# make your mark.



arts wave 100 years

2026
COMMUNITY
REPORT

PEOPLE ACROSS

**this region continue to show up for the arts year after year. That shared commitment is what will keep the arts strong and help shape the region we become in the next century.**

**BOARD CHAIR Deborah Hayes, President and Chief Executive Officer of The Christ Hospital Health Network**



Photo provided by The Christ Hospital Health Network



*Credit: Tasha Pinelo*

# On the Edge of Our Second Century

There are few communities anywhere that can tell the story Cincinnati can tell.

For nearly 100 years, generations of people here have come together around a simple but powerful belief: **The arts make a place better, and when we support them together, their impact belongs to everyone.**

As ArtsWave approaches its centennial, I find myself thinking about the remarkable act of community that has brought us to this moment. Millions of gifts. Generations of volunteers and civic leaders. Artists who have imagined what did not yet exist. Organizations that have become defining institutions of our region. Companies that have invited their employees to participate. Families who have made supporting the arts part of what it means to call Cincinnati home.

To all of you: Thank you. Your generosity has built far more than an arts community. It has helped build Cincinnati.

In 2026, in a consequential Campaign chaired by James Zimmerman of Taft Law, we saw that impact everywhere. We saw it in children discovering the arts, neighborhoods enlivened by creativity, artists finding opportunity, audiences gathering together, and cultural experiences that make our region more vibrant, welcoming and distinctive. We continued to imagine new ways to connect people to the arts, grow audiences and ensure that this extraordinary creative community thrives for generations to come.

That matters because a centennial is not simply a celebration of longevity. It is an invitation to think bigger.

What kind of Cincinnati will we become in the next 100 years?

We envision a region where every child grows up with the arts. Where creativity is a competitive advantage in attracting people, businesses and investment. Where artists can build lives and careers. Where our cultural institutions are full, our neighborhoods are vibrant and the arts create experiences that bring us together across differences.

The generations before us built an extraordinary civic inheritance.

**Now, it is our turn.**

As we step into ArtsWave's second century, we do so with gratitude for everything this community has made possible, and enormous confidence in what we can make possible next.

Alecia Kintner

President & CEO, ArtsWave

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*Credit: Phil Armstrong*

**THE ARTS are an important part of what makes the Cincinnati region a place where people want to live, build careers and raise families. They create a vibrant, competitive region. They define who we are. They make Cincinnati stand out. That's why the ArtsWave Campaign matters. Leading it has been a great honor, and I'm excited for what's ahead in the coming year.**

**CAMPAIGN CHAIR James Zimmerman, Partner-in-Charge, Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP**



Photo provided by Cincinnati Opera



Credit: Kevin J. Watkins



Credit: Kevin J. Watkins



Credit: Kevin J. Watkins

# campaign cabinet

## 2026 Campaign Chair

**James Zimmerman**

Matt Barney, Messer Construction Co.
Catherine Botos, GE Aerospace
Eric Combs, Dinsmore & Shohl LLP
Kathy Cook, Community Volunteer
Anna Coutts, Cintas
Brendon Cull, Cincinnati Regional Chamber
Jennifer Damiano, KeyBank
Patrick Dingeldein, PNC Bank
Douglas Fox, Plante Moran
John Gray, Fifth Third Bank
Trey Grayson, FBT Gibbons LLP
Devon Greco, BE NKY
Gregory Harris, First Financial Bank
Barbara Hauser, P&G
Heather Hawkins, Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP
Renee Hevia, Community Volunteer
Andrew Hof, Novus Foods
Paul Jenny, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
Marcene Kinney, GBBN Architects
Holly Mazzocca, Bartlett Wealth Management
Rob McDonald, Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP
Peter Metz, Cincinnati Regional Chamber
Samuel Moore, P&G, Retired
Theodore Nelson, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra
Gregory Olson, Urban Sites
James Smith, Cincinnati Business Courier
Chet Swisher, Cincinnati Insurance Companies
Sam Zeller, Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP





Credit: Mikki Schaffner

# board of directors

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Joe Muraca, Treasurer
Megan Shaffer, Secretary
Alecia T. Kintner, President & CEO

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Tim Spence†
Deana Taylor-Brewer
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Charla Weiss†
Rhonda Whitaker Hurtt
Kelly Wittich
Sam Zeller*

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Mary Stagaman
Peter S. Strange
Dudley S. Taft
Ellen G. van der Horst

* Executive Committee
† Ex-Officio
^ Audit Committee Chair

# the 2026 *campaign*

**IN 2026, THE GENEROSITY** of thousands of donors powered milestones that strengthened our region, ensuring that Cincy continues to discover more creativity, more connection and more community. Here are the highlights from this year's Campaign.

