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New Flow season announced, with low advance priced Flow Pass on sale now, featuring five Black-centered arts experiences at premier venues, along with exclusive Flow Social gatherings

CINCINNATI (September 13, 2023) – ArtsWave announces the 2023-2024 season of *Flow, An African American Arts Experience*, along with the debut of the region's first cross-venue subscription series, the *Flow Pass*, featuring five unique, Black-centered events.

For just \$185, *Flow Pass* subscribers can enjoy five all-inclusive nights of theater, dance and art plus popular *Flow Social* parties. Subscribers will receive \$50 off their second Pass when they bring a friend. Orders placed before September 30 will include a limited-edition print of "Acts of Holding Dance," featured in BLINK 2022 by Wendi Yu with Elementz. Subscriptions can be purchased at artswave.org/flow.

The inaugural season of the *Flow Pass*, presented by Fifth Third Bank, kicks off on October 20 at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park's new Rouse Theater. Following the *Flow Social* pre-show reception, subscribers will enjoy premium seating at "Clyde's," a dramedy about a group of people recently released from prison who find redemption and purpose through the art of sandwich-making. The show is written by two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning African American playwright Lynn Nottage and directed by Timothy Douglas.

On February 8-10, 2024, *Flow Pass* subscribers will enjoy exclusive access to "African American Modernism" at the Taft Museum of Art, which features more than 60 dynamic and vivid works of art created in African during the 1950s and '60s, which challenge the assumptions of the time about African arts being isolated to a "primitive past." The exhibition will be preceded by a choice of cocktails or brunch, depending on the date chosen, before experiencing the exhibition.

On February 16-17, 2024, *Flow Pass* subscribers will enjoy playwrighting legend August Wilson's "How I Learned What I Learned" at Ensemble Theater, an autobiographical tour-de-force which charts Wilson's journey of self-discovery and what it means to be a Black Artist in America. The production is directed by well-known local theater artist Torie Wiggins. A *Flow Social* will be held beforehand.

On April 5, 2024, *Flow Pass* subscribers will celebrate at Lempicka by Jeff Ruby with a pre-concert dinner-by-the-bite and champagne toast, followed by Cincinnati Ballet's "Mercurial Landscapes" at the Aronoff Center. The mixed-bill program features four dynamic contemporary works and includes new choreography by Rena Butler of New York's Gibney Dance

Company, with costumes by Cincinnati's own designer-for-the-stars and recipient of a 2023 ArtsWave Black & Brown Artist Commission, Asha Ama Daniels.

The final *Flow* Pass event of the season is an exclusive, inspiring conversation with foremost conceptual artist Charles Gaines on his monumental project, 'The American Manifest' – called 'one of the most consequential works of public art of the century' -- coming to Cincinnati in spring 2024. The project consists of "Moving Chains," a massive outdoor art installation; a second installation of "Roots" coming to the Cincinnati Art Museum; and an original musical composition, "Manifestos Four," to be performed by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

"Our opportunity is to continue building an audience who appreciates the various expressions of Black art," said *Flow*'s Co-Chair Mel Gravely. "In the end, we hope to cultivate a culturally curious and racially diverse audience that will create a level of demand that enables more and more Black artists to sustain, thrive and inspire. An audience that is ready and willing to connect with rhythm, vibe and yes, the flow of Black artists that may have been unfamiliar to them."

Flow, An African American Arts Experience began in 2020 as a quarterly performance series featuring renowned Black artists and ensembles from around the country and close to home, working in various disciplines. The series is presented by ArtsWave, the region's engine for the arts, with support from area businesses, foundations and individuals and with guidance from a steering committee comprised of representatives from the region's top corporations.

Flow supports and promotes professional, evocative African American artists. The goal for the series is to attract a highly diverse, culturally adventurous audience and create a shared and elevated appreciation for artists of color. *Flow* complements and expands the region's existing inventory of multicultural experiences offered by local arts organizations. ArtsWave President & CEO Alecia Kintner explains, "The new *Flow* Pass is first-of-its-kind in the region, bringing a core audience together to enjoy Black-centered arts created and presented by local and national partners."

In addition to Fifth Third Bank, *Flow*'s sponsors include U.S. Bank, Greater Cincinnati Foundation, TriVersity Construction; and d.e. Foxx & Associates. Clever Crazes and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center are the series' youth education sponsors. Media sponsors include: The Cincinnati Enquirer, The Cincinnati Herald, Radio One and Easley Blessed Media.

More information is available at artswave.org/flow.

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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.