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ArtsWave Opens \$8 Million Arts Relief Program for City of Cincinnati Arts Organizations

July 1, 2021 – This afternoon, ArtsWave opens its \$8 million Arts Relief Program, a set of grants for organizations made possible by American Rescue Plan (ARP) monies that the City of Cincinnati received. These funds were recommended by Mayor John Cranley and approved by Cincinnati City Council early on in their decision-making about how to best allocate the dollars coming to the city for COVID-19 relief and restart investments.

City-based arts organizations can apply in two categories. The first focuses on organizational support with approximately \$6 million in relief for performing arts and another approximate \$1 million for museums. Amounts awarded will be determined according to pre-pandemic budget size and pandemic-related revenue losses. The deadline for applications is July 30.

The second set of grants, which total another \$1 million, approximately, center on programming. These grants will be awarded through a competitive process led by ArtsWave with selections made by a cross-section of volunteers throughout the community. This grant program is designed to present arts events free and open to the public in the year ahead. Events selected will signal the restart of Cincinnati's live arts and engagement of audiences. The first set of grants will fund events happening in August through October with an application deadline of July 15. A second round of applications will immediately follow with details posted on ArtsWave's website later this month.

A workshop covering both sets of grants and the application process will be held virtually on July 8 at 4 p.m. Interested arts organizations are encouraged to attend with signup available [here](#).

"I am grateful to ArtsWave for standing up and helping fill the gap for so many of our artists and organizations throughout the pandemic," said Cincinnati Mayor John Cranley. "It is no question that The Arts are what make life worth living. I am looking forward to this restart and celebrating the Summer of Cincinnati love with live performances and engagement made possible by this stimulus recovery. "

ArtsWave President & CEO Alecia Kintner notes, "As the region's arts service provider and engine for the arts, ArtsWave is glad to partner with the City to distribute this much-needed funding. Regional arts organizations have lost \$140 million in revenue since the pandemic began and, along with the annual ArtsWave Community Campaign which amasses thousands of individual donations, this funding will help restore and re-grow cultural vibrancy across Cincinnati."

Eligibility guidelines, program requirements and applications for the Arts Relief Program are all available at www.artswave.org/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. ArtsWave is projected to raise \$11 million for the arts in 2021, despite the difficult 18-month health and economic crisis that has affected the entire region.

Donations can be made at artswave.org/give.