



discover + more

2025 community report



This is our
Cincy. Let's
discover more,
together.

discover more inside

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stronger
arts for a
stronger
region

Credit: Mark Lyons

thank you

A Message from ArtsWave's President & CEO

Since 1927, ArtsWave has been the primary source of arts funding for the Cincinnati region. Fifteen years ago, our organization embarked on a transformative journey. We became ArtsWave, a name change that signaled a fundamental shift in our purpose and vision. The ripples of that decision continue to shape our region's cultural landscape today. As ArtsWave, we embraced a mission to create intentional community impact through the arts, recognizing that the arts can drive economic vitality, social cohesion and regional distinction.

The Cincy we know today is a realization of that vision. Our region has seen the advent of BLINK®. We've celebrated the renovation and construction of cultural landmarks that serve as anchors for community gathering and artistic expression. We even saw Cincinnati emerge as a finalist to become the new home for the Sundance Film Festival — a recognition of our region's growing significance in the national cultural conversation.

Our arts ecosystem demonstrated extraordinary resilience during the global pandemic, emerging on the other side

without losing a single arts organization. That resilience demonstrates the strength of our creative community and the support of our partners.

ArtsWave has continued to evolve over these 15 years, transforming from a funding organization to a full-service arts council that provides comprehensive support, advocacy and resources. We've embraced technological innovation through initiatives like the ArtsWave App, which creates new pathways for audiences to discover and engage with local arts experiences.

As the world changes, so must our approaches to sustaining a vibrant arts community. While the foundation laid by Charles Phelps Taft and Anna Sinton Taft in 1927 continues to support us, we've built upon it in ways they described as "yet to be imagined."

As we look toward ArtsWave's 2026 Campaign, we stand at a pivotal moment. We're approaching our centennial anniversary in 2027 — a remarkable milestone that few arts service organizations achieve. As we prepare

to enter our second century, ArtsWave remains committed to being the engine for the arts in the Cincinnati region. We continue to adapt, innovate and respond to community needs while honoring our rich heritage.

The world will undoubtedly continue to change, but our dedication to fueling community through the arts remains steadfast.

Thank you for being part of this remarkable journey.



Alecia Kintner

President & CEO, ArtsWave



campaign cabinet

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Jes Laine, Guaranteed Rate Affinity,
The DiBari Laine Group
Danny Lipson, Urban Sites
Samuel Moore, Jr., P&G (retired)

Amber Ostaszewski, Cincinnati
Symphony Orchestra
Matthew Randazzo, Greater
Cincinnati Foundation
Jackie Reau, Game Day Communications
Greg Riley, Schaefer
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Lisa Sauer, P&G (retired)
Kate Evans Smith, Wood, Herron & Evans
Tim Steigerwald, Messer Construction Co.
Kitty Strauss Rosenthal, Community Volunteer
Warren Weber, PNC
Tira Williams



Credit: Mikki Schaffner

Leigh Fox

Board Chair, ArtsWave
President and Chief Executive Officer, altafiber



"Cincinnati is stronger when our arts are strong. In recent years, ArtsWave has become even more of a leader, innovator and partner helping the arts drive greater impact across the region. As we stand on the eve of our 100th year, one thing is clear: we must keep that progress going so the arts continue fueling growth, connection and pride, keeping our region vibrant and competitive for generations to come."

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* Executive Committee

[†] Ex-Officio

**\$12.3
million**
raised for cincy's arts

2025 campaign *rewind*

The Ripple Effect of Your Gifts Across Our Region

Each year, tens of thousands of donors fuel the nation's largest community campaign for the arts. In 2025, their generosity powered milestones that strengthened our region's reputation, expanded arts access for kids and families, and brought people together in new ways. This wave of support ensures that the Cincinnati region continues to discover more creativity, more connection and more community. Here are the highlights from this year's Campaign.

Community Leaders Double Down

221 C-level executives, business and community leaders made personal gifts of \$5,000 or more. An increase from last year, these commitments signal that the arts, and the ArtsWave Campaign, are vital to the region's future.

Top-20 Arts Region (4th straight year)

SMU DataArts again ranked the Cincinnati region among the nation's most vibrant arts regions, putting our 30th-largest metro in the conversation with New York, Los Angeles, Nashville and more. This reflects the dynamic, nearly century-long foundation built through ArtsWave, fueling economic vibrancy and deeper connection through the arts.

BLINK® was Back Big

BLINK®, illuminated by ArtsWave, drew over 2 million people to the Cincinnati region, demonstrating the unique ability of the arts to bring people together across bridges and barriers.

"General operating support is fairly hard to come by, frankly, so the fact that ArtsWave provides that for so many different arts institutions, including the CCAC, is incredibly valuable. **It allows us to have low-cost classes, totally free performances, events and exhibitions. Honestly, we wouldn't be able to do it if it weren't for ArtsWave.**"

Leslie Mooney

Former Executive Director
Clifton Cultural Arts Center





Credit: Jeanne Mam-Luft



ArtsWave + More Arts, More Kids

ArtsWave's landmark school field trip initiative expanded to reach 11,000+ students this year. Children experienced live performances and exhibitions at The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra's Young People's Concert, Cincinnati Art Museum and Cincinnati Ballet. **ArtsWave's funding made sure that every trip was provided at no cost to families or schools.**

"We use ArtsWave's support wherever it is needed most and that's one of the wonderful things about it. Last year we provided complimentary tickets for all of CPS third graders and this year for CPS third graders and fifth graders through ArtsWave's More Arts, More Kids program. So, **thousands of students were able to come and experience the magic of live theater who otherwise wouldn't have, because the tickets were absolutely no cost.**"



The Children's Theatre
OF CINCINNATI

Kim Kern

Executive Director
The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati

"My students had never encountered anything like this before, they were captivated by the artifacts, right here in our classroom!"

