



ArtsWave Contact: Ryan Strand
Senior Director, Marketing & Communications
513.632.0148: ryan.strand@artswave.org

ArtsWave awards 56 Catalyzing Impact grants to energize Cincinnati's arts scene

CINCINNATI, OH (March 11, 2025) – ArtsWave, the engine for the arts in the Greater Cincinnati region, has awarded \$316,916 through 56 Catalyzing Impact grants to support a diverse array of arts and cultural projects. These grants, part of ArtsWave's annual funding initiatives, will fuel creative endeavors across the region, from innovative performances to community-driven art installations.

ArtsWave's Board of Directors approved the grants following a competitive review process. The Catalyzing Impact grant program, ArtsWave's most accessible funding opportunity, is open to all nonprofits proposing arts projects that align with the organization's Blueprint for Collective Action.

"These grants represent ArtsWave's commitment to fostering a vibrant, inclusive arts community that reflects the diversity of our region," said Alecia Kintner, President & CEO of ArtsWave. "By supporting projects that range from youth education to senior engagement, we're ensuring that the arts continue to play a vital role in connecting our community and driving economic growth."

Among the 56 funded projects, five are based in Warren County, supported by funds raised within the community, part of ArtsWave's pilot campaign strategy to "meet donors where they are." This strategy enables residents and businesses, particularly in Northern Kentucky and the Northern Suburbs to support projects that will directly impact where they live:

- **Neighborhood Play Expansion 2025** by **Back2Back Ministries**, a summer camp program featuring trauma-informed arts and educational activities.
- **Royal Education Series** by **Royal Theatre Company**, offering theater education courses covering performance, technical skills and creative development.

- **Summer Youth Camp and Fall Clinics** by **Springboro Wind Symphony**, a youth music camp that will establish the inaugural Springboro Youth Wind Symphony.
- **ArtScape Lebanon Pottery Studio** by **Warren County Arts Council**, bringing pottery classes and cultural education to an underserved area.
- **Lebanon Festival of the Arts** by **Warren County Historical Society**, a collaborative community festival showcasing visual and performing arts across the region.

"The arts don't just entertain—they shape the identity and vitality of a community," said Daniel Cunningham, CEO of the Cunningham Institute for Growth. "These projects will bring new energy to Warren County, attracting visitors, supporting local businesses and making our communities even better places to live and work."

The Catalyzing Impact grant program is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts and is primarily funded through the annual ArtsWave Community Campaign. This year's campaign aims to raise over \$12.5 million to support the arts sector's recovery and growth.

"Every dollar contributed to the ArtsWave Campaign translates into experiences that enrich our community," Kintner added. "These grants are just one example of how public support for the arts creates a ripple effect of creativity and connection throughout our region."

The Cincinnati region's reputation as an arts destination is largely due to the community's longstanding support of the ArtsWave Campaign. To contribute to the 2025 ArtsWave Community Campaign and help fuel more innovative arts projects, visit artswave.org/give.

For the full list of projects supported by these Catalyzing Impact grants, visit artswave.org/catalyzing.

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About ArtsWave

ArtsWave fuels the Cincinnati region's arts, supporting 150+ organizations, projects and artists each year. Since 1927, it has been the primary way the region funds the arts, raising millions annually from tens of thousands of individuals, businesses and foundations to drive a more vibrant economy and connected community. Through the Blueprint for Collective Action, ArtsWave strategically makes investments that maximize the arts' impact across the region. To learn more and give to the 2025 community campaign, visit artswave.org.

FY2025 Catalyzing Impact Grants

A Picture's Worth | More Than Meets the Eye | \$6,000

A community-led arts project showcasing Price Hill's cultural diversity through interactive displays and programming. The project builds cross-cultural understanding through workshops, exhibitions and live events.

Activities Beyond the Classroom | ABC Clubs | \$5,000

Free afterschool arts programming for historically underserved students. The program ensures equitable access to arts education while supporting social-emotional learning and academic achievement.

Adopt A Class Foundation | The Curtain Rises | 2,500

Offers students diverse cultural experiences, including meeting authors and attending performances. The program focuses on helping students discover their creativity and develop a sense of belonging in artistic spaces.

Art Academy of Cincinnati | Cincinnati Unveiled | \$10,000

A multi-gallery exhibition showcasing emerging, professional, historic and young artists from the region. The project highlights Cincinnati's world-class arts culture and promotes the city as a destination for innovative art.

ARTE | Hope & Unity Wall | \$7,000

A community-designed and painted mural project incorporating interactive programming. The project focuses on therapeutic artistic engagement and the healing power of art.

ArtScape Lebanon | Pottery Studio | \$10,000

A new pottery program offering classes and cultural education, expanding arts access in Warren County.

Arts Equity Collective | SOS Symposium | \$4,125

Educational workshops and publication focused on preserving and amplifying marginalized voices through art. The program provides trauma-informed curriculum resources for educators.