**$12,163,428**
Raised

**20,721**
Donors

**135**
Companies and organizations supported a workplace campaign

**Corporate Gifts**
$2,734,615
**22%**

**Foundation/ Misc.**
$1,131,457
**9%**

**Restricted**
$1,031,919
**9%**




**Workplace Campaign Donors**
$5,547,042
**46%**

**Individuals**
$1,718,395
**14%**

*"We are so proud to be able to bring arts experiences to the community in a way that's affordable ... We actually offer free art classes at six Cincinnati Public Library branches every month, and* ***it's the support of ArtsWave that makes that possible."***

**BRIANNA MATZKE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
WYOMING FINE ARTS CENTER

arts wave MORE ARTS MORE KIDS

ArtsWave's school field trip initiative met its $250,000 fundraising goal, allowing nearly 20,000 local students to attend a live arts experience at no cost to their schools or families, including every student in grades K-6 at Cincinnati Public Schools, CISE, Hamilton City Schools and Ludlow Independent Schools. Experiences like these can turn a single field trip into something that ripples well beyond the classroom.

Photo provided by The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati





Credit: Tyler Secor

*"I tell people all the time what a vibrant arts scene Cincinnati has. It feels like a place where artists are supported, and ArtsWave is a huge part of that.* ***The funding from ArtsWave allows us to feel confident*** *... and take risks sometimes in programming."*

**JOANIE SCHULTZ, ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**
CINCINNATI PLAYHOUSE IN THE PARK

## In the Top 5% of Arts Vibrancy

SMU DataArts, the National Center for Arts Research, ranked the Cincinnati region in the top 5% of more than 900 communities nationwide for Arts Vibrancy. You can see that vibrancy in public art all around the region, including BLINK, illuminated by ArtsWave, the nation's largest light and art event.



Credit: Frank Young

# executive *leaders* for the arts



Credit: Pixxel Designs

Anonymous (14)
Andrew Akers, Akers Packaging Service Group
Evie Alessandrini, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
Colleen and Dean Athans, GE Retirees
Ms. Ellen H. Baker, Macy's Retiree
Jennifer Baker, Cincinnati Insurance Companies
Matt Barney, Messer Construction Co.
John Barrett, Western & Southern Financial Group
Deanna Bass, P&G Retiree
Ron Bates, 1919 Investment Counsel
Rebecca Bilbo, Thomas More University
Laura Blackorby, Fifth Third Bank
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Bobenread
Catherine Botos, GE Aerospace
Thomas Breed
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
Megan Burkhart, Fifth Third Bank
Bill Butler, Corporex
Missy and Kerry Byrne
Kevin Canafax, Fidelity Investments
Shannon and Lee Carter
Castellini Foundation
Bridgit Chayt, Fifth Third Bank
Michael L. Cioffi, Blank Rome
Mark Clement, TriHealth, Inc.
Burton Closson
Lela and Maurice Coffey
Sheila and Christopher Cole
Eric Combs, Dinsmore
Bob and Jeanne Coughlin
Crosset Family Fund
Brendon Cull, Cincinnati Regional Chamber
Wendy and Larry Culp, GE Aerospace
Dan Cunningham, Cunningham Institute for Growth
Bruno De Weer, P&G Retiree
Kristine Decker, P&G
Mr. and Mrs. William O. DeWitt, Jr.
Mr. John Dovich
Phil Duncan, P&G
Marty Dunn, Dinsmore
Robert and Rachel Eckman, GE Aerospace
Pete and Mary Effler
David W. Ellis III, UBS Financial Services
Lisa and Richard Ernst
Richard and Carol Fencl, P&G Retirees
Leigh Fox, altafiber
Mr. David Francis, Bartlett Wealth Management
Gale and Walter C. Frank
Toriano A. Franklin, Johnson & Johnson MedTech
David Freitas, Deloitte
The Friedlander Family
Louisa and Gregory Gehring
Kay and Jack Geiger
Charles H. Gerhardt III, Government Strategies Group
Naomi Tucker Gerwin
Mr. Kala Gibson, Fifth Third Bank
Tom Gilman, Gilman Partners
Carrie and Ken Goldhoff and Family
Tracey Grabowski and Joe Stagaman
Mel Gravely, Triversity Construction Company
Regina and Dereck Gray, P&G
Chris Habel, FBT Gibbons LLP
James Hagerty, Bartlett Wealth Management
Adam Hall, FBT Gibbons LLP
Theresa Hanlon-Bremer, TriHealth, Inc.
Lauren Hannan Shafer
Amy Hanson, Amy Hanson Advisory Services
Tom Hardy
Delores Hargrove-Young, d.e. Foxx and Associates
Mark J. Hauser, The Hauser Group
Deborah Hayes, The Christ Hospital Health Network
Melanie and Bruce Healey
Rolf Hetico and Lori Gerring
Josh Heuser, AGAR
Guy M. Hild, Katz Teller
Jeff Hinebaugh, Dinsmore
David and Karen Hoguet
Terence Horan, HORAN Wealth
Dave and Debbie Horn
Roger and Joyce Howe
Kevin Hughes, Cushman & Wakefield
M. Katherine Hurley and Jens Rosenkrantz Jr
Gregory T. Hyland II, GE Aerospace
Jason Jackman, Johnson Investment Counsel, Inc.
Kara Jackson, P&G
Heidi Jark, Fifth Third Bank
Denise M. Jeavons, P&G Retiree
Shailesh Jejurikar, P&G
Paul Jenny, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
Jocelyn Gant Jones, P&G Retiree
Andrew R. Kaiser
Joel Kashuba, Fifth Third Bank
Liz Kathman Grubow and Jerry Kathman
Steve Kenat, SHP
Darren King, Fifth Third Bank
Marcene C. Kinney, GBBN Architects
Alecia Kintner, ArtsWave
Allison Kropp
Joe Lanni, Thunderdome Restaurant Group
Nanci and Nick Lanni
George and Mary Alice Leasure
Steve Leeper, 3CDC
Beth and Peter Levin
Carl H. Lindner III, American Financial Group, Inc.
S. Craig Lindner, American Financial Group, Inc.
Phillip Long
Joshua Lorentz, Dinsmore
Cynthia A. Lyons, Western & Southern Financial Group
Carmie Maloney, P&G
Tony Mathis, GE Aerospace Retiree
Manuel D. & Rhoda Mayerson Foundation