Behringer-Crawford Museum's Traveling Suitcase program, which brings interactive learning experiences into schools, is typically offered at little or no cost because of ongoing community support through ArtsWave.

– Northern KY Teacher



Credit: Mary Jane Calderon

blueprint for collective action



Credit: Pixxel Designs

arts put cincy on the map

Goal: To increase the region's competitive advantage in attracting talent, new business and cultural tourists by offering arts that are perceived as extraordinary and innovative.

“ Nearly 7 in 10 leisure travelers include arts and culture in their trips.

That same impulse drives cultural tourists to Cincinnati, where BLINK®, Illuminated by ArtsWave, drew more than 2 million people to the region in 2024. Arts experiences like this strengthen the region's competitive advantage and help set Cincinnati apart nationally.

**All quotes from Americans for the Arts*



Provided by ArtWorks

arts deepen roots

Goal: To deepen feelings of engagement and connection to the community by widening participation in arts experiences, especially those that resonate with adults age 40 and under.

The Young Professionals Choral Collective brings together more than 400 singers ages 21-45 from across the region, blending artistry with community in ways that encourage young adults to stay, engage and invest in the region they call home.

“ A majority of millennials say access to arts and culture shapes their choice of where to live.



Provided by Creative Asian Society

arts bridge divides

Goal: To increase understanding and appreciation of differences related to race, ethnicity, culture, geography and generation, ultimately making the region more welcoming and inclusive through the arts.

“ More than 70% of Americans believe the arts bring people together regardless of differences.

That spirit is visible locally through the SHOW OF HANDS Puppet Festival, through which Visionaries + Voices brought neighbors of all ages and abilities together in 11 communities. By creating inclusive creative spaces, the arts can dissolve barriers and foster deeper understanding across lines of difference.

First introduced in 2015, the 2025-2035 **Blueprint For Collective Action** continues and confirms a bold vision for the region's future with the arts playing a vital, connected role in its growth. By investing in a wide variety of art forms and providing strategic leadership for the arts sector, ArtsWave is creating an environment where the growing impact of the arts is felt and embraced by the entire community.



Credit: Phil Armstrong

arts strengthen neighborhoods

Goal: To enhance the vibrancy and well-being of neighborhoods, particularly those that are under-resourced or revitalizing, by increasing the availability and accessibility of arts organizations and opportunities.

ArtsWave and meetNKY have partnered on the Northern Kentucky Creative Placemaking Grants, activating public spaces with performances, murals and festivals. These projects transform everyday places into cultural destinations that build pride and strengthen community bonds.

“**Neighborhood arts projects help build trust among residents, a foundation of civic engagement and social wellbeing.**”



Credit: Yu Huang

arts fuel creativity & learning

Goal: To unlock imagination and foster future-ready skills by ensuring that all youth in the region, particularly those that are under-resourced, have access to multiple arts opportunities.

Arts participation strengthens problem-solving and collaboration, which are essential skills for the workforce of tomorrow.”

In Cincy, Kennedy Heights Arts Center's Cr8 Club ensures that students have daily after-school arts opportunities, boosting attendance and improving social-emotional skills by more than 40%.



Credit: Mary Jane Calderon

**arts
wave**
Funding Arts. Fueling Community.

15 years of growth

More connection. More creativity. More impact. All building toward 100 years strong.

Fifteen years ago, ArtsWave did more than change its name from Fine Arts Fund. We reimagined our role in the Cincinnati region. The focus shifted from supporting the needs of arts organizations to fueling and funding their impact across our region. That evolution has shaped a stronger, more connected community where the arts reach more people than ever before.

Since then, the growth has been remarkable: more grants to more groups, broader investment across neighborhoods and new ways for people to come together through the arts. What began in 1927 with our founding documents outlining a mandate to support "arts yet to be imagined," has become a vibrant reality over the past 15 years, shaping everyday life right here at home.

FineArtsFund

+ 2010 Name Change:

**arts
wave**
Funding Arts. Fueling Community.

Blueprint for Collective Action 1.0

In 2015, Blueprint for Collective Action 1.0 united the arts sector around shared goals, giving a unified language and allowing for broader impact across the region. 2025-2035 will see a Blueprint for Collective Action 2.0 that confirms all five shared goals, continuing on a decade of success.

Grants expanded from 98 to 164

Grants expanded from 98 to 164, touching more lives across more neighborhoods. To meet the needs of a changing community, **our grant programs increased from two to eight.**



Credit: Scott Beseler

"Meet the Moment" Initiatives

ArtsWave's initiatives are meeting the moments of our times. One example is *Flow, an African American Arts Experience*: a multi-venue, multi-genre series designed to create a culturally curious and diverse audience for Black arts. The series celebrates its fifth anniversary during the 2025-26 season.

