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## **ArtsWave Annual Meeting Celebrates Achievements, Honors Leaders and Charts Future Course for Arts in Greater Cincinnati**

CINCINNATI (October 30, 2024) – ArtsWave, the engine for the arts in the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky region, held its Annual Meeting yesterday at The 21C Museum Hotel, marking a year of significant accomplishments and setting the stage for future initiatives.

### **Key Highlights:**

- **Jack Rouse named ArtsWave Life Trustee**
- **Kim Kern and Toilynn O'Neal Turner honored with Sachs Fund Prize**
- **New board members elected and officers re-elected**
- **Updates on successful initiatives and future plans shared**

### **Life Trustee Honor**

In recognition of his decades-long commitment to the arts, a special motion was put forward to elect Jack Rouse as an ArtsWave Life Trustee. Rouse's contributions span multiple cultural institutions since his arrival in Cincinnati to found CCM's Musical Theatre program in 1969, including pivotal roles at Kings Island, The Port, 3CDC, and the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra. He's previously served multiple terms on ArtsWave's board since 2010 and was an integral part of ArtsWave transition from the Fine Arts Fund.

### **Sachs Fund Prize Recipients**

The 2024 Rosa F. and Samuel B. Sachs Fund Prize, a bequest from the late Samuel B. Sachs to honor outstanding artistic accomplishments and contributions to the cultural life of the Cincinnati Region, was awarded to two outstanding leaders in the arts community:

1. Kim Kern, President & CEO of The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati (TCT)
2. Toilynn O'Neal Turner, CEO and Founder of the Robert O'Neal Multicultural Arts Center (ROMAC)

ArtsWave President & CEO Alecia Kintner commented, "Recognizing these innovative leaders for the impact they've made on our region is one of ArtsWave's greatest joys.

Kim's vision of a restored Emery Theater in OTR, the original 'home' of TCT, will have an impact on our urban core for years to come. Toilynn's efforts to fill a gap in services for emerging artists in the West End is adding to a broader vision of a thriving, inclusive West End neighborhood. We thank them both for their many contributions that have brought distinction to our region."

### **Board Elections and New Members**

The following officers were re-elected for one-year terms:

- Board Chair: Leigh Fox, President & CEO of altafiber
- Vice Chair: Debbie Hayes, President & CEO The Christ Hospital Network
- Treasurer: Matt Stautberg, CFO of Health Recovery Solutions
- Secretary: Kala Gibson, Executive Vice President, Head of Business Banking & Chief Corporate Responsibility Officer, Fifth Third Bank

Four new trustees were elected to their first three-year term:

- Angie Fischer, COO, Lightborne
- Mike Hall, Senior VP Credit Card Collections, Citi
- Lou Nazir, Director of HR Operations, UC Health
- Sonya Turner, Associate Director, Evaluation Services Center, University of Cincinnati

Four trustees were re-elected to a second three-year term:

- Michelle Hershey, Managing Director, Deloitte
- Michelle Ivory, Owner, Ivory Towers LLC
- Raj Narang, Vice President, Enterprise Diversity & Inclusion Talent Strategy, Fidelity Investments
- Eugene Partridge, Global Head of Strategic Sourcing & Supplier Management, Pinterest.

Four trustees were re-elected for a third three-year term:

- Kala Gibson, Executive Vice President, Chief Corporate Responsibility Officer, Fifth Third Bank
- Todd Immell, Lead Tax Managing Director, Deloitte
- Jeff Meek, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, WS Agency Group
- Rhonda Whitaker Hurtt, Vice President, Community Relations, Duke Energy

Four ex-officio trustees were elected

- Chip Finke, President of The Carnegie (representing grants of \$50,000 or more)
- Jens Rosenkrantz, Jr. Artist and Chair of the Clifton Cultural Arts Center (representing grants of less than \$50,000)
- Ron Bates, Board President of Cincinnati Opera
- Allison Kropp, Board Chair of The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati

A special thank you was given to Jim Price and Don Stock for their service as outgoing trustees and to Melanie Chavez, Donita Parrish and Kathy DeLaura as outgoing Ex-Officio trustees.

## Initiative Updates

The meeting provided updates on several key ArtsWave initiatives:

1. "More Arts, More Kids": a challenge to raise \$1+ million for 50,000 arts field trips for area 1st through 6th graders. The pilot year saw great success and year two aims to build on that and send an additional 15,000 students on field trips.

2. Creative Placemaking Partnership: The new collaboration with meetNKY was introduced, and an update given on the first project to come from the partnership, the Kentucky Gateway mural by internationally renowned artist Maya Hayuk.

3. ArtsWave App Launch: The new app, powered by the region's largest event calendar, Cincy A&E, has seen over 7,000 downloads since its October 1 debut and will be instrumental in ArtsWave's path forward.

Visit [artswave.org/2024report](https://artswave.org/2024report) for more information about the completed 2024 ArtsWave Community Campaign. For other information, visit [artswave.org](https://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 millions of dollars from tens of thousands of donors — corporations, employees, foundations, residents and others — to support more than 150 arts organizations, projects and artists. This year, ArtsWave raised a record \$12.5 million through its yearly campaign from individuals, businesses and foundations to further the region's strategic growth goals. Donations can be made at [artswave.org/give](https://artswave.org/give).