examples.

This question provides you the opportunity to create your narrative. The Review Panel will be using this question to assess PROGRAMMING and will be looking for information about the following:

- **The programming you have planned for FY26;**

- **How programming aligns with your organizational mission; and**

- **How your programming aligns with the Blueprint for Collective Action.**

Organizational Narrative

Please discuss your RELEVANCE to the community.

This question provides you the opportunity to create your narrative. The Review Panel will be using this question to assess RELEVANCE and will be looking for information about the following:

- **The need and/or demand for your product in the community;**

- **The depth and breadth of your programming (annual, festival, etc.); and**

- **How and what does your organization add to our region's cultural landscape that otherwise wouldn't be here?**

Organizational Narrative

Please discuss how you BENCHMARK your organization nationally to put Cincinnati on the Map.

This question provides you the opportunity to create your narrative to discuss, partly, how you self-evaluate your impact locally and nationally.

- NEA defines Artistic Excellence and Artistic Merit criteria as mastery of skills and techniques, communication of unique vision or perspective, professional approaches to process and presentation;

- What (national) organizations do you benchmark these qualities against and how are you doing?

Impact Assessment
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Access

- ArtsWave will continue *Lifting as We Learn* DEIA plan

- Grantees embody ArtsWave's commitment to access, equity, and inclusiveness

- DEIA Roundtables

- Sector Learning: Legal implications in new administration

APPLICATION: Are you evolving your DEIA plan and practices to continue your work in this space in 2025 and if so, how?

Impact Assessment

1. FY26 final cycle before ArtsWave Centennial

2. FY24-26 Goals Setting: 3-year progress: **SAME GOALS**
   - Small and Mid-size orgs: 2 Blueprint Goals
   - Large organizations: 5 Blueprint Goals

QUESTION: What Blueprint Impact can your organization demonstrate to the community from the last three-year cycle?

WHY?
1. **To share with the community as we celebrate100 years since the Taft's gift**
2. **To look for the direction for the next 10 years of social impact benchmarking**

Financials

- Update Financial Contact

- ArtsWave Financial Reporting Form
  SUBMIT AS EXCEL

- 990
- Large Orgs: Audit

- Capital Campaign Information

Support Materials

1. Work Samples: REQUIRED

- TWO SAMPLES from past 12 months
- Many formats
- VIDEO/AUDIO: 5 mins or less
  - -upload files
  - -paste links in WORD and upload WORD

2. Additional Materials: OPTIONAL

- Up to 3 additional
- Demonstrate Community Impact
- Demonstrate capacity, relevance, programming
- Demonstrate Blueprint goal

Presentations

Tell the story of your orgs impact:

A. Orgs may bring up to 4 people
  -Generally, CPO, Development, Board Chair

B. Panel Chair will welcome and may ask you to make introductions: Keep it brie

C. Time: Small: 10 min. Prepared/10 min. Q&A
     Mid/Large: 15 min. Prepared/15 min. Q&A

D. Send presentation to Ray in advance

E. Expand on your written applications to include:
     1. Capacity, Programming, Relevance
     2. Example of DEIA and or Blueprint

Presentation Set Up

QUESTIONS?

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