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**ArtsWave announces opening of applications for Pride  
and Young Professional Grants**



CINCINNATI (August 15, 2024) -- ArtsWave, the primary way Cincy funds its arts, is delighted to announce that the application process for two project grant categories, ArtsWave Pride and ArtsWave Young Professionals (YP), is now open. These programs receive funding from the annual community campaign and, in part, from members of ArtsWave's affinity and networking groups of the same names. Both programs are part

of a broader slate of grants offered by ArtsWave totaling over 150 per year. For information on applying, visit [www.artswave.org/apply](http://www.artswave.org/apply).

The ArtsWave Pride Grant Program provides funding for arts or cultural heritage projects that promote and/or celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community, advancing our region's reputation as a welcoming and inclusive community through the arts. The grant program seeks to fund those projects that transcend mere Pride celebrations or parties, thereby strengthening our region's year-round artistic-forward focus on the LGBTQIA+ community.

In 2023, ArtsWave awarded a Pride Grant to Pones, a local organization dedicated to creating engaging new ways for audiences to experience dance and performance art, for their collaboration with Cincinnati-based artist Michael Coppage titled "Rainbow Box." Seven participants recorded an interview about their experience as a member of the Black LGBTQIA+ community. These interviews served as the audio for choreographed performances that were filmed at The Carnegie in Northern Kentucky. During these performances, the interviewees wore shirts representing the colors of the rainbow, each bearing a written term describing how they self-identify. Pones dancers, some of whom identify as LGBTQIA+, performed around the individuals.

ArtsWave's YP Grant program is designed to help bridge the gap in funding for programs specifically designed for professionals aged 21-40 in the region. The attraction and retention of young professionals to our region is a top priority for Greater Cincinnati and ArtsWave with this age group being key to building a future thriving community. These grants help establish new YP programming or provide short-term operating support for existing YP programs to build on their impact.

Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati (ETC) has used ArtsWave YP funding for its "Show Up!" program, which creates an inclusive space for young professionals to network and explore Over-the-Rhine while supporting local businesses and educating themselves on various social issues through ETC and the lens of contemporary theatre. "Show Up!" includes monthly meetings for YPs in the community to experience and discuss theatrical works whose topics align with ETC's mission of producing socially conscious work and uplifting voices that should be heard. The goal is to provide a welcoming yet safe group to discuss themes and issues found in art and society. This program is designed by young professionals for young professionals.

Interested organizations can apply for funding through either grant program at [artswave.org/apply](http://artswave.org/apply). The deadline for applications for both grants is **September 16 by 5 p.m. EST**.

Last year's grant recipients and projects can be found [here \(YP\)](#) and [here \(Pride\)](#).

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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 established 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 millions of dollars from tens of thousands of donors — corporations, employees, foundations, residents and others — to support more than 150 arts organizations, projects and artists. This year, ArtsWave raised a record \$12.5 million through its yearly campaign from individuals, businesses and foundations to further the region's strategic growth goals. Donations can be made at [artswave.org/give](https://artswave.org/give).