Artsville | The Sound of Us | \$5,000

Monthly events bringing together local residents and artists for live music and collaborative art creation. The program aims to unite the community through creative expression.

Aves Theatre Boosters | The Cutting-EDGE | \$3,000

Provides modern theatre set design tools and training for Sycamore High School students. The project prepares students for careers in technical theater, design and more.

Back2Back Ministries | Neighborhood Play | \$9,000

Summer camps serving multiple Cincinnati communities with arts and educational activities. The program's activities will focus on building social-emotional wellbeing through artistic expression.

Ballet and Books | Ballet & Books Cincinnati | \$4,000

A free program combining dance, literacy and mentorship for under-resourced families in Walnut Hills. The program partners with local libraries and universities to provide comprehensive arts education.

CET | The Art Show 2.0 | \$10,000

EMMY Award-winning arts program expanding digital content and in-person events, showcasing Cincinnati's diverse arts community to new audiences.

Chamber Music Cincinnati | Come Together | \$10,000

"Come Together" brings classical and contemporary works to the region through four major concerts. Also includes educational programming for youth in underserved areas.

Cincinnati Art Club | Art for Kids | \$7,000

Intensive summer art education program for grades 3-6. Focuses on fundamental artistic principles and creative development.

Cincinnati Arts Association | Sensory-Friendly SchoolTime | \$10,000

Adapted stage productions of "Goodnight Moon" and "The Runaway Bunny" for neurodivergent children, including staff training and facility modifications to create an inclusive environment.

Cincinnati Black Theatre Company | "The WIZ" | \$10,000

A production of the groundbreaking Broadway musical featuring soul, gospel, rock and funk.

Cincinnati Nature Center | Earth Expressions | \$3,000

A project inviting guests to engage with sculptural art within nature at Cincinnati Nature Center's Rowe Woods. The integration of art and nature fosters a deeper connection to our natural world.

Cincinnati Pride | Pride Festival Main Music Stage | \$10,000

The mainstage music lineup for one of Cincinnati's largest events. The free community festival at Sawyer Point is an inclusive celebration of diversity and arts.

Cincinnati Song Initiative | Fellowship of the Song | \$7,000

The week-long "Fellowship of the Song" festival returns for its second year of supporting emerging music artists. The festival provides free opportunities for singers and pianists to develop their craft.

Cincinnati Lapidary Guild | Grow Community by Building Lapidary Arts Programming in Our Region | \$10,000

Expanded lapidary arts classes, open to the public, teaching stone cutting, shaping and jewelry making at the CLG shop in Camp Washington.

Cincinnati String Project | Youth Concerts | \$2,000

Chamber music performances for underserved students, introducing classical music while inspiring future musicians.

The Clifton Community Players | Eco Tales | \$7,500

An environmental education program using documentary theatre to engage high school students, who will perform local environmental histories.

Commonwealth Artists Student Theatre | Regional Theatre Program | \$10,000

CAST, working with Cincinnati Arts Association and Broadway Across America, will develop theater programs in schools throughout the region. Participation in theater helps develop skills like collaboration and communication.

Community Learning Center Institute | Jaguar Creates Arts expansion | \$2,000

Sayler Park School's Jaguar Creates Art program will expand, adding monthly Family Art Nights, expand class options and afterschool activities, and focus on portfolio development and skill-building.

Community Matters Cincinnati | Outerspace Exhibition | \$7,500

The Outerspace Community Leadership Hub will host four creative exhibitions showcasing Lower Price Hill artists. The series celebrates neighborhood diversity through various artistic media.

Corporation for Findlay Market | Patterns of Care | \$10,000

A community quilt project documenting the history and memories of Findlay Market, featuring public events and a permanent installation.

Covington Ladies Home | Opening Minds through Art | \$3,891

An intergenerational art program connecting high school students with senior residents. Students and seniors will meet weekly, building bridges across age and cognitive barriers through creative expression.

Creative Asian Society | Views of Cincinnati | \$2,000

Creative Asian Society's third annual exhibition celebrates Cincinnati and Ohio Valley landscapes during AAPI Heritage Month, featuring work from fifteen Asian American artists.

CUF Neighborhood Association | Bellevue Pavilion Concerts | \$6,000

Bellevue Live, curated by members of the local arts community, provides equitable opportunities to artists. This monthly concert series features local and touring musicians, along with vendor opportunities and community resource programming.

Dearborn Highlands Arts Council | Library Classics | \$2,000

An arts education series hosted in the Lawrenceburg Public Library District, offering hands-on workshops in various artistic media.

Fluidity | Mozart for the People | \$1,000

A free performance of three Mozart compositions with a professional ensemble in collaboration with community organizations for accessible classical music.

The Ghostlight Stage Company | World AIDS Day 2025 Project with Caracole | \$4,500

An interdisciplinary performance piece about local HIV/AIDS experiences, combining multiple art forms for awareness and storytelling.

