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BLINK® Parade to Light Up 5th Street

Parade to feature more than 2,500 participants

Cincinnati, OH (October 10, 2022) – Organizers of BLINK®, illuminated by ArtsWave, have announced full details for Thursday’s upcoming parade. Sponsored by Skyline Chili, the theme of this year’s parade is “Together: a constellation of shared cultures and unique identities; we illuminate joy through creative expression.” In total, more than 2,500 participants from 85 groups will shine a light on cultural heritage, identity and pride, the Cincinnati region, and our connections as humans throughout space and time.

Starting at 7:30 pm, the parade features a new route. Participants will light up 5th Street in downtown Cincinnati from Broadway to Elm Street, and will culminate in a Parade Finale taking place near 5th and Elm Street.



To produce this year’s parade, BLINK partnered with *ish*, a Cincinnati-based community engagement organization that centers Jewish arts, culture, and traditions as a platform to connect artists with diverse communities, create new experiences, inspire pride in intersectional identity, and deepen connections to Cincinnati Jewish history and peoplehood.

"*ish* is all about celebrating where we've come from," said Marie Krulewitch-Browne, Founding Executive & Artistic Director for *ish*, BLINK's parade partner. "We wanted the parade to showcase the incredible diversity and creativity of our region - from individual torchbearers to cultural heritage performance groups and more."

For the first time, the parade features local Torchbearers, nominated by the community, that will be carrying glowing BLINK torches. Ten Torchbearers were chosen by a committee:

- Will from Make-A-Wish
- Kristen Schlotmann
- Toilynn O'Neal Turner
- Lee Turner
- Jo Martin
- Ian & Jessica Orr
- Gary Dangel
- Charlotte Reed
- Sherry Hughes
- Isaac Wright

"The parade is going to be MAGICAL. This is one of my favorite events and this year's parade will be the best one yet," said Krulewitch-Browne. "A parade of nations, woodland creatures, constellations, light up marching bands, children, elders, dance groups, larger-than-life sized puppets, kinetic sculptures, and of course, a wacky weird glimpse at Future City inhabitants."

Throughout the whole planning process, BLINK and *ish* connected with community leaders across the region to distribute more than 1,000 lantern and hat kits to area schools, nonprofits and community groups throughout Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky. Local museums and organizations hosted workshops for the public to create an illuminated item to hold or wear for their viewing of the Parade.

Parade route road closures start at 6:30pm on Thursday, October 13 until approximately 11:00pm:

Fifth Street- closed between Central Avenue and Pike Street

Broadway- closed between Fourth Street and Sixth Street

Sycamore Street- closed between Sixth Street and Fourth Street (Garage access maintained from Sixth Street)

Main Street- closed between Fourth Street and Sixth Street

Walnut Street- closed between Sixth Street and Fourth Street (Garage access maintained from Sixth Street)

Vine Street- closed between Fourth Street and Sixth Street (Hotel access maintained from Fourth Street)

Race Street- closed between Sixth Street and Fourth Street (Garage access maintained from Fourth Street)

Elm Street- closed between Fourth Street and Sixth Street

More details and a full listing of groups participating in the parade are available at blinkcincinnati.com.

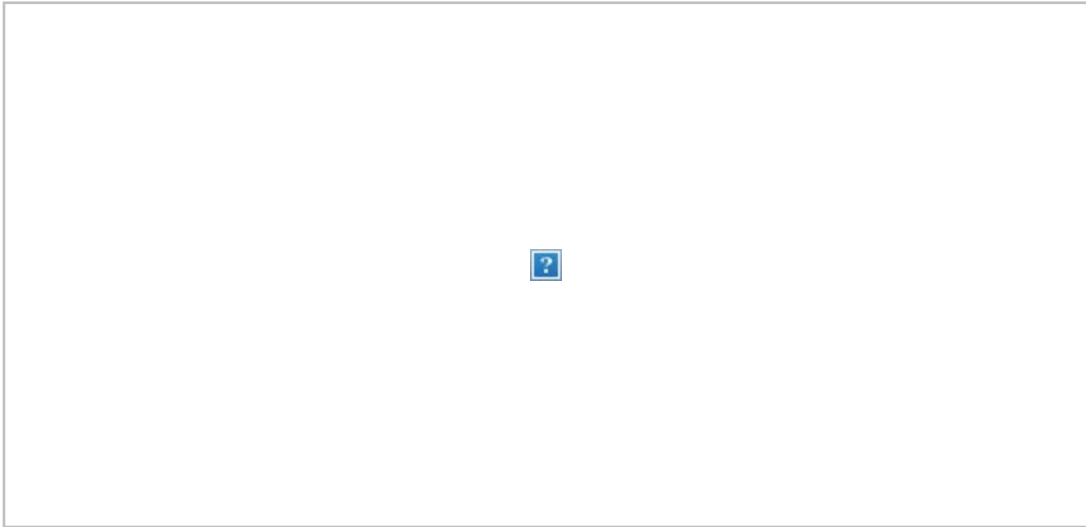
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About BLINK

Last experienced by over 1.3M people in 2019, BLINK, Illuminated by ArtsWave, welcomes all to Cincinnati, Ohio October 13-16, 2022. The four-day, 30 city block, outdoor art experience is sure to be unforgettable, uniting street art, projection mapping and light-based installations.

Not only does the event speak to the dynamic evolution of the Cincinnati art community, it calls upon the city's deep roots in supporting the arts. BLINK is illuminated by ArtsWave, the first and largest community campaign in the nation and the primary way that Cincinnati funds its arts. When tens of thousands of people and hundreds of companies give to ArtsWave, they support 150 cultural organizations and projects each year like BLINK that make our region vibrant. Donations to BLINK and other arts projects and organizations can be made at artswave.org/give.

BLINK is produced and curated by its Executive Partners - the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber, AGAR, and the Haile Foundation, and produced in conjunction with its Partners ArtWorks, Cincy Nice, and *ish* - to provide opportunities for regional artists and bring in global creators all in the pursuit of a stronger community.



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