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ArtsWave to Host Outdoor Jazz Performances at Sharon Woods

CINCINNATI (May 24, 2021) – ArtsWave, the region's engine for the arts, announces an afternoon of live jazz on Saturday, May 29th, from 1 to 5 p.m., at Great Parks of Hamilton County's Sharon Woods, as part of its free monthly outdoor concert series, Enjoy the Arts @ Parks, presented by Macy's.

The Memorial Day weekend concert will kick off at 1 p.m. at 11450 Lebanon Road in Sharonville when The Cincy Brass will bring to the stage over a decade of experience with a blend of jazz, pop, funk and hip-hop, straight from Mardi Gras.

At 2:30 p.m., Simple Swing, an acoustic ensemble, fronted by Ricky Williams, Jr., will provide their unique takes on an array of jazz favorites.

At 4 p.m., Ed "Sax" Thomas, will conclude the afternoon with his soul-stirring mix of Gospel and Jazz, backed by a full rhythm section.

Enjoy the Arts @ Parks Series, presented by Macy's, is a new, eight-month series programmed during ArtsWave's 2021 Campaign to fund the arts. Each event features multiple performances from a diverse set of arts organizations and independent artists. ArtsWave created the series through partnerships with Great Parks of Hamilton County, the City of Covington (Devou Parks) and Boone County Parks (Boone Woods). The Sharon Woods concert marks the first of the six that will be performed at various Great Parks of Hamilton County locations across the region.

New donors to ArtsWave and those increasing their last gift by 10%+ can receive a free year-long Great Parks of Hamilton County Motor Vehicle Permit, which allows free parking at all Great Parks throughout 2021, as well as other benefits.

Macy's has sponsored ArtsWave's Campaign event activities for more than 15 years. Their support has enabled ArtsWave to engage residents across the region in the arts during the time of year when the community comes together to keep those arts funded. That engagement is critical for ArtsWave, which is the largest community arts fund in the nation. It takes tens of thousands of donations from individuals and support from hundreds of companies and organizations to make the ArtsWave Campaign successful. Funds from the 2021 Campaign will support 100+ projects and organizations throughout the 15 counties that make up the Cincinnati Region.

Concerts are free and details on performances, dates and times can be found at artswave.org/parks. Donations to the arts can be made at artswave.org/give.

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 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

About Great Parks of Hamilton County:

A valid Motor Vehicle Permit is required to enter the parks. Cost for residents of Hamilton County: \$10 annual/\$5 daily; other visitors: \$16 annual/\$8 daily. Otto Armleder Memorial Park and Fernbank Park are cooperative ventures with the City of Cincinnati; a Motor Vehicle Permit is not required. A Motor Vehicle Permit is not required at Great Parks Nature Center at The Summit.

Great Parks of Hamilton County's mission is to preserve and protect natural resources and to provide outdoor recreation and education in order to enhance the quality of life for present and future generations. For additional information, visit greatparks.org or call 513-521-7275. Great Parks Forever, the philanthropic partner of Great Parks of Hamilton County, translates an early conservation promise into everyday experiences and lasting legacies. For additional information, please visit GreatParksForever.org.