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Flow Turns Five: ArtsWave Unveils Landmark Season of Black Artistry for 2025-26

Fifth anniversary all-inclusive Flow Pass subscription now on sale, featuring four premier Black-centered arts events across Cincinnati's most prestigious venues.

CINCINNATI (August 27, 2025) – ArtsWave, the region's engine for arts funding, announces the milestone fifth anniversary season of *Flow*, An African American Arts Experience, along with the return of the cross-venue subscription series, the *Flow Pass*, presented by Fifth Third Bank.

For just \$200, *Flow Pass* subscribers will receive premium access to four distinctive, Black-centered events spanning visual art, orchestral music, theater and opera. Each experience features an all-inclusive pre-show *Flow Social*, sponsored by Triversity Construction, featuring drinks, light bites, and opportunities to connect with artists, sponsors and a growing community of fellow arts supporters. ArtsWave Circle of African American Leaders for the Arts members receive a discounted rate of \$185. Subscriptions can be purchased at artswave.org/flowpass.

The 2025-26 *Flow Pass* season begins on October 17, 2025, at the Contemporary Arts Center with "Marcus Leslie Singleton: Next Steps," the first solo museum exhibition dedicated to Singleton's nuanced, deeply intimate paintings of Black American communities. The evening will include a special fifth anniversary celebration at the pre-show *Flow Social*.

On January 17, 2026, *Flow Pass* subscribers will experience "American Voices" with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, celebrating the life of Martin Luther King Jr. in a program highlighting influential African American artists and composers. Conductor Christian Macelaru will lead the orchestra with bass Morris Robinson and poet Rita Dove. Subscribers will gather for a pre-concert *Flow Social* in the Wilks Studio at Music Hall.

The series continues on April 24, 2026, at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park with August Wilson's explosive, award-winning play "The Piano Lesson," a gripping story of family, legacy, and the choices that define us. The evening includes a pre-show *Flow* Social and parking.

The season concludes on July 9, 2026, with Cincinnati Opera's long-awaited "Lalovavi," an Afrofuturist adventure set 400 years in the future that follows Persephone, the youngest daughter of the ruler of Atlas, the city formerly known as Atlanta.

ArtsWave President & CEO Alecia Kintner reflects on the milestone, "As we mark five years of *Flow*, we celebrate a growing audience for Black artistry on Cincinnati's most prestigious stages. The *Flow* Pass isn't just a ticket, it's about joining a community that's committed to sustaining diverse voices and perspectives in our cultural landscape."

Flow's Co-Chair and Triversity Construction Executive Chair Mel Gravely adds, "Over five years, we've been building a culturally curious and diverse audience coming together to experience excellence in Black artistry. The *Flow* Pass continues to build on the momentum of growing appreciation and therefore demand for Black art in all of its forms. The outcome enables more Black artists to thrive and inspire. This anniversary season represents both how far we've come and our continued commitment to showcasing Black voices in the Cincinnati region."

Flow, which began in 2020, complements and expands the region's existing inventory of multicultural experiences offered by local arts organizations. The series supports and promotes professional, evocative African American artists with the goal of attracting a highly diverse, culturally adventurous audience and creating a shared and elevated appreciation for artists of color.

The series is presented by ArtsWave with support from area businesses, foundations, and individuals and with guidance from a steering committee comprised of representatives from the region's top corporations. In addition to Fifth Third Bank, *Flow*'s sponsors include Duke Energy, U.S. Bank, Triversity Construction, d.e. Foxx & Associates, Clever Crazes for Kids, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, with print sponsor The Enquirer & Cincinnati.com.

More information is available at artswave.org/flowpass.

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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.**