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Cincinnati Opera Legend Patty Beggs and Gallerist Carl Solway Honored by ArtsWave

December 17, 2020 – At its December meeting, the ArtsWave Board of Directors announced co-recipients of the 2020 Sachs Fund Prize: long-time Cincinnati Opera leader Patty Beggs and gallerist Carl Solway, who is being recognized posthumously.

The Sachs Fund Prize is an annual award given for outstanding artistic accomplishment and contributions to the cultural life of the Greater Cincinnati region. ArtsWave President & CEO Alecia Kintner notes, "This is among ArtsWave's greatest joys: to pay tribute to the impact made on our community by visionary individuals through their work in the arts. Patty Beggs made a 35-year contribution to Cincinnati Opera, expanding its audience and repertoire. Patty's commitment to advancing inclusion and showcasing diverse voices has set an example for all to follow. Carl Solway championed the work of independent artists and, from his Cincinnati gallery, influenced collectors around the world. He leaves behind a legacy of compassion and investment in our creative community that will long be remembered. Both honorees have brought further distinction to our region."

About the Honorees:

Patricia K. ("Patty") Beggs, General Director Emerita, joined Cincinnati Opera in late 1984 as Director of Marketing, following a successful corporate career. Her creative marketing campaigns helped affect the Opera's remarkable turnaround in attendance in the late 1980s and 1990s, with the Cincinnati Opera becoming a role model and best-practice/industry standard for new approaches in audience development. On her 25th Anniversary with Cincinnati Opera in 2010, she was awarded the national service award, BRAVO, by OPERA America, and she was presented with the Mayor's Key to the City of Cincinnati. In 2020, Patty retired from Cincinnati Opera after 35 years of service, and in the same year, she was selected as an inaugural inductee to OPERA America's Opera Hall of Fame.

Carl E. Solway, gallerist and champion of Cincinnati's arts community, died at his home on June 25, 2020. He was 85. Solway's focus on an ever-evolving art culture changed artists, collectors and the landscape of art in Cincinnati. He made his gallery a regular presence in the international art world, from the first Art Basel fair in 1970 to his most recent booth at Art Dealers Association of America. Evidence of Solway's visionary career can be found all around Cincinnati – including at his namesake gallery, now run by his son Michael – and in museums, galleries and public spaces throughout the world.

About the Sachs Fund Prize:

The Rosa F. and Samuel B. Sachs Fund Prize is made possible through a 1929 endowed gift to ArtsWave, a bequest from the late Samuel B. Sachs to honor outstanding accomplishments in the arts — which includes visual arts, music, theatre, dance, literature, sculpture and architecture. Over the years, the Sachs Fund Prize has recognized individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the cultural life of Cincinnati, bringing distinction to themselves and the region through their work. Previous recipients include Zaha Hadid, Leah Stewart, Phyllis Weston, Stephen Sondheim, Shepard Fairey, James Conlon, Kathy Wilson, Jim Borgman, Jay Chatterjee and D. Lynn Meyers. A committee chaired by community leader Polk Laffoon, IV selected the 2020 honorees.

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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.