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ArtsWave Community Campaign Broadens its Funded Organizations to Create Stronger Arts for a Stronger Region

CINCINNATI (June 28, 2023) – This past Friday, the Board of Trustees for ArtsWave approved \$9,900,084 in grant expenditures from its recent 2023 Community Campaign, slated to support more than 150 arts organizations throughout the Greater Cincinnati region in the upcoming year that together create thousands of concerts, shows, exhibitions, school-based arts, public art, festivals and events like BLINK. As part of this approval, a record 49 organizations were authorized to receive unrestricted support through Sustaining Impact Grants, totaling \$8,885,540.

Sustaining Impact grants represent the largest grant investment for ArtsWave. These grants ensure the stability of the region's arts and culture organizations while helping to drive the overall strength of the region. Grant awards support an average of 6% of organizations' operating budgets, which in aggregate total \$146 million. Scores based on community impact, governance and financial stability were calibrated against a funding model determined by the 2023 ArtsWave Campaign contributions, which are still down 10% from pre-covid results; ArtsWave was able to add targeted, restricted funds to keep allocable dollars nearly flat with last year.

These grants represent the first year of a new three-year cycle based on the ArtsWave's 10-year strategy, ["The Blueprint for Collective Action,"](#) to create a more vibrant and connected community through the arts as well as its ["Lifting As We Learn,"](#) DEIA plan that aims to build and nurture an environment where diversity, equity, inclusion and access are embedded in everything ArtsWave does. ArtsWave President & CEO Alecia Kintner explained to organizations yesterday in grant award letters that "ArtsWave believes a diverse array of organizations, artists and arts forms is necessary to advance the Blueprint goals of a more vibrant and connected community," which is [the nonprofit engine for the arts' mission](#) as well.

The number of sustaining impact grantees has grown by nine organizations from 2019. New to the lineup of organizations is: American Legacy Theatre, A Mindful Moment/The Well; Cincinnati Men's Chorus, Over-the-Rhine International Film Festival, Professional Artistic Research Projects/PAR-Projects, Price Hill Will, Queen City Opera, Revolution Dance Theatre and Wave Pool.

Ten of the 49 organizations receiving sustaining impact grants are led by and/or centered on Black, Indigenous or People of Color (BIPOC), including four of the nine organizations being added for the first time. The full list includes: Bi-Okoto Drum & Dance Theatre, Cincinnati Boychoir, Elementz Hip Hop Cultural Art Center, Learning Through Art, Mutual Dance Theatre and Arts Centers, NrityArpana School of Indian Classical Dance, Professional Artistic Research Projects/PAR-Projects, Price Hill Will, Revolution Dance Theatre, and Wave Pool.

Thirty-eight community volunteer panelists representing ArtsWave's business, civic and community groups, including a diverse cross-section of individuals (74% female and 37% BIPOC), were involved in the grant evaluation process. Sustaining impact grant investments are renewable for an additional two years based on organizational performance as defined by interim reports as well as the results of each year's ArtsWave Community Campaign.

2023 ArtsWave Campaign co-chair Carl Satterwhite, president and owner of RCF Group, who led the funds being dispersed now mentioned, "Less than a month from the annual campaign's finale, 91 cents of every dollar raised has been approved for direct investment back into the region's arts." 2023 Campaign co-chair and RCF Group Chairman/CEO Scott Robertson, added "This continues the decades-long tradition of community arts investment that has earned Cincinnati a ["Top 20 Most Arts Vibrant Large City" claim](#). Together these 49 organizations generate an economic impact of \$146 million for the region. That is an ROI of 16:1 for campaign donors."

In addition to Sustaining Impact Grants, \$496,000 was approved for 2024 grant initiatives, including Catalyzing Impact grants, Young Professionals (YP), Pride, Circle of African American Leaders for the Arts and various project initiatives that will be announced as they are introduced.

Grants were made possible by the 2024 Community Campaign, which ended June 1, with \$11,880,314 in donations given by nearly 25,000,000 residents and more than 400 companies and foundations. Kintner underscored the significance of that accomplishment, mentioning "A special thanks goes to businesses and corporations that came together and galvanized community support for the arts through workplace giving campaigns. Together we are making stronger arts for a stronger region."

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About ArtsWave:

ArtsWave, the local nonprofit arts agency 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. Each year, ArtsWave raises \$11+ million from tens of thousands of donors —

corporations, employees, foundations, residents and others — to support more than 150 arts organizations, projects and artists. Donations can be made at artswave.org/give.



ArtsWave Sustaining Impact FY2024 Grant Awards

These grants represent the first year of a new three-year cycle based on the ArtsWave's 10-year strategy, ["The Blueprint for Collective Action,"](#) to create a more vibrant and connected community through the arts as well as its ["Lifting As We Learn,"](#) DEIA plan that aims to build and nurture an environment where diversity, equity, inclusion and access are embedded in everything ArtsWave does.

Regional Organizations with budgets over \$1M

Organization	Grant
ArtWorks	\$173,000
Cincinnati Art Museum	\$1,260,000
Cincinnati Ballet Company	\$805,000
Cincinnati Landmark Productions	\$101,440
Cincinnati May Festival	\$217,900
Cincinnati Opera Association	\$683,850
Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park	\$1,055,000
Cincinnati Shakespeare Company	\$186,200
Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra	\$2,300,000
Contemporary Arts Center	\$285,600
Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati	\$154,400
Fitton Center for Creative Arts	\$84,000
Price Hill Will	\$55,000
Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park and Museum	\$39,000
Taft Museum of Art	\$269,000
The Carnegie	\$78,000
The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati	\$232,100

Regional Organizations with budgets \$300,000-\$1M

Organization	Grant
Behringer-Crawford Museum	\$29,500
Bi-Okoto Drum & Dance Theatre	\$36,000
Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra	\$40,783
Cincinnati Youth Choir	\$46,000

Clifton Cultural Arts Center	\$35,800
Elementz Hip Hop Cultural Art Center	\$55,000
Kennedy Heights Arts Center	\$43,800
Kentucky Symphony Orchestra	\$40,050
Know Theatre of Cincinnati	\$38,732
Learning Through Art, Inc.	\$46,000
Manifest Creative Research Gallery and Drawing Center	\$10,000
Over-the-Rhine International Film Festival	\$20,917
Oxford Community Arts Center	\$23,700
Visionaries + Voices	\$47,100
Wave Pool	\$50,000
Wyoming Fine Arts Center	\$37,000

Regional Organizations with budgets under \$300,000

Organization	Grant
A Mindful Moment/The Well	\$13,000
American Legacy Theatre	\$10,000
ArtsConnect	\$17,400
Cincinnati Boychoir	\$53,600
Cincinnati Men's Chorus	\$10,000
Linton Chamber Music	\$23,100
MUSE Cincinnati's Women's Choir	\$10,000
Mutual Dance Theatre and Arts Centers	\$40,000
My Nose Turns Red Youth Circus	\$15,000
NrityArpana School of Performing Arts	\$3,000
Pones	\$10,000
Professional Artistic Research Projects/PAR-Projects	\$30,000
Queen City Opera	\$10,000
Revolution Dance Theatre	\$30,000
Vocal Arts Ensemble of Cincinnati	\$19,568
Young Professionals Choral Collective	\$11,000

Total Funding	\$8,885,540
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New Organization to Sustaining Impact Funding

BIPOC Led and/or Centered Organization

New organization and BIPOC Led and/or Centered Organization