Affinity Group Expansion

ArtsWave's Affinity and Networking groups have expanded **from one to five**, connecting thousands of people from all walks of life through the arts.

ArtsWave App Launch

In 2024, ArtsWave launched the next generation of **arts giving and going** through the ArtsWave App. The App is a one-stop regional events calendar with arts, sports, restaurants, ticket offers and more. It represents the future of ArtsWave's engagement with donors.

Administrator for American Rescue Plan arts relief

ArtsWave was named official Local Arts Agency in 2020 by the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County to distribute American Rescue Plan Act funds because ArtsWave's infrastructure and experience made it an efficient and effective partner for local government in bolstering the region's assets.



Credit: Paige Pederzani

what's next?

As ArtsWave approaches its 100th year, we're building on this momentum with new growth strategies:

ArtsWave App

Putting access to performances and experiences directly into people's hands

Visionaries

Securing Cincy's incredible arts for future generations to enjoy

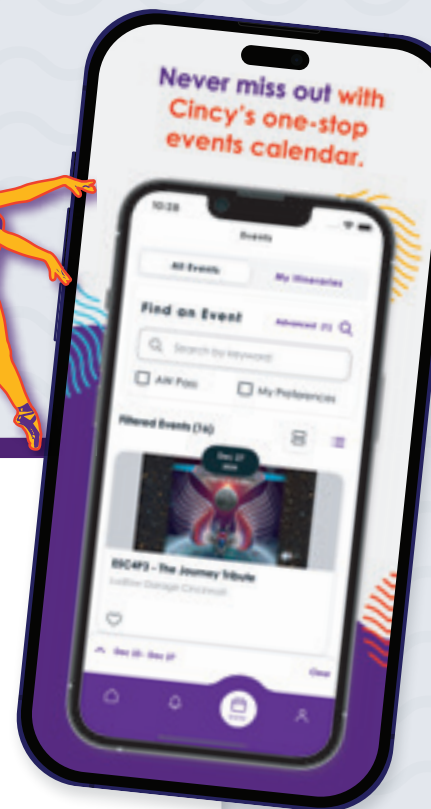
Leaders for the Arts

Rallying top business leaders to personally invest in the arts

artswave app

connecting more people to the arts

Launched just before BLINK in 2024, the ArtsWave App is quickly becoming a powerful tool to grow both arts audiences and donor engagement across our region.



artswave app: year in review

17,962
downloads

Putting it among the top-performing nonprofit apps nationwide*

257% increase ArtsWave Pass redemptions

Showing that when donors use their benefits, they're more likely to give again

350-450
daily users

More engagement today means stronger giving tomorrow

looking ahead

Features like **monthly subscriptions to the ArtsWave Pass** will make giving as easy as renewing Spotify, setting the stage for deeper donor relationships and becoming the region's best way to discover what's happening in the arts and connect with each other.



Provided by
Community Matters

A Must-Have for Cincy Fans!

★★★★★ Oct 3 - Kris M.
The app is user-friendly, making it easy to discover events, shows, concerts and more! I love the calendar's wide range from visual arts to live performances based on my entertainment profile. As a ArtsWave Pass user, I have the AW Pass always with me. Overall, the ArtsWave app is a valuable resource for anyone who loves Cincinnati!

ArtsWave App! Asset to the region 🌟

★★★★★ Nov 22 - Cincy P.
Having arts, entertainment, sports and more right on my phone is amazing. This is my new go-to app when I'm feeling tired or stressed to plan a fun activity. And the ArtsWave member benefits rock! Who doesn't like discounts at the best restaurants and coffee shops in Cincy? Most of all, I feel proud supporting our thriving arts community. Thanks, ArtsWave!



arts wave Visionaries

Legacy Donors

ArtsWave Visionaries are ensuring a vibrant arts scene for future generations by building the ArtsWave Endowment.

Membership is open to those who make an endowment gift today or a future planned gift commitment. With a goal of 100+ Visionaries by ArtsWave's 100th anniversary in 2027, this growing circle is laying the foundation for long-term stability so our arts organizations can create impactful programs for years to come.



Credit: Ryan Strand

Anonymous (4 donors)
 Mary Asbury
 The B&C Family Legacy Fund*
 Carol Beyersdorfer
 Marcia A. Blust
 Glenn and Donna Boutilier
 Jacklyn and Gary Bryson
 Shannon and Lee Carter*
 Raymond R.[‡] and Marylyn Clark
 A. Burton Closson, Jr.*
 Jennifer and M. Vito Damiano
 Anne and Ron DeLyons
 Andrew R.[‡] and Caroline DeMar
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 Jan and Randy Johnson
 Jay and Shirley Joyce
 Jan and Jay Kalagayan
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 (Taft Museum of Art)
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 Greg Hudson
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 Rosemary and Mark Schlachter
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Mark and Jane Serrianne
 Mary Stagaman and Ron Kull
 John[‡] and Joyce Steinman
 Milretta Stroheim
 Christine and Dudley S. Taft
 Carol G. Talbot
 Randolph L. Wadsworth
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 opportunities for disadvantaged youth)
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 Playhouse in the Park)
 Anne Warrington Wilson
 Mr. Brian R. Wildman
 George and Kathy Wilkinson
 William L. Montague and Kelly L. Wittich
 Nancy and David A. Wolf
 Mary and James Zimmerman

* Through a fund at the Greater Cincinnati
 Foundation

[‡] Deceased

executive leaders for the arts

Launched in 2024, Executive Leaders for the Arts are C-suite executives, business and community leaders

who personally give \$5,000 or more to the ArtsWave campaign. They recognize that stronger arts build a stronger region and that investing in the campaign helps shape our community's economic and cultural future. With growing numbers each year, this leadership commitment is becoming a driving force in our strategy.

