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New *Flow* season announced with the unique 2024-25 *Flow* Pass subscription now on sale, featuring Black-centered arts events across multiple venues.

CINCINNATI (September 5, 2024) – ArtsWave, the region's main source for arts funding, is thrilled to announce the new season of *Flow*, *An African American Arts Experience* along with the return of the region's first cross-venue subscription series, the *Flow* Pass, presented by Fifth Third Bank, featuring five unique, Black-centered events.

For just \$200, *Flow* Pass subscribers will receive premium access to the curated series, which highlights the richness of contemporary Black artistry, culture and creativity, plus features subscriber-only gatherings with food, drinks, artist talks and more at each event. Subscriptions can be purchased at artswave.org/flow.

The *Flow* Pass season kicks off on October 5 with an "unveiling" event for Cincinnati-based Gee Horton's "Coming of Age" three-part mural series, the first multi-building BLINK® series of its kind. An intimate exploration of African American Adolescence, the series fuses contemporary visuals with hip-hop iconography. *Flow* Pass subscribers will see the mural before the general public, meet the artist and enjoy food and drinks as paint is still going on the wall.

Horton is excited to be part of the *Flow* series, saying "I'm honored to kick off the *Flow* series this year with my work for BLINK. ArtsWave's commitment to supporting Black stories aligns with my mission to elevate and celebrate the Black experience through creative expression. Being featured alongside the Cincinnati Pops and Charles Gaines highlights the incredible diversity of talent this region has and continues to attract."

On January 17, 2025, *Flow* Pass subscribers will groove with the Cincinnati Pops as they perform "Simply the Best," an exuberant tribute to Tina Turner. Conductor Damon Gupta leads the orchestra through hits like "Simply the Best," "Private Dancer" and more. Subscribers will meet in the Wilks studio for a special *Flow* Social featuring themed food and drinks before seeing the show that evening.

Continuing the series on March 11, 2025 at the Aronoff Center, *Flow* Pass subscribers will experience a performance by Step Afrika!, one of the top ten African American dance companies in the U.S. The company blends percussive "step" dance styles practiced by

historically Black fraternities and sororities, traditional African dance and contemporary style for a unique and compelling experience. Subscribers will not only gain premium access to the show, but will gather before for an exclusive *Flow* Social gathering at the Aronoff Center for food, drinks and great company.

Kick off summer on June 19 as the series moves to Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati with their production of "Jaja's African Hair Braiding." The tony-nominated story about the intersecting lives of the women in a bustling hair braiding shop in Harlem makes its regional premiere in the Queen City, and *Flow* subscribers will guarantee their ticket to see it all. As always, the experience begins with the exclusive *Flow* Social event before the show.

In the summer of 2025, the *Flow* Pass season continues with 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 after a successful stay in New York. The project was purpose-built to be exhibited both in NYC and Cincinnati to tell the complicated story of the movement of African slaves from importation to captivity to liberation and the complicated and often misunderstood interplay between all three that underpin our nation's foundation.

Flow, which began in 2020, complements and expands the region's existing inventory of multicultural experiences offered by local arts organizations. ArtsWave President & CEO Alecia Kintner explains, "The return of *Flow* Pass is another opportunity for us to cultivate and grow a core audience that is asking for more Black-centered arts created and presented by local and national partners."

Flow's Co-Chair, 2025 ArtsWave Community Campaign Chair and Triversity Construction Executive Chair Mel Gravely adds, "Our continuing opportunity is to build an audience that appreciates the varied expressions of Black artistry. "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."

The series is presented by ArtsWave, the region's engine for the arts. It is supported by area businesses, foundations and individuals and guided by a steering committee comprised of representatives from the region's top corporations.

In addition to Fifth Third Bank, *Flow*'s sponsors include Duke Energy, Triversity Construction, US Bank, d.e. Foxx & Associates, Clever Craves for Kids, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and The Cincinnati Enquirer.

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 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.