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**ArtsWave announces COVID relief grants through Hamilton County CARES Act –
Arts and Culture Organization Relief Program**

October 8, 2020 – ArtsWave, the engine for the region's arts, announces that it will help award \$3.5 million allocated by Hamilton County Commissioners through CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds to combat the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 on the local arts community. Funding guidelines are online at <https://www.artswave.org/apply-for-funding>.

The Hamilton County CARES Arts and Culture Organization Relief Program will cover costs of necessary expenditures incurred by Hamilton County arts and culture organizations due to the COVID-19 public health emergency between March 1, 2020 and December 15, 2020. Relief applications will be reviewed by ArtsWave beginning tomorrow and then awarded by Hamilton County by early December. Eligible applicants that are located in Hamilton County and that have arts and cultural programming as their core mission must submit their materials through ArtsWave's website by October 23.

The arts in the Cincinnati region have an economic impact of \$300 million annually and employ 10,000+ people. Losses of \$40 million in revenue are counted since March as the state banned mass gatherings to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

The COVID-19 relief grants will cover costs incurred due to business disruption, in a year in which performing arts venues and museums lost significant box office and admissions revenue. The grants can also cover costs of mitigation expenses for re-opening and adaptations required for digital programming. Total grant amounts will be based on operating revenue from the prior fiscal year, capped at \$100,000.

"Arts organizations typically derive between half and two-thirds of their annual operating budgets from earned income sources like ticket sales, sponsorships and contracts," said Alecia Kintner, ArtsWave President & CEO. "The COVID-19 pandemic has been devastating for arts organizations that, like any other industry, have fixed costs and valuable employees. Relief from Hamilton County CARES Act funding will make a difference in the ability of the Cincinnati region's arts and culture landscape to remain vibrant and viable."

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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 100 arts organizations, school outreach programs, festivals, community centers, neighborhoods and various collaborations through impact-based grants. In 2020, ArtsWave amassed \$13+ million for the arts, through a combination of its 2020 Campaign and a separate Arts Vibrancy Recovery Fund, designed to ensure the solvency and a vibrant return of the region's arts assets in the wake of the unprecedented health and economic crisis.

ArtsWave is focused on helping the Cincinnati Region's arts sector weather the coronavirus crisis. The region's arts sector has an economic impact of more than \$300 million annually and includes more than 225 organizations throughout Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky and Southeastern Indiana that employ 10,000+ individuals as artists, performers and staff. The sector was hit at the onset of the coronavirus crisis, when venue and performance closures were announced in early March. ArtsWave has accelerated \$2.4 million in grant payments for 43 organizations which receive operating revenues, expanded its \$10,000 Working Capital Bridge Loans for eligible arts organizations, and has provided Emergency Arts & Culture Organization grants to 47 organizations. The public can help fund these and additional, evolving efforts at artswave.org/give.