Anonymous (11)

Andrew Akers, Akers Packaging Service Group
Diane L. Altmix, Accenture
Colleen and Dean Athans, GE Retirees
Ms. Ellen H. Baker, Macy's Retiree
Jennifer Baker, Cincinnati Insurance Companies
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Lela and Maurice Coffey
Sheila and Christopher Cole
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Naomi Tucker Gerwin
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Carrie and Ken Goldhoff and Family
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Dave and Debbie Horn
Roger and Joyce Howe
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Gregory T. Hyland II, GE Aerospace
Jason Jackman, Johnson Investment
Counsel, Inc.
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Denise M. Jeavons, P&G Retiree
Jocelyn Gant Jones, P&G Retiree
Joel Kashuba, Fifth Third Bank
Liz Kathman Grubow and Jerry Kathman
Steve Kenat, SHP
Marcene C. Kinney, GBBN Architects
Alecia Kintner, ArtsWave
Patrick Lafley, Constellation Wealth Advisors
Jessica Laine, Guaranteed Rate Affinity
Joe Lanni, Thunderdome Restaurant Group
Nanci and Nick Lanni
George and Mary Alice Leasure
Jamie Leonard, Fifth Third Bank
Beth and Peter Levin
Carl H. Lindner III, American Financial
Group, Inc.
S. Craig Lindner, American Financial Group, Inc.
Whitney and Phillip Long
Joshua Lorentz, Dinsmore & Shohl LLP
Cynthia A. Lyons, Western & Southern
Financial Group



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Ron Bates, 1919 Investment Counsel
Laura Blackorby, Fifth Third Bank
J. Kenneth and Rosa E. Blackwell
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Eric Breissinger, P&G
Tom and MC Brennan
Archie Brown, First Financial Bank
Linda Brzuchalski, P&G
Eileen M. Budo, Last Mile Food Rescue &
P&G, Retired
Bill Butler, Corporex

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 Andrew Quinn, Bardes Fund
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 Matthew Randazzo, Greater
 Cincinnati Foundation
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 and Jeff Chapman, Dinsmore
 Compliance Services
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 Rosemary Schlachter, 25th Hour
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 Michael Schuster, MSA Design
 Mark and Jane Serrienne
 Cory Shaw, UC Health
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 The Sheakley Group
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 Steve Shifman, Michelman
 David Singer, The
 Evelo | Singer | Sullivan | Bruegge Group,
 Merrill Private Wealth Management
 Joanne Sloneker
 Jim Sowar, Deloitte
 Tim Spence, Fifth Third Bank
 Mary Stagaman, Mary Stagaman Consulting
 Ms. Elizabeth Stautberg
 Katherine and Tim Stautberg
 Matt Stautberg, Health Recovery Solutions
 Tim Steigerwald, Messer Construction Co.
 Joey Steiner, The Rick & Corky Steiner
 Family Foundation
 Steve Steinman, Sims-Lohman, Inc.
 James R. Stengel, CEO of The Jim Stengel
 Company & P&G Retiree
 Peter and Sandy Stern, Stern Family
 Charitable Fund
 Melissa Stevens, Fifth Third Bank

Tracey Stofa, Fort Washington
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 Nancy and David A. Wolf
 Gordon Wright, P&G Retiree and
 Carolyn Gray-Wright
 Susan B. Zaunbrecher, Fifth Third Bank
 Sam Zeller, Taft Law
 Alison and Jim Zimmerman
 James Zimmerman, Taft Law



Credit: Phil Armstrong

investing in the arts we share

165 grants • 150+ organizations • one vibrant region



Credit: Jeanne Mam-Luft

The impact of a gift to ArtsWave can be felt in every county across our region, helping more people discover more creativity, connection and community.



stronger arts for a stronger region



47

**Sustaining
Impact Grant**

Strengthening
cornerstone
institutions

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**Catalyzing
Impact Grant**

Supporting projects
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**Black & Brown
Artist Commissions**

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& Brown lived
experience

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for Black-led
organizations

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**Pride
Grants**

Expanding LGBTQIA+
arts experiences

8

**YP
Grants**

Engaging young
professionals in
the arts

9

**NKY Placemaking
Grants**

Strengthening NKY's
cultural identity

3

**Strategic
Partnership &
Sponsorship Grants**

Extending reach &
collaboration

artswave unites community *giving with regional impact.*

Each year, tens of thousands of donors make it possible for us to award grants to more than 150 organizations, projects and artists across the 16-county Cincinnati region.

From historic institutions, to neighborhood-based organizations, to individual artists, these investments

fuel thousands of performances, exhibitions, arts education programs and public art projects.

Turn the page to see the full list of organizations, projects and grant programs that ArtsWave donors made possible this year.