## WESTERN & SOUTHERN generously offered a $99,000 Challenge for the Future of the Arts to encourage new and increased Executive Leaders for the Arts gifts. We exceeded last year's total with 237 Executive Leaders pledging their support at $5,000+ for this year's campaign. This total includes 44 new donors at this level.

**237** *Executive Leaders*

**44** *New Donors*

**$5k+** *Annual Gift Level*

Holly Mazzocca, Bartlett Wealth Management
Michael McCarren, GE Aerospace
Jill McGruder, Western & Southern Financial Group
Ms. Debra S. Merchant
Mr. John Merchant, Dinsmore
David Meyer, EY, Retired
Rick Michelman, Michelman
Jon Moeller, P&G
William L. Montague and Kelly Wittich, FTB Financial Services / UBS Financial Services Inc.
Samuel Moore Jr., P&G Retiree
Joe Muraca, EY
Sarah and Christopher Murphy
Michael Napier, HORAN Wealth
Naomi R. Nelson, P&G
Mr. Shawn T. Newman, GE Aerospace
Bill and Karen Neyer, Merus
Oliver Family Foundation
Greg Olson, Urban Sites
Michele and Mike O'Rourke, O'Rourke Wrecking Company
Elizabeth Osborne, Fifth Third Bank
Pamela L. Page-Boykins and Billy C. Boykins, Jr.
Tory and John Parlin
Joe and Susan Pichler
Anne Pierce
Wym and Jan Portman
Julia and Dan Poston
Marc Pritchard, P&G
Andrew Quinn, Bardes Fund
Nick Ragland
Maribeth Rahe, Fort Washington Investment Advisors, Inc.
Audra Rance, P&G
Jackie Reau, Game Day Communications
Vicky and Rick Reynolds
Martin and Fiona Riant
Ellen Rieveschl
Scott Robertson, RCF Group
Cheryl Rose, Constellation Wealth Advisors and Jeff Chapman, Dinsmore Compliance Services
Scott Rose, GE Aerospace
Rosenthal Family Foundation
The RUGiving2? Fund
Ann and Harry Santen
Ronald Sargent, The Kroger Co.
Lisa Sauer, P&G Retiree
Charles Scheper, Bexion Pharmaceuticals
Thomas R. Schiff
Todd Schild, Thompson Hine LLP
Rosemary Schlachter, 25th Hour
Digi and Mike Schueler
Michael Schuster, MSA Design
Peter and Robin Sefzik, Fifth Third Bank
Mark and Jane Serrianne
Cory Shaw, UC Health
Larry and Rhonda Sheakley, The Sheakley Group
Mr. and Mrs. Brent and Valarie Sheppard
Steve Shifman, Michelman
Mu Sinclaire, Sinclaire Family Office
David Singer, The Evelo | Singer | Sullivan | Bruegge Group, Merrill Private Wealth Management
Joanne Sloneker
Jim Sowar, Deloitte
Tim Spence, Fifth Third Bank
Mary Stagaman
Ms. Elizabeth Stautberg
Katherine and Tim Stautberg
Matt Stautberg, Jones Lake Management
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 Investment Advisors
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Stradling, Jr.
George Stricker Jr.
Dudley Taft, Taft Semple Foundation
David Taylor, P&G Retiree
Deana Taylor Brewer, Visit Cincy
Anne Drackett Thomas, P&G Retiree
The TQL Foundation
Barbara Turner, BT Rise
Andrew Ulmer, FBT Gibbons LLP
Andre and Maureen Valentine
Margaret Valentine
Ellen and Ray van der Horst
Kelly Vanasse
Nicolette Vanderklaauw and Alan Davies, P&G
George H. Vincent, The Kroger Co.
Vista Foundation
David Voelker, Ameritas
Albert Vontz III, Heidelberg Distributing Co.
Randolph L. Wadsworth
Dan Waugh, GE Aerospace
Warren and Pam Weber, PNC Bank
Mr. Gerald Weigle, Jr., Dinsmore
Irwin and Barbara Weinberg
Sarah L. Weiss, Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Gregory M. Wheeler, altafiber
Chiquita V. White, P&G Retiree
Dr. Deborah Whitis, GE Aerospace
Thomas Wiedemann, AAA Club Alliance
Mr. Brian R. Wildman, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
W. Joseph Williams, Jr., North American Properties
Thomas L. Williams, North American Properties
Sallie and Brennen Willingham, Fifth Third Bank
Mr. Joseph J. Willke, NielsenIQ
Gordon Wright, P&G Retiree and Carolyn Gray-Wright
Susan B. Zaunbrecher, Dinsmore
Sam Zeller, Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP
Alison and Jim Zimmerman
James Zimmerman, Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP

