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ArtsWave Boardway Bound taking applications

Cincinnati, OH — May 10, 2021 — Boardway Bound, ArtsWave's signature nonprofit arts board leadership and development program, returns this fall in time for the restart of many performing arts events after a year of pandemic-related closures.

The acclaimed program which includes board placement as a key component has been in place since 2004, matching nearly 400 individuals from local companies with more than 100 arts organizations that make up the Cincinnati region. It's not uncommon that a majority of board members in some regional organizations are Boardway Bound alumni.

Boardway Bound attracts professionals who are passionate about making a difference in the region. The program provides all the tools necessary to become a successful arts board volunteer, while offering a unique peer learning environment across companies, and the chance to interact with Greater Cincinnati's arts professionals. For ArtsWave, the program is an important strategy in advancing an overall objective to increase the diversity of board leadership across the entire arts landscape.

Comprised of six, two-hour sessions from September 13 to October 27, Boardway Bound blends in-person and virtual learning and includes classroom interaction with videos, case studies and panel discussions. Information on best practices, industry trends, and the Cincinnati region's arts scene is shared over the course of the program. Topics range from advocacy, fundraising and marketing to understanding arts budgets and nonprofit governance. In the final session, candidates meet with arts groups in a speed-dating approach. The program culminates with a matched relationship that the newly trained board candidate and arts organization define together, leading in many cases to a subsequent invitation to join in a board role.

The networking component, which has been a hallmark of Boardway Bound, has been expanded this year to include several additional opportunities with alumni from the program. Networking activities are sponsored by the law firm Thompson Hine LLP. Cincinnati office partner Shane Starkey notes, "With refreshed content and sessions that will include Boardway Bound alumni, the program is becoming an even stronger resource for its participants." ArtsWave President and CEO, Alecia Kintner adds, "Feedback from past participants confirms that Boardway Bound is highly effective in giving business professionals valuable new connections in the community and increasing their understanding of business issues that are particular to the arts. The upcoming program is coming at a

critical time as arts organizations begin the long process of recovery and reintroducing themselves to the public after the isolation of COVID-19."

The program has served as a welcome strategy for employee development for major employers, such as P&G, Thompson Hine LLP, PNC, Cincinnati Children's Hospital & Medical Center, Ohio National Financial Services, Fifth Third Bank, Champlin Architecture, EY, GE Aviation, Kroger and The Christ Hospital Health Network.

An informational session for prospective applicants and employers will be held livestream on May 25 at 4 p.m. Interested participants are encouraged to sign up [here](#).

Boardway Bound applications are due June 15. Applicants from all backgrounds and career stages are welcome. ArtsWave encourages diverse candidates at all career levels, with the goal of ensuring that the programs and practices of the region's arts and cultural organizations are reflective of our entire community.

Visit artswave.org/boardwaybound for more information or to 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 that employ 10,000 individuals as artists, performers, and staff. When venue and performance closures were announced in early March 2020, ArtsWave worked quickly to accelerate \$2.4 million in grant payments for 43 organizations that receive operating revenues, expanded its \$10,000 Working Capital Bridge Loans for eligible arts organizations, provided Emergency Arts & Culture Organization grants to 47 organizations, and administered \$3,700,000 in relief funds at the federal, county and city level to arts organizations and artists. Throughout the year, ArtsWave provided \$750,000+ in support to cultural organizations led by or serving primarily BIPOC audiences. ArtsWave amassed \$13+ million for the arts last year, through a combination its 2020 Campaign and an additional Arts Vibrancy Recovery Fund, focused on

getting the arts through this challenging time. The public can help fund the Campaign and additional, evolving efforts at artswave.org/give.