Credit: Caitlin Chrisene



Sustaining Impact Grants

Operational support is awarded in three-year cycles, with grant amount tied to budget size and community impact as assessed by panels of volunteer stakeholders.

\$1 million+ operating budget

ArtWorks
The Carnegie
The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati
Cincinnati Art Museum
Cincinnati Ballet
Cincinnati Landmark Productions
Cincinnati May Festival
Cincinnati Opera
Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park
Cincinnati Shakespeare Company
Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra
Contemporary Arts Center
Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati
Fitton Center for Creative Arts
Price Hill Will
Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park & Museum
Taft Museum of Art

\$300,000 to \$1 million operating budget

Behringer-Crawford Museum
Bi-Okoto
Cincinnati Boychoir
Cincinnati Youth Choir
Clifton Cultural Arts Center
Elementz
Kennedy Heights Arts Center
Kentucky Symphony Orchestra
Know Theatre of Cincinnati
Over-the-Rhine International Film Festival
Oxford Community Arts Center
Summermusik (Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra)
Visionaries + Voices
Wave Pool
Wyoming Fine Arts Center

Less than \$300,000 operating budget

American Legacy Theatre
ArtsConnect
Cincinnati Men's Chorus
Learning Through Art
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MUSE Cincinnati's Women's Choir
Mutual Dance Theatre and Arts Centers
My Nose Turns Red Youth Circus
NrityArpana School of Performing Arts
PAR-Projects
Pones
Queen City Opera
Vocal Arts Ensemble
Young Professionals Choral Collective

Black & Brown Artist Commissions

The Black and Brown Artist Program is made possible by those who give to the annual ArtsWave Campaign, plus the City of Cincinnati, Duke Energy, Fifth Third Bank, the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, Macy's, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Walter C. Frank, and Peter and Betsy Niehoff. This year's artists created work based on the theme of "Truth and Innovation." They unveiled their projects to the community at the Truth & Innovation Artist Showcase in July.

Óscar Salamanca Alarcón, for Así Somos: Echoes of Migration
Isaiah Armstrong, for What remains in the gaps
Kevin Auzenne, for ILLUMINATED
Batres Gilvin, for Breaking Truths
Julia Orquera Bianco, for JUNTAS
Michael Coppage, for "DROP YOUR WEAPON!" from the 12 Commandments series
Freda Epum, for I Dream of Labor: Disabled in the Productivity Age
Ximena Flores, for Resilient Roots
Ashley Glass, for Rooted in Resilience: Diversifying Behavioral Health
Brandon L. Hawkins, for Out of the Shadows
Doug Hilson, for Eterna Bloom
Jay B. Kalagayan, for Filipino Assassin: The Untold Story of Vincent
Manago Hambricht

John Lanzador, for Not a Mail-Order
Ciara LeRoy, for Please Enjoy Your Order
Noel Maghathe, for Over Everything
Gabriel Martinez-Rubio, for HOME
Lisa Merida-Paytes, for The Halos Project
Emily Hanako Momohara, for Grounded
Sherman Parnell, for New Mission
Alicia Redmond, for WILLOWS
Ziaire Trinidad Sherman, for So What's Next
tt stern-enzi, for God Sent Me
Brian Taylor, for Extra-Naturals: Magia Circumcirca Liberationem (Magic Amid Liberation)
Michael Thompson, for I saw myself in the sun
Myles Ellington Twitty, for Gentle Revolutionary
Ingrid Woode, for Cake Walk



ArtsWave YP Grants

One-time project grants awarded for projects that engage young professionals in the arts, funded in part by ArtsWave YP donors.

Cincinnati Opera, for Cincinnati Opera Young Professionals
Cincinnati Preservation, for Young Preservationists Program
Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, for YP Preview Night
Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, for CSO Listening Lounge
Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati, for Show Up!
The Ghostlight Stage Company, for the "Shining A Light" workshop and lecture series
Taft Museum of Art, for Taft at Twilight
Young Professionals Choral Collective, for Create, Engage, Connect

Circle Grants

Grants that strengthen the capacity and sustainability of arts organizations led by, or predominantly serving, Black Cincinnatians.

African Professionals Network (APNET)
Black Art Speaks
Cincinnati Black Theatre Company
It's Commonly Jazz
Jazz Alive
Juneteenth Cincinnati
National Commission for Black Arts & Entertainment
The Robert O'Neal Multicultural Arts Center (ROMAC)



Catalyzing Impact Grants

One-time project grants awarded to organizations that use the arts to build a more vibrant regional economy and more connected community.

Activities Beyond the Classroom, for ABC Clubs
 Adopt A Class Foundation, for The Curtain Rises
 The African American Chamber, for Business Basics: The Business of Art
 Art Academy of Cincinnati, for Cincinnati Unveiled
 ARTE, for Hope & Unity Wall
 Arts Equity Collective, for SOS Symposium
 ArtScape Lebanon, for Pottery Studio
 Artsville, for The Sound of Us
 Aves Theatre Boosters (Sycamore High School), for The Cutting-EDGE
 Back2Back Ministries, for Neighborhood Play
 Ballet & Books, for Ballet & Books Cincinnati
 CET, for The Art Show 2.0
 Chamber Music Cincinnati, for Come Together
 Cincinnati Art Club, for Art for Kids