# 100 *vibrant* years



Early 1900s Cincinnati Art Museum



Photo provided by ArtsConnect

## 1927

***Charles and Anna Sinton Taft offer their home and art collection, along with a $1 million endowment***, on one condition: that the community matches it with $2.5 million. Cincinnati's community responded, pledging more than $2.6 million to create an endowment that would become ArtsWave.

With gifts large and small, many just $5, $10 or $20, these first donors made their mark on our region, creating a model of collective support that continues today.

## 1949

***The Fine Arts Fund launches, making that effort an annual event.*** The nation's first community arts fundraising campaign, The Fine Arts Fund was established to provide support to four major arts organizations: **Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati Art Museum, the Taft Museum of Art and Cincinnati Opera.**




*1975 Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra*

*Credit: Mikki Schaffner*

# 2010

***The Fine Arts Fund is reimagined as ArtsWave*** after a groundbreaking study into what motivates support for the arts.

ArtsWave's focus shifted toward intentional community impact, outlined by its Blueprint for Collective Action for the Arts Sector.

# 2026

Today, every dollar given to ArtsWave turns into $43 of economic impact through **150+ organizations, projects and artists.**

Gifts to ArtsWave sustain the world-class institutions that have shaped life in our region for generations, while supporting creative projects that push our region forward.

# *blueprint* 2.0

## a *renewed* guiding vision

**By investing in the region's arts community toward shared goals, ArtsWave helps strengthen communities across our region. The Blueprint for Collective Action 2.0 builds on that work with a bold vision for the future, in which the arts remain connected to our region's growth and quality of life.**

**The Blueprint is designed to do three things:**

- Align with broader community objectives
- Provide clarity and specificity around the kinds of activities and outcomes ArtsWave believes will advance these objectives
- Leverage more support from the community by demonstrating ever greater relevance to the community

## *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 8 in 10 leisure travelers say cultural experiences shape where they go.**

Cincinnati Opera carried the city's name into the Associated Press, The Washington Post, Bloomberg, NPR, PBS and more this year with the world premiere of "LALOVAVI." Innovative work like this strengthens a region's reputation and sets it apart nationally.

*The Cultural & Heritage Traveler Study, Mandala Research*

## *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.***

**Nearly 7 in 10 college-educated young adults say arts and culture shape where they want to live more than a job.**

Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra built CSO Proof to reach younger audiences with new multi-sensory, immersive concert formats. That kind of experience turns newcomers into residents, and residents into advocates.

*Soul of the Community, Knight Foundation*



*Credit: Mark Lyons*

## *arts* bridge divides

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



Credit: Nick Reece

**72% of Americans believe the arts bring people together, regardless of their differences.**

Bi-Okoto Drum & Dance Theatre brought African storytelling and culture to more than 10,000 students this year through their school outreach programs. By putting kids face to face with a culture most don't yet know, the arts turn curiosity into understanding faster than words alone.

*Americans Speak Out About the Arts, Americans for the Arts*

## *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.***

**Nearly 9 in 10 people who encounter public art say it becomes a source of pride for their community.**

ArtsConnect's SURGE project transformed 19 gray, metal utility boxes along Winton Road into a public art gallery, choosing work from local artists out of more than 100 submissions. Projects like this turn an everyday stretch of road into something residents are proud to call their own.

