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**Artists: Apply by December 4th for City of Cincinnati Relief Funds
Administered by ArtsWave**

December 2, 2020 – Between now and 5 p.m., Friday, December 4th, pandemic relief funds are available for artists who are residents of the City of Cincinnati.

The Cincinnati Arts Access Fund (CAAF) has been established by the City of Cincinnati with \$200,000 in CARES Act funding. Two-hundred eligible artists of all types (visual artists, performers, actors, musicians, singers, etc.), who are city residents and who earn 25% or more of their income through their art, can receive COVID-related relief grants of \$1,000 each. The fund is being administered by ArtsWave, the engine for the arts, and all funds will be distributed before the end of the year.

"The coronavirus pandemic is causing extreme hardship for large numbers of out-of-work artists in Cincinnati," said City Council member Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney, who proposed the CAAF. "These grants can be used to reimburse living expenses or to find new ways to generate income."

As a giveback, artists will find a way to share their art with the City. "You might hear a violinist playing outside of a nursing home, or a spoken word artist performing poetry on the corner of a neighborhood business district," said Kearney. "They might be Cincinnati Arts Access Fund recipients!"

"ArtsWave is honored partner with the City of Cincinnati to administer this important funding opportunity for artists," said Alecia Kintner, President & CEO of ArtsWave. "We have a chance to provide much-needed financial relief for 200 vital contributors to our creative community."

Eligibility guidelines, program requirements and applications for the CAAF is available at www.artswave.org/apply.

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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.