Cincinnati Arts Association, for Sensory-Friendly SchoolTime
 Cincinnati Black Theatre Company, for "The WIZ"
 Cincinnati Nature Center, for Earth Expressions
 Cincinnati Pride, for the Pride Festival Main Music Stage
 Cincinnati Song Initiative, for The Fellowship of the Song
 Cincinnati String Project, for Youth Concerts
 The Clifton Community Players, for "Eco Tales"
 Commonwealth Artists Student Theatre (CAST), for a Regional Theatre Program
 Community Learning Center Institute, for a Jaguar Creates Arts expansion
 Community Matters Cincinnati, for the "Outerspace" exhibition series
 Corporation for Findlay Market for Patterns of Care
 Creative Asian Society, for Views of Cincinnati
 CUF Neighborhood Association, for Bellevue Pavilion Concerts
 Dearborn Highlands Arts Council, for Library Classics
 Fluidity, for Mozart for the People
 The Ghostlight Stage Company, for a World AIDS Day 2025 Project with Caracole
 Greater Cincinnati Lapidary and Faceting Society, to grow community by building lapidary arts programming in our region

Hear 2 Heal, for Musical Workshop Camp
 Inspiration Studios, for a Jefferson Neighborhood community art installation
 Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, for Outside the Box
 Lincoln Heights Outreach, Inc., for Creative Heights Art Explorers
 Lloyd Library and Museum, for "The Enduring Impact of the African Plant Diaspora"
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 National Commission for Black Arts & Entertainment, for a Summertime Kids Breakfast & Art Initiative
 NEST, for Celebrating Pride in Northside mural series
 Peaslee Neighborhood Center, for Learning and Living Collectively Creative
 A Picture's Worth, for More Than Meets the Eye
 ProjectArt, for ProjectArt Cincinnati Expansion
 Queen City Freedom Band, for a Homecoming concert
 Queer Kentucky, for a Queer Community Action Guide
 ROYAL Theatre Company, for the ROYAL Education Series
 SingOUT Cincy, for CaBOOret
 Soulful Change, for We are Here
 Springboro Wind Symphony, for Summer Youth Camp and Fall Clinics
 Studio Kroner, for "All Else Pales 2"

Strategic Partnership & Sponsorship Grants

One-time grants extended ArtsWave's reach and depth of impact across the community.

Cincinnati Arts Association
 Cincinnati Public Radio
 Film Cincinnati

Sweet Sistah Splash, for AfroArt After Dark
 Urban Native Collective, for Indigenous People's Day Convergence 2025
 Victorian at Riverside, for Opening Minds through Art
 Viva Voices Choral Organization, for An Appalachian Spring
 Warren County Historical Society, for Lebanon Festival of the Arts
 Weavers Guild of Greater Cincinnati, for The Gathering of the Guilds
 YWCA Hamilton, for HERstory & HERitage

Northern Kentucky Placemaking Grants

Grants that fuel creative endeavors to strengthen Northern Kentucky's cultural identity and drive economic vitality community.

Bi-Okoto, for Afrika On The Move: A Pop-Up Cultural Festival Series
 Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, for FREE Shakespeare in the Park in NKY
 Kentucky African Women Association (KAWA), for The African Art Showcase
 Kentucky Symphony Orchestra, for 2025-26 KSO/NKY Public Library Tour
 Queer Kentucky, for Arts and Culture in NKY Digital Magazine
 ReNewport, for The Orchard Project
 Southbank Shakespeare, for Southbank Shakespeare Summer Season
 The Center for Great Neighborhoods, for Sparks in the Park
 Urban Appalachian Community Coalition, for UACC Place Keepers – Woven Branches Project

ArtsWave Pride Grants

One-time project grants for arts experiences with relevance to the LGBTQIA+ community, funded in part by ArtsWave Pride donors.

American Sign Museum, for Signs & Spouses: A Sparkling Celebration of Marriage Equality
 Art Academy of Cincinnati, for Where We Thrive
 Cincinnati Arts Association, for Project Shattered Silence Pilot
 concert:nova, for Memory Box
 Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati, for Where Do THEY Fit In?
 The Ghostlight Stage Company, for "Late, A Cowboy Song" by Sarah Ruhl
 Pones, for "Somewhere Over the Holler"
 Young Professionals Choral Collective, for The LGBTQIA+ City that Sings

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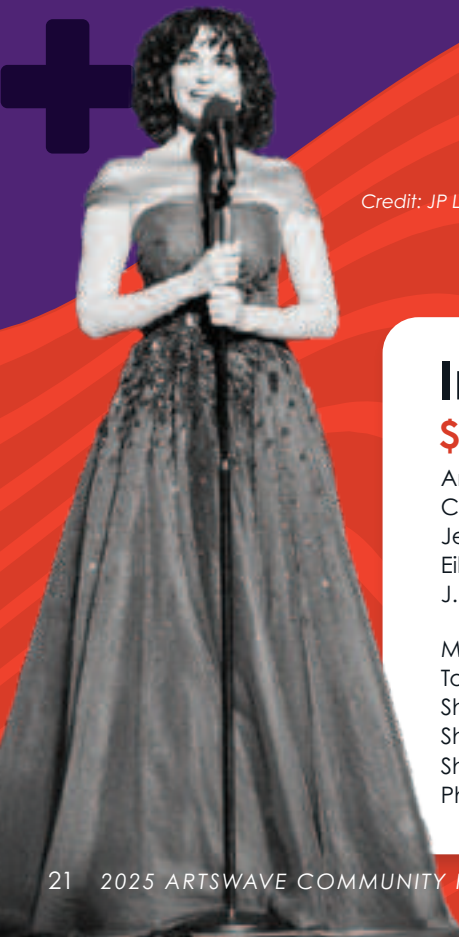
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* Steering Committee members

arts wave **BOARDWAY BOUND**

Boardway Bound is ArtsWave's acclaimed board leadership program that has trained and placed 500+ members with boards of Cincinnati arts organizations since 2004.



