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ArtsWave announces availability of African American arts grants and timing for its Truth & Inspiration Artist Showcase

Cincinnati (June 20, 2022) – In celebration of Juneteenth, ArtsWave, the engine for the region's arts, announces the availability of a round of nearly \$200,000 in funding to support African American arts organizations as well as plans for its second annual artist showcase, part of the Black and Brown Artist Grants Program.

ArtsWave's African American arts grants program (known as the "Circle's African American Arts Grants Program"), that opens today, is designed to strengthen the capacity and sustainability of arts organizations led by or predominantly serving, Black Cincinnatians. These grants, along with other initiatives, advance ArtsWave's commitment to increasing investment in Black arts each year. ArtsWave's donor group of African American philanthropic leaders, the Circle, helps to fund these grants through their donations to the ArtsWave Campaign. Now in its third year, the program has invested more than \$400,000 in nearly 30 Black-led organizations. Applications for this funding round will be accepted through July 29 at artswave.org/apply. Recipients will be announced in September.

ArtsWave's Truth & Inspiration Artist Showcase, a multidisciplinary visual arts exhibition and performance event – including film, dance, music composition, historical photography, fashion design, sculpture, children's book-writing and more – will take place July 15-17. The Showcase features 22 projects from local artists and expands from two locations to three, with Cincinnati Art Museum, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and Cincinnati Museum Center hosting the Showcase. A press conference, ribbon-cutting and media tour are being planned for July 15 at the Cincinnati Art Museum. Details will be released earlier that week.

ArtsWave in partnership with the City of Cincinnati, Duke Energy, Macy's, Greater Cincinnati Foundation, Fifth Third Bank, Hard Rock Casino and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, announced the showcase earlier in the year with \$282,970 in artist grants. These projects explore not only the African American experience, but also attempt to reconcile, through art, issues related to the Mexican, Chinese, Japanese, Palestinian and Native American experience. Artists have collaborated 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. Click here for a [full list of the recipients](#).

With these investments, thanks to donors and partners, ArtsWave has established the largest annual grants programs dedicated to Black and Brown artists and cultural organizations in the Cincinnati region. To lend your support to these programs, donate at artswave.org/give.

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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 has set a goal of \$11.5 million for its 2022 Campaign, an amount necessary for the arts, given the difficult health and economic crisis that has spanned nearly two years, affecting the entire region. Donations can be made at artswave.org/give.