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ArtsWave announces nearly \$300,000 to Black and Brown artists on the theme of truth and reconciliation

December 22, 2021 – ArtsWave announces that 22 local artists will receive a total of \$282,970 in the second year of its Black and Brown Artist Grants program on the theme of “truth and reconciliation,” marking the next in a series of grants and efforts meant to uplift the artistry and experiences of people of color. The Black and Brown Artist Grants are made possible by ArtsWave in partnership with the City of Cincinnati, Duke Energy, Macy’s, Greater Cincinnati Foundation, Fifth Third Bank and Hard Rock Casino. Grants range from \$8,000 to \$15,000 and include professional development opportunities.

Twenty-two grant recipients were selected from an applicant pool of 54 artists from across the region. This highly competitive grants pool had \$200,000 in allocable dollars for 2022 projects. The panel’s recommendations, approved by ArtsWave’s Board of Directors, provides funds for projects proposed by 15 local artists. In addition, another seven projects by artists of color are being funded through restricted grants. In total, ArtsWave will invest \$282,970 in these 22 projects, which represent exploration of not only the African American experience, but also the experiences of those with Mexican, Chinese, Japanese, Palestinian and Native American heritage. [Click here for a full list of the recipients.](#)

With two years of funding, the Black and Brown Artist Grants Program is slated to provide \$554,608 in total for 49 artists throughout the region. Following the strategy of the program’s first year, the newly announced artists will share their works with the community in a Truth and Reconciliation Artist Showcase for summer of 2022. Each of the projects will include an aspect of public performance or display. Many artists are planning for both live and digital dissemination of the work, a reflection of both the potential for wider reach through technology and the ongoing health risks of the pandemic.

ArtsWave’s Black and Brown Artist Grants are designed to provide financial support so that Black and Brown artists in the Cincinnati region can continue to interpret the themes of our times. The program is one way that ArtsWave is working to increase the sustainability of organizations and artists that focus on the preservation and advancement of Black arts and culture.

Artists are also asked to involve some aspect of collaboration with community members and other partners in their projects, so that the larger public can participate in reconciling the moment and imagining a more just and equitable future for the Cincinnati region through the arts. As a group, the projects advance ArtsWave's Blueprint for Collective Action and the powerful goals of bridging cultural divides, promoting understanding and empathy, deepening the roots of residents, and improving neighborhoods.

New to this year's program is professional development services provided to artists to help them through the grant writing process and beyond. Partnering with the African American Chamber of Commerce, Eye of the Artists Foundation and the Robert O'Neal Multicultural Arts Center (ROMAC), ArtsWave presented a series of grant writing workshops and mentoring prior to the grant submission deadline. Further coaching throughout the execution phase of the projects will be offered by Toilynn O'Neal Turner, of the ROMAC, and Annie Ruth, of Eye of the Artists Foundation.

"The arts are one of our most effective tools for illuminating even the most challenging issues and encouraging dialogue that can lead to positive change and greater understanding," says ArtsWave President & CEO Alecia Kintner. "Knowing that we have much to learn from the artists in our community, ArtsWave is pleased to support the creation of 22 thoughtful and provocative works by local Black and Brown visionaries in the months ahead."

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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. ArtsWave raised \$11 million for the arts in 2021, despite the difficult 18-month health and economic crisis that has affected the entire region. Donations can be made at artswave.org/give.