Credit: Kevin J. Watkins

class of 2025

Laura Banks, Colibrium Additive (a GE Aerospace company)
Tara Baughn, The Cincinnati Insurance Company
Steve Casperson, P&G (retired)
Brock Dalton, Fifth Third Bank
Denise Esteves-Hicks, Kroger Technology
Andrew Fisher, The Port of Greater Cincinnati

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Amber Gallagher, REDI Cincinnati
Maggie Groff, 84.51°
Jesy Herron, RESLV
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Maya Lenae Middlebrook, Turner Construction Company
Natasha Moffitt, Messer Construction Company

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David Paredes, Standard Textile
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Gabriel Martinez Rubio, Artist/Choreographer
Mahmoud Said, ArtsWave

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Jessica Tribbe, The Aquaya Institute
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Brianna Vollman, Thompson Hine LLP
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Zach Moning
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special thanks to these 2025 campaign collaborators

- 2025 Campaign Chair **Mel Gravely** and his Campaign Cabinet, for their leadership in making the 2025 Campaign a success!
- **ArtsWave's arts partners**, for providing venues, activities, speakers, tickets and more to the ArtsWave Campaign.
- The following generous groups and partners for collaborating or hosting events for our networking and giving groups: **ArtWorks**, **Cincinnati Art Museum**, **Cincinnati Ballet**, **Cincinnati Opera**, **Ensemble Theatre**, **Fifth Third Bank**, **Kroger**, **The Mercantile Library**, **Oakley Greens**, **The ROMAC**, **Visionaries + Voices** and **The Weston Art Gallery**.
- The **Greater Cincinnati Foundation** for providing a campaign challenge match for Executive Leaders for the Arts.
- The **Cincinnati Reds** and **FC Cincinnati** for their partnership in providing Sports Package benefits for ArtsWave donors, as well as **Cincinnati Opera**, **Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra**, **Cincinnati Pops**, **Cincinnati Ballet** and **The May Festival** for providing Music Hall benefits.
- **Josh Heuser** of AGAR and the team at **Ghost Baby** for hosting the Executive Leaders for the Arts recognition event.
- **New Riff Distilling** for creating two special edition ArtsWave bourbons to raise funds for the 2025 campaign.
- The **City of Cincinnati**, **Duke Energy**, **Fifth Third Bank**, **Greater Cincinnati Foundation** and **Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center** for sponsoring the Black and Brown Artist Program, plus **Contemporary Arts Center** for hosting the 2025 Truth & Innovation Artist Showcase.
- **21c Museum Hotel** for being the official hotel of the ArtsWave App and a fundraising partner.
- **The Enquirer**, **Orange Barrel Media**, **Cincinnati Business Courier** and **Cincinnati Public Radio** for in-kind advertising support of ArtsWave events and initiatives.
- The partners and sponsors whose support made Cincinnati shine for AFTACON, the Americans for the Arts national conference: **Agar**, **Cintas**, **CVG Airport**, **Fund Evaluation Group**, **Game Day Communications**, **GBBN**, **Haile Foundation**, **Johnson Investment Council**, **MeetNKY**, **Ohio Valley Foundation**, **P&G**, **Rosemary Schlachter**, **Visit Cincy** and **Western & Southern Financial Group**. Thanks also to the local AFTACON speakers: **Flavia Bastos** (University of Cincinnati), **Tysonn Betts** (Right Brain to the Business), **Elizabeth Blackburn** (Cincinnati Bengals), **Karen Forgas** (Cincinnati Reds), **Kelley Haggert** (FC Cincinnati), **Josh Heuser** (AGAR) and **Helen Todd** (Creativity Squared).
- **RCF Group** for transforming the ArtsWave office into an amazing BLINK Donor Lounge, **Dewey's Pizza** for their incredible food AND sponsorship, and **WorldPay** for their sponsorship.
- **Duke Energy**, **Triversy Construction**, **Clever Crazes for Kids**, **Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center**, d.e. **Fox & Associates**, **The Enquirer** and **U.S. Bank** for their sponsorship of *Flow, An African American Arts Experience* and the *Flow Pass*, alongside individual sponsors **Deana Taylor-Bewer & Kelvin Brewer**, **Renee & Marty Dunn**, **Mel & Chandra Gravely**, **Tony & Stephanie Mathis**, **John & Debora Merchant**, and **Mary Stagaman & Ron Kull**.
- The many people who volunteered their time and talent to raise \$12.3 million to support the arts in Greater Cincinnati, and the 95 grant review committee members who spent hundreds of hours reviewing applications to recommend impact-based grants throughout the region.

legacy and endowment gifts

The Citizens of Cincinnati, to match the original endowment gift of Charles P. and Anna Sinton Taft, which established the Cincinnati Institute of Fine Arts in 1927

Anonymous (Eight donors to ArtsWave)
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The Thomas J. Emery Memorial
 The Ford Foundation (Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra)
 LKC Foundation/Mrs. Charles O. Carothers (In honor of the 75th Anniversary of the Cincinnati Institute of Fine Arts)
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 Eleanor and Charlie Taft Fund
 Elsie H. Warrington, Suzanne M. Warrington

and the Warrington Family Foundation, in memory of John T. Warrington (Taft Museum of Art Exhibition Endowment)

We compile the above rosters with care. If your name has been omitted or misspelled, please accept our apology. We encourage you to bring any errors or omissions to our attention.

