



Contact: Kathy DeBrosse, Vice President, Marketing & Engagement
Kathy.debrosse@artswave.org; 937.207.3079

Your Vote Matters **Help Pick the look for a Cincinnati Bell Connector Streetcar**

CINCINNATI – January 12, 2022 – Twenty local artists have submitted potential designs to wrap a Cincinnati Bell Connector streetcar through a competitive design contest that ArtsWave, the engine for the arts, is administering in partnership with the City of Cincinnati and Cincinnati Bell.

The public is invited between now and Sunday, January 16 to vote for the designs they think best convey how the arts uniquely connect us and drive the overall vibrancy of Greater Cincinnati. The top three vote-getters will move on to the final round of expert judging with the winner and newly wrapped streetcar will be announced at a press conference in early February. The chosen artist will receive a \$2,500 grant from ArtsWave along with a traveling arts exhibition aboard the streetcar, a first ever of its type locally.

The streetcar travels a 3.6-mile route between Over-the-Rhine, Downtown and The Banks. Cincinnati Bell bought naming rights to the streetcar system at the time it began passenger service in September 2016.

The design contest complements the new arts-theme design that was unveiled on the streetcar's five-year anniversary. The first streetcar to don a new wrap is specific to Music Hall and reinforces Arts Wave, the nation's largest united arts fund as the way that the region funds and supports more than 150 local projects and cultural groups.

Visit artswave.org/streetcar to see all the designs and to cast your vote.

###

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 150 arts organizations, school outreach programs, festivals, community centers, neighborhoods and various collaborations through impact-based grants. ArtsWave raised \$11 million for the arts in 2021, despite the difficult 18-month health and economic crisis that has affected the entire region. Donations can be made at artswave.org/give.