*On the Impact of Public Art, Wellbeing, Space and Society*



Photo provided by ArtsConnect

## *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.***

**Students with more arts opportunities show fewer discipline problems, stronger writing skills, and more compassion.**

When American Legacy Theatre brought its "In Classrooms" program to CPS pre-K students, participants scored higher in 12 of 15 kindergarten readiness areas. One principal observed that "students who are disengaged in other settings come alive."

*Houston Arts Access Initiative, Rice University's Houston Education Research Consortium*



# investing in the arts *we share*

## *150+ grants • one vibrant region*

Credit: Pixxel Designs

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **45** Sustaining Impact Grants | **23** Inspire Artist Grants | **30** Catalyzing Impact Grants |
| **10** Circle Grants | **14** Pride Grants | **12** Young Professional Grants |
| **9** Northern Kentucky Placemaking Grants | **8** Strategic Partnership & Sponsorship Grants | **2** tt stern-enzi Memorial Award Grants |

# community giving
## *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: Casey Miller

# 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**

1001 Colors
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 Youth Choir
Clifton Cultural Arts Center
Elementz
Kennedy Heights Arts Center
Kentucky Symphony Orchestra
Know Theatre of Cincinnati
Learning Through Art
Over-the-Rhine International Film Festival
Oxford Community Arts Center
Summermusik
Visionaries + Voices
Wyoming Fine Arts Center

### Less than $300,000
**operating budget**

American Legacy Theatre
ArtsConnect
Cincinnati Boychoir
Cincinnati Men's Chorus
Linton Chamber Music
MUSE Cincinnati's Women's Choir
Mutual Dance Theatre and Arts Centers
My Nose Turns Red Youth Circus
PAR-Projects
Pones
Queen City Opera
Vocal Arts Ensemble
The Well
Young Professionals Choral Collective

# Inspire Artist Grants

*Inspire Artist Grants are made possible by gifts to the annual ArtsWave Campaign, plus the City of Cincinnati, Duke Energy, the Greater Cincinnati Foundation and Contemporary Arts Center. The program is one way ArtsWave works to preserve and advance BIPOC arts and culture.*

**Julia Orquera Bianco** | Iluminar

**Markus Cook** | How to Resurrect a Loved One

**Jori An Cotton** | Voices of Resilience: Amplifying Stories, Art, and Healing Across Sheltered Communities

**Bertha Davis** | The 90s: A Documentary for the Ages

**Noam Denenberg** | Carbon Dreams

**Drea** | Rankin House, tribute to the successful journey

**Clifford Fenell** | Many Voices: Stories of Us

**Ximena Flores** | Inti Echoes

**Ashley Glass** | SDOH (The Social Determinants of Health) Short Documentary/Trailer

**Brandon Isaac** | Pride in my Heritage: Coming Home to Yourself

**Jeni Jenkins** | Here in The Middle: Colors of Colorism, Bodies in Margins

**Jay B. Kalagayan** | St. Malo: First Filipinos in North America

**Noel Bassam Mohammad Maghathe** | Between Us

**Lisa Merida-Paytes** | The Paroxysm-Tree Project

**Geri P** | Broken Kids

**Roberto** | SI DIOS QUIERE

**Gabriel Martinez Rubio** | Free-Dom

**Christina Sifri** | Land and Body

**The Silent Poet** | Threads of Solidarity: A Collective Manifesto in Word and Action

**K.A. Simpson** | You Should Have Been There: Things That Sounded Funnier in My Head

**Derrick Smith** | Building a Nest in a Dying Tree

**Rebecca Nava Soto** | The Land Remembers: We Were Always Here

**Ingrid Woode** | Twilight Sanctuaries

# Circle Grants

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

**ARTE** | TRANSITION

**Arts Equity Collective** | 5th Annual, "I Don't Look Like What I've Been Through" Survivor's Workshops, Awards & Fashion Show

