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ArtsWave Completes Three-Year Funding Cycle with Continued Support for Local Arts Organizations

CINCINNATI (June 25, 2025) — This past Friday, the Board of Trustees for ArtsWave approved \$8,792,540 in grant expenditures from its recent 2025 Community Campaign. The investment will extend operating support for 45 local arts organizations through Sustaining Impact grants for FY2026.

Sustaining Impact grants represent ArtsWave's largest and most enduring investment in the region's arts. These core grants help ensure financial stability and long-term impact for Cincinnati's arts and cultural institutions, organizations that are essential to the vibrancy and strength of the region.

This year's grant decisions mark the completion of a three-year funding cycle guided by ArtsWave's Blueprint for Collective Action for the Arts Sector, a strategic framework to build a more inclusive, vibrant, and connected community through the arts.

In total, 45 arts organizations will receive renewed operating support, with funding levels sustained thanks to community donations to the 2025 ArtsWave Campaign. Additional project grants from the Campaign will be announced in the months ahead.

ArtsWave's Board considered each organization's community impact, governance, and financial health, using a model grounded in campaign performance and reviewed by volunteer panels made up of more than 35 civic, business and community leaders. The panels represent a diverse cross-section of Greater Cincinnati and reflect ArtsWave's commitment to broad community input and transparency.

Mel Gravely, 2025 ArtsWave Campaign Chair, noted, "These investments in the arts are vital to bridging cultural divides in our community. The arts create spaces where people from all backgrounds can come together, share experiences, and build understanding across differences."

Alecia Kintner, ArtsWave President & CEO, emphasized the continued return on the region's collective investment: "For every \$1 invested through the ArtsWave Community Campaign, our arts partners generate nearly \$43 in economic value for Greater Cincinnati. The arts are not an 'extra'—they are an essential."

The Sustaining Impact grants are a cornerstone of ArtsWave's annual support for the region's arts ecosystem. As the organization looks ahead to its centennial in 2027, it continues to deepen its commitment to a thriving, inclusive arts sector, one that helps fuel a vibrant economy and a connected community across the Cincinnati region.

About ArtsWave

ArtsWave fuels the Cincinnati region's arts, supporting 150+ organizations, projects and artists each year. Since 1927, it has been the primary way the region funds the arts, raising millions annually from tens of thousands of individuals, businesses and foundations to drive a more vibrant economy and connected community. Through the Blueprint for Collective Action, ArtsWave strategically makes investments that maximize the arts' impact across the region. **To learn more and give, visit artswave.org.**

ArtsWave Sustaining Impact Grant Awards

These grants represent the third and final year of a three-year cycle based on ArtsWave's 10-year strategy, "[The Blueprint for Collective Action](#)," to create a more vibrant and connected community through the arts.

Large Organizations

ArtWorks Cincinnati	\$173,000
The Carnegie	\$78,000
The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati	\$232,100
Cincinnati Art Museum	\$1,260,000
Cincinnati Ballet	\$805,000
Cincinnati Landmark Productions	\$101,440

The May Festival	\$217,900
Cincinnati Opera	\$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

Mid-Size Organizations

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
Over-the-Rhine International Film Festival	\$20,917
Oxford Community Arts Center	\$23,700

Visionaries and Voices	\$47,100
Wyoming Fine Arts Center	\$37,000

Small Organizations

The Well/A Mindful Moment	\$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
Pones	\$10,000
Professional Artistic Research Projects	\$30,000
Queen City Opera	\$10,000
Vocal Arts Ensemble of Cincinnati (VAE)	\$19,568
Young Professionals Choral Collective	\$11,000

Total: \$8,792,540