+ in memoriam

Credit: Mikki Schaffner



Marvel Gentry Harmon 1953-2025

Marvel Gentry Harmon found success as a small business owner, marketing professional and publisher of neighborhood magazines, but her proudest passions were dancing and the stage. As producing artist director of aim: cincinnati (AKA Ballet tech Cincinnati), she fostered dance opportunities for students of all ages. A valued trustee and member of the Building Diverse Audiences Advisory Committee of Cincinnati Arts Association, her lifelong support of the arts was driven by a heartfelt belief that they are a vital part of our community.



Michelle Suzanne Hershey 1968-2025

Long-time ArtsWave Trustee and founding Women's Leadership Roundtable member, Michelle Hershey served on just about every ArtsWave committee and brought light and her wonderful sense of humor to all that she did. Michelle's professional career started at Arthur Anderson, and she completed her career as a managing director at Deloitte. She also chaired the Executive Board of the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative and was a steadfast supporter of her beloved alma mater, Marietta College.



Norman E. Johns 1951-2025

Assistant principal cellist Norman Johns brought elegance, mentorship and quiet strength to the the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra for 50 years. He helped to establish the Norman E. Johns chair award in 1995 for musicians from underrepresented backgrounds in the Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra, and he mentored students at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. In 2023, Johns received the Rosa F. and Samuel B. Sachs Fund Prize for his contributions to cultural life in the Cincinnati region.



Martha Whitney Rowe Long 1947-2025

Whitney Long was a great friend and supporter of Cincinnati's arts and culture. She championed Cincinnati's many cultural venues and thoroughly enjoyed her visits to the Taft Museum of Art, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Playhouse in the Park and Cincinnati Art Museum to name a few. She loved new cultural experiences and the opportunity to share them with family and friends. Cincinnati never had a better cheerleader.



Thomas E. Stegman 1930-2025

A generous supporter and lover of music and visual art, Tom Stegman led his family's business, Osborne Coinage Company, the oldest private mint in the country. Tom served on the boards of both the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and the Cincinnati Art Museum. In addition to collecting artwork, Tom had a world-class collection of vintage sports and racing cars. Over the years he and his spouse, Dee, hosted many charitable fundraising parties at his garage for the CSO and other organizations.



tt stern-enzi 1969-2025

A beloved member of our artist community, tt was artistic director of the OTR International Film Festival and wrote about film for CityBeat. He was a two-time recipient of ArtsWave's Black and Brown Artist Grant. He was so excited to receive his second commission from ArtsWave last January that he got a tattoo on his arm with the letters GSM for the title of his project, "God Sent Me." tt served on the advisory board of the Cincinnati Center for Film & Media Studies and was a board member of both the Film Festival Alliance and Art House Convergence.

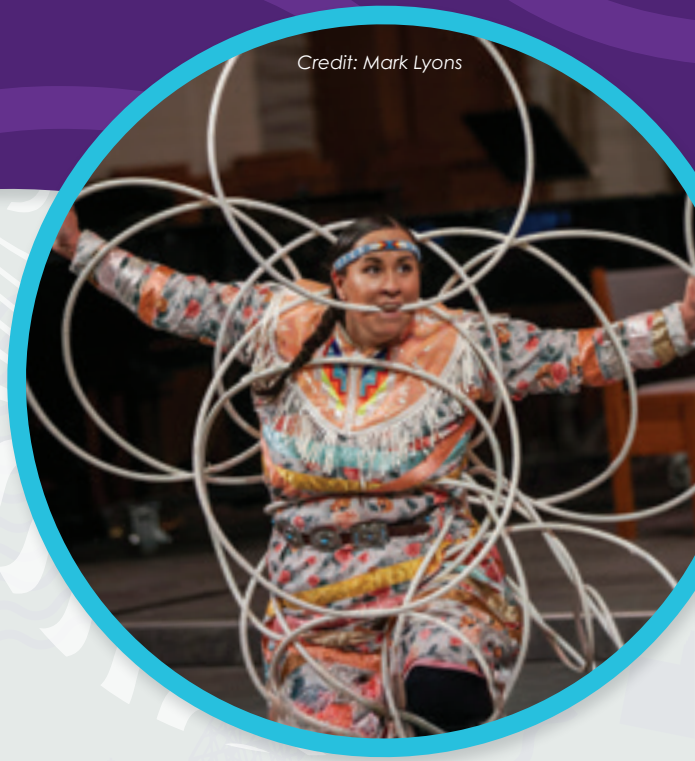
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