**Cincinnati Opera** | Visions of the Future: A LALOVAVI Community Mural Series

**Jazz Alive** | Cincinnati Jazz Girls Day

**Juneteenth Cincinnati** | 39th Annual Cincinnati Juneteenth Festival

**Kennedy Heights Arts Center** | Voices of Freedom

**Q-KIDZ Dance Team** | Q-KIDZ in the Park: Shakespeare Through Dance and Theater

**Robert O'Neal Multicultural Arts Center (ROMAC)** | ROMAC Young, Talented, and Gifted Showcase Series (YTG)

**SoundArt Technology Lab** | Producer Playground - SoundArt Technology Lab Music Production Summer Camp

**Sweet Sistah Splash** | AfroSwag Hair and Fashion Show

# ArtsWave YP Grants

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

**Bi-Okoto** | Rhythm in Harmony: Celebrating Culture, Empowering Leaders

**Cincinnati Music & Wellness Coalition** | Wellness & Culture for Young Professionals

**Cincinnati Opera** | Cincinnati Opera Young Professionals

**Cincinnati Shakespeare Company** | YP Preview Night

**Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati** | Show Up!

**Generation NOW** | Creative Collab Series: Engaging Young Professionals Through Arts & Culture

**The Ghostlight Stage Company** | "Shining A Light" workshop and lecture series

**Girls Rock Cincinnati** | Girls Rock Remix 2026

**NrityArpana School of Performing Arts** | Young Artists Forum

**Sweet Sistah Splash** | AfroArt After Dark

**The Well** | The Practice of Presence: Mindful Poetry for Young Professionals

**Young Professionals Choral Collective** | Create, Engage, Connect

# 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.*

**African Professionals Network (APNET)** | Afrifest 2026

**Art Academy of Cincinnati** | Cincinnati Intergenerational Art Initiative

**ARTE** | 17 Neighborhoods

**ArtScape Lebanon** | Expanding Ceramics Access for Underserved Children and Adults

**Bader+Simon** | In Living Color: A Mural of Cincinnati's Diverse Art History

**CET** | The Art Show

**Cincinnati Pride** | 2026 Cincinnati Pride Festival

**Cindependent Film Festival (CIFF)** | CindeNext

**City of Blue Ash** | Under the Canopy: Cultural Connections

**Clifton Community Players** | Where We Are Planted: A Verbatim Theatre Performance

**Creative Aging Cincinnati** | Arts Programming for Seniors

**Dancefix Foundation** | Dancefix Foundation Summer on the Plaza Series

**Film Cincinnati** | The Business of Storytelling

**Friends of the Harriet Beecher Stowe House** | Centering African American Stories: Poetry, Storytelling, and Music at the Edgemont Inn

**Harmon Museum** | Lebanon Festival of the Arts 2026

**Indigo Hippo** | Material Play

**Jazz Alive** | Jazz in the Camp

**Lightship Foundation** | Black Tech Week: The Creative Frequency Finale

**May-We-Help** | Cincinnati Adaptive Arts and Music Camp

**Music Resource Center—Cincinnati** | Community Studio: Bringing Music to West Side Youth

**Musicians for Health** | Cash: The Business of Art and the Art of Business

**Ohio Arts Professionals Network (OAPN)** | Ohio Arts Professionals Network 2026 Conference

**Ohio Justice and Policy Center** | Just Art Initiative: Voices from the Inside

**ProjectArt** | ProjectArt Cincinnati

**Q-KIDZ Dance Team** | Stop The Violence: Youth In Motion Prevention Project

**Soulful Change** | The 3rd Annual Africa Day Celebration: Next-Gen Leadership, Global Impact, and Influence

**Talk Low Music Festival** | Talk Low Music Festival, Community Workshops, and Performances

**TransForming Families Ministries** | West Chester/ Liberty Township Juneteenth Celebration

**Walnut Hills Redevelopment Foundation** | Walnut Hills Arts & Culture Series

**Wave Pool** | Wave Pool Incubator Residency

# ArtsWave Pride Grants

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

**Art Equals** | The Threads of Self-Expression

**Bi-Okoto** | Voices between the lines: Amplifying LGBTQ+ voices and identities through Cultural Expression

**The Carnegie** | LA CAGE AUX FOLLES Immersive Preshow Experience

**Cincinnati Art Museum** | Lola Flash: A Major Public Program at the Cincinnati Art Museum

**Cincinnati Men's Chorus** | Collaborative Concert with MUSE, Celebrating Women's History Month

**Cincinnati Shakespeare Company** | ShakesQueer – A Bawdy, Bard-y Burlesque and Drag Show

**Contemporary Arts Center** | CAC Artist-in-Residence: Bear Vogt

**Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati** | Growing Gold: Honoring the Stories that Came Before Us

**Ohio Lesbian Archives** | Ohio Lesbian Archives: LGBTQ+ History in Action

**Queen City Freedom Band** | Existence is Resistance

**Queer Kentucky** | Queer Kentucky and Nymph(o) Magazine

**Revolution Dance Theatre** | Hot Chocolate: The House That Joy Built

**Visionaries + Voices** | "Joy Fuel" Inclusive Art Workshops

**Young Professionals Choral Collective** | The LGBTQIA+ City that Sings: Year 2



*Credit: Luke Findley*

# tt stern-enzi Memorial Award

*An award recognizing a filmmaker whose work reflects the vision and values of the late Cincy film critic and arts advocate, Terrence Todd "tt" stern-enzi.*

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# Northern Kentucky Placemaking Grants

*Grants that fuel creative endeavors to strengthen Northern Kentucky's cultural identity, drive economic vitality and build a more connected community for all.*

