



PREPARING STUDENTS
FOR LIFE

Through Academic Achievement · Personal Well-Being · Career Readiness

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ArtsWave's arts field trip partnership with Cincinnati Public Schools, "More Arts, More Kids," begins October 17

CINCINNATI, OH—On October 17, ArtsWave's "More Arts More Kids" initiative will take its first steps as 2,500 Cincinnati Public School (CPS) third graders attend daytime performances of The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati's (TCT) production of "SpongeBob The Musical: Youth Edition" at the Taft Theatre.

"More Arts More Kids" is designed to provide every student in grades 1-6 with an annual arts field trip. This year's pilot program with CPS will include the third-grade trips to TCT, a visual art field trip to the Cincinnati Art Museum (CAM) for all fourth graders, funded by Florence Koetters; and a Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra Young People's Concert at Music Hall for a portion of the district's first graders. Over the following school years, additional grades will be introduced to the arts at venues across the region, with a total of 50,000 kids going on trips over the course of the pilot program.

"At ArtsWave, one of our strategic goals is to ensure every child experiences our region's arts. We're thrilled to partner with CPS to offer their students the benefits of engaging with arts programming regardless of their socio-economic status. These trips not only provide students exposure to our amazing arts institutions but also connect them to a larger world of people, places and ideas," says ArtsWave President and CEO Alecia Kintner.

Such exposure and connection help students develop social-emotional skills such as tolerance and empathy. Additionally, students who attend multiple arts field trips demonstrate higher levels of school engagement, increased conscientiousness and perform better on their end-of-grade standardized tests.

"Cincinnati Public Schools is committed to expanding its cultural experiences in the arts for all students and this is a positive step in the right direction," Cincinnati Public Schools Superintendent and CEO Iranetta Rayborn Wright said. "Our longtime partnership with ArtsWave provides a direct pathway for our students to engage in local arts programming, thus furthering our goal to give our students a well-rounded education that nurtures creativity, ignites innovation and enriches their lives."

The "More Arts, More Kids" program addresses ArtsWave's Blueprint for Collective Action goal of Fueling Creativity and Learning in All Kids Through the Arts. ArtsWave regularly invests in arts education to promote the development of 21st-century skills by ensuring that all children in the region, particularly those who may be underserved, have equitable access to meaningful arts experiences.

The "More Arts, More Kids" program is facilitated by ArtsWave and funded, in part, through donors to the 2023 ArtsWave Community Campaign. ArtsWave will continue seeking funds for this program in the upcoming 2024 campaign.

To support ArtsWave and more programs like this, visit artswave.org.

The initial scheduled "More Arts, More Kids" dates and experiences are:

October 17-20, 2023: Third graders attend The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati's production of "SpongeBob The Musical: Youth Edition" at the Taft Theatre. With songs from Cyndi Lauper to T.I. to Lady A, this musical brings the characters of Bikini Bottom to life and will have students singing and dancing out of the theater, allowing many to benefit from arts education they might otherwise not experience. Additionally, they'll hear a familiar voice, as Cincinnati Reds first baseman Joey Votto serves as the show's recorded "French Narrator."

November 20-21, 2023 & March 13 & 19, 2024: First graders attend Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra's Young People's Concerts (YPCs). Running since 1920, YPCs continue to be crucial to establishing musical curiosity and appreciation in children. The concerts help introduce young people to orchestral music and facilitate their love for it. Attendees can look forward to interactive and cross-disciplinary experiences that explore the connections between music and creative writing, and music and geometry.

November 2023 to May 2024: Fourth graders visit CAM for docent-led tours of the Cincinnati Wing of the museum and an art-making activity. Funded by Florence Koetters, field trips will involve all fourth-grade elementary art teachers and students in CPS. The program focuses on the Cincinnati Wing galleries and features a docent-guided tour that connects to the Ohio History unit covered in fourth grade. The program also includes an art-making activity to help students understand why the Cincinnati Wing is unique to CAM, and the art-making experience further enhances the learning obtained in the galleries – from theory to practice.

For more information about the “More Arts, More Kids” initiative, contact Ray Gargano, ArtsWave's Vice President of Community Investments at 513-632-0103; ray.gargano@artswave.org

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About ArtsWave

ArtsWave, the local nonprofit arts agency 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 established 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. Each year, ArtsWave raises nearly \$12 million from tens of thousands of donors — corporations, employees, foundations, residents and others — to support more than 150 arts organizations, projects and artists. Donations can be made at artswave.org/give.

About Cincinnati Public Schools

The Cincinnati City School District, also known as Cincinnati Public Schools serves about 36,000 students in over 66 schools spread across southwest Ohio. CPS is Greater Cincinnati's largest, and Ohio's second largest school district. CPS offers families high-quality educational choices and a variety of academic programs. With a focus on Academics, Behavior and Culture, CPS is committed to developing the whole child, ensuring students thrive and graduate prepared to enroll in college, enlist in the military or become gainfully employed. For more information visit <http://www.cps-k12.org>.