Greater Cincinnati/NKY African American Chamber of Commerce | Business Basics: The Business of Art | \$5,000

Programming for artists and creative entrepreneurs that provides business development tools specific to arts-related ventures.

Hear 2 Heal | Musical Workshop Camp | \$5,000

A two-week workshop helping teens express emotional challenges through music. Led by Eliot Sloan of Blessid Union of Souls, it will address issues like bullying, young love, divorce, suicide, and the emotional toll of school lockdown.

Inspiration Studios | Jefferson Neighborhood Community Art Installation | \$5,000

An installation in Hamilton's Jefferson neighborhood celebrating Latino cultural heritage, created by artists with developmental disabilities in partnership with residents.

Keep Cincinnati Beautiful | Outside the Box | \$5,000

A project to transform Over-the-Rhine traffic boxes from plain infrastructure into public art displays, using culturally-inspired designs to enhance pedestrian spaces.

Lincoln Heights Outreach | Creative Heights Art Explorers | \$10,000

A program for K-5 students focusing on emotional expression, confidence building and creating safe spaces for creative development.

Lloyd Library & Museum | The Enduring Impact of the African Plant Diaspora | \$6,000

A free symposium and exhibition exploring botanical legacies of the Atlantic Slave Trade. The program combines historical research with contemporary artistic interpretation.

Maketank | Illustrated Memoir Project | \$5,000

A creative writing and illustration program for immigrant and refugee teens that integrates personal storytelling into English language learning.

National Commission for Black Arts | Summertime Kids Breakfast & Art Initiative | \$6,000

A free breakfast and art program combining nutrition with creative activities. The program addresses summer learning loss while fostering artistic development and combatting hunger.

Northside Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation | Celebrating Pride in Northside mural series | \$5,000

A series of murals commemorating LGBTQIA+ community contributions in the original home of Pride in Cincinnati, celebrating the neighborhood's role in local history.

Peaslee Neighborhood Center | Learning and Living Collectively Creative | \$5,000

Summer camp programs teaching cultural education and social justice through arts, engaging young people in community-based creative expression.

ProjectArt | ProjectArt Cincinnati Expansion | \$1,400

A project empowering visual arts classes and artist residencies in public libraries. The program is expanding to include Bond Hill's library branch in summer 2025.

Queen City Freedom Band | Homecoming concert | \$2,760

A performance celebrating LGBTQ+ rights achievements at Christ Church Cathedral, featuring commissioned works by Queer composers and special guest soloists.

Queer Kentucky | Queer Community Action Guide | \$5,000

An arts-based resource guide for community building, covering topics like mutual aid and featuring work from local artists addressing social issues.

Royal Theatre Company | Royal Education Series | \$2,790

Comprehensive theatre education courses for all skill levels, covering everything from performance and technical skills to creative development.

SingOUT Cincy | CaBOOret | \$2,150

A Halloween-themed performance showcasing LGBTQIA+ artists, combining spooky themes with Queer storytelling.

Soulful Change | We are Here | \$2,200

Cincinnati's second Africa Day celebration features music, art and cultural connections and uses immersive arts to honor Cincinnati's African community.

Springboro Wind Symphony | Summer Youth Camp and Fall Clinics | \$8,000

The first SWS Youth Summer Music Camp will kickstart the Springboro Youth Wind Symphony, providing professional instruction and ensemble experience.

Studio Kroner | All Else Pales 2 | \$7,000

An exhibition exploring art, science and environmental sustainability. "All Else Pales 2" includes community discussions and performances designed to bridge the gap between creativity and advocacy.

Sweet Sistah Splash | AfroArt After Dark | \$5,000

A series of AfroFuturistic art installations and events in Over-the-Rhine, creating interactive spaces for cultural celebration and content creation.

YWCA Hamilton | HERstory & HERitage | \$5,000

An international community festival celebrating women's contributions and featuring performances, storytelling and cultural showcases.

Urban Native Collective | Indigenous People's Day Convergence 2025 | \$7,500

A four-day celebration of Native American culture and contemporary issues, with a gallery show and community dialogue.

Viva Voices Choral Organization | An Appalachian Spring | \$4,600

A free outreach concert celebrating Appalachian heritage in Cold Spring, KY, featuring a Bluegrass Mass with multiple choirs.

Warren County Historical Society | Lebanon Festival of the Arts | \$5,000

A collaborative arts festival from WCHS, the Harmon Museum, Warren County Foundation, the City of Lebanon, ArtScape Lebanon and Soul Sidekick Studio, showcasing regional talent and providing diverse programming for all ages.

Weavers Guild of Greater Cincinnati | The Gathering of the Guilds | \$10,000

A biennial festival celebrating craft arts with demonstrations and sales and uniting nine local craft guilds. The Gathering features live demonstrations in blacksmithing, glassblowing, printmaking, weaving, enameling, gemstone cutting, woodturning and more.