**African Women Alliance** | Creative Roots: A Heritage Skills Workshop

**Bi-Okoto** | Afrika on the Move

**Center for Great Neighborhoods** | Arts at the Market

**Infinite Hills Productions** | The Rail Sessions

**Pones** | Ride with an Artist Day

**Queer Kentucky** | NKY Anthology Print Magazine

**ReNewport** | The Orchard Project

**Southbank Shakespeare** | Southbank Shakespeare Summer Season

**Urban Appalachian Community Coalition** | UACC Place Keepers – Woven Branches 2

# Strategic Partnership & Sponsorship Grants

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

**1001 Colors** | Rebranding

**Cincinnati Arts Association** | Sustaining Impact sector meeting

**Cincinnati Arts Association** | Arts in Healing

**Cincinnati Public Radio** | Inclusive Arts Roundtables

**Eye of the Artists Foundation** | The Colors of Creativity Passport

**National Commission for Black Arts Entertainment** | 2026 NCBAE National Conference

**Visit Cincy** | Elm Street Plaza

**The Voice of your Customer** | Gee Horton's "Chapter 4: In Another Lifetime"

# making their mark.

*A legacy that lives on.*



Credit: Paige Pederzani



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**100 years ago, 3,700 citizens and business leaders made a decision that would define the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky region for generations. These were the original Visionaries.**

Arts organizations need the solid foundation of a robust endowment to maintain and increase access, sustain artistic excellence and weather economic downturns and unpredictable shifts in public funding priorities.

Today's ArtsWave Visionaries are passing on a vibrant arts scene to future generations.

# arts wave Visionaries

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*Membership is open to those who make a gift to the ArtsWave Endowment, either today or in the future through a planned gift commitment.*

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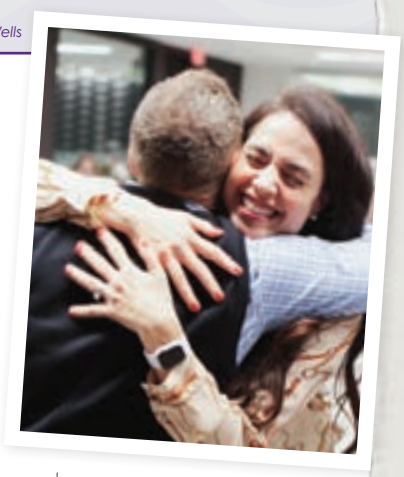
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Accounts Payable & Payroll Specialist

**Mahmoud Said**
Manager, Community Campaign & Engagement

**Mary Stagaman**
Impact Executive in Residence

**Ryan Strand**
Vice President, Marketing & Communications

**Nick To**
Manager, Grant Programs

**Nick Wade**
Manager, Community Campaign & Engagement

**Lisa Wolter**
Vice President, Community Campaign

# *special thanks*
## to these 2026 campaign collaborators

**2026 Campaign Chair James Zimmerman** and his Campaign Cabinet, for their leadership in making the 2026 Campaign a success!

**Western and Southern Financial Group** for the $99,000 Challenge for the Future of the Arts to match new and increased giving from Executive Leaders for the Arts.

**The Cincinnati Reds and FC Cincinnati**, for their incredible partnership in providing "Sports Package" benefits for ArtsWave donors.

**The Cincinnati Open,** for their new partnership and for providing a behind-the-scenes experience to donors.

**ArtsWave's arts partners,** for providing activities, speakers, tickets and enlivening the ArtsWave Campaign for our community partners.

We applaud these generous groups and partners for collaborating and/or hosting affinity group events: **The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati Ballet, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati, Cincinnati Black Pride, FotoFocus, Taft Museum of Art, and OneNKY Center.**

**The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden** for their partnership and a wonderful donor experience at Arts & Animals.

**The City of Cincinnati, Duke Energy, Fifth Third Bank, the Greater Cincinnati Foundation and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center** for sponsoring ArtsWave's Inspire Artist Program, and **Contemporary Arts Center** for hosting the 2026 Truth & Inspiration Artist Showcase.

**The Enquirer, Cincinnati Business Courier and Cincinnati Public Radio** for their in-kind advertising support of many of ArtsWave's events and initiatives.

**Fifth Third Bank, Greater Cincinnati Foundation, Duke Energy, Triversity Construction, U.S. Bank, Clever Crazes for Kids, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and The Enquirer** for their sponsorship of Flow, An African American Arts Experience and the Flow Pass, alongside individual sponsors Deana Taylor-Brewer & Kelvin Brewer, Mel & Chandra Gravely, Christopher Lewis & Alicia Bond-Lewis, Tony & Stephanie Mathis.

**More Arts, More Kids** arts partners making the arts field trips for nearly 20,000 students possible: **The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Arts Association, Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati Ballet, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and Learning Through Art.**

**The ArtsWave 100 Endowment Committee** for championing the ArtsWave Visionaries Campaign and for inspiring 39 new Visionaries to invest in permanent, stable funding for the arts in Cincinnati this year.

**The many, many people who volunteered** their time and talent to raise nearly $12.2 million to support the arts in Greater Cincinnati, and to the **92 individuals on our grant review committees** who spent hundreds of hours reviewing applications and making recommendations for impact-based grants throughout the region.

# *legacy* partners

## Individuals

**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 (17 donors)
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The William P. Anderson Foundation
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National Endowment for the Arts
The L&L Nippert Charitable Foundation
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Louise Taft Semple Foundation, in memory of Louise Taft Semple
Eleanor and Charlie Taft Fund
Elsie H. Warrington, Suzanne M. Warrington and the Warrington Family Foundation, in memory of John T. Warrington

## Legacy gifts were given in memory of the following individuals this year:

Thomas S. Hodges
Bill Killen
tt stern-enzi
Sylvia Thornton

*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.*

* Through a fund at the Greater Cincinnati Foundation

# in *memoriam*



## Joyce R. Borkin, PhD

**(1941-2025)**

Joyce was Professor Emeritus at the University of Cincinnati School of Social Work who cared deeply about mental health. She published many academic papers on the topic and collaborated with the Hamilton County Recovery Initiative to improve services. A loyal ArtsWave supporter and Visionary, she left a generous bequest to the ArtsWave Endowment in her estate plans.



## Frank Herrmann

**(1945-2026)**

Frank was an internationally recognized painter, educator and mentor. His career at the University of Cincinnati's College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning (DAAP) shaped the artistic development of generations of Cincinnati artists. His own body of work has been exhibited in galleries and institutions worldwide, earning him recognition as one of the region's most accomplished working painters. Frank will be remembered for his dedication to teaching and his generosity, humility and collaborative spirit.



## Ronald B. Kull, FAIA

**(1936-2025)**

Ron was a visionary Cincinnati architect whose career shaped the city, including the University of Cincinnati's nationally acclaimed campus transformation. His work with renowned architects and his leadership on major civic and educational projects reflected a lifelong commitment to design excellence and urban vibrancy. His contributions to our built environment are all around us. Ron and his wife, ArtsWave Life Trustee Mary Stagaman, were among the first families to become Visionaries, with a planned gift to ArtsWave's Second Century Campaign.



## James "Jimmy" Allen Miller

**(1949-2025)**

Jimmy was one of the top portfolio and firm managers in Cincinnati. His career spanned over 40 years, mostly at Bartlett Wealth Management, where he became President and CEO in 1993 and then Chairman in 2007. An engaged and impactful citizen, Jimmy's volunteer and philanthropic efforts continue to be felt today. He was instrumental in building the current Contemporary Arts Center and served as its Board Chair for many years. He took pride in his Judaism, and recognizing the common underpinning of altruism in all faiths, left an indelible imprint on his family, friends and everyone he approached. He was a true mensch.



## Francis Y. (Frank) Satogata

**(1943-2026)**

Frank was a Cincinnati artist whose work blended the natural beauty of his native Hawaii with the traditions of his Japanese heritage, creating expressive landscapes, florals and abstract forms rooted in calligraphy and gesture. He maintained a studio at Pendleton Art Center and spent nearly five decades in graphic design, co-founding Satogata/Vollmer and producing visual identities for major institutions like the Contemporary Arts Center and Taft Museum of Art. Frank shared 40 years of deep partnership with his wife, Heather Hallenberg, a champion of ArtsWave. Remembered for his humility, integrity and warm smile, Frank leaves behind a rich artistic legacy and a family who adored him.



## Corky and Ellen Steiner

**(1943-2026) and (1949-2024)**

Corky and Ellen lived deeply fulfilling lives, rooted in their love for family, friends and Cincinnati's arts community. After the untimely passing of Corky's younger brother, Rick, they continued to champion the arts through the Steiner Family Foundation. Ellen cherished the way the arts bring people together and inspire creativity — a passion she passed on to her family. Corky was a steadfast supporter of local artists and believed deeply in the arts' ability to uplift and connect people across backgrounds. The Family Foundation's support of ArtsWave ensures that their shared commitment to creativity, community and cultural enrichment will endure for generations to come.



## Ida Tergerson

**(1947-2026)**

Ida Tergerson (nee Ruhl) was a loyal ArtsWave volunteer for 40 years, working on the Residential Division of the annual ArtsWave Community Campaign. A nurse for 45 years, Ida spent most of her career in the ICU at Providence/Mercy Mt. Airy Hospital. She loved crossword puzzles, travel, golf and a good dinner party, and had a wonderful ability to make people feel welcome, valued and loved. She never expected recognition, but was motivated by a sense of duty to the community.



## Sylvia Carole Thornton

**(1968–2025)**

Sylvia (known affectionately as Carole to her family) devoted 27 years of her career to ArtsWave, where she was a beloved colleague known for her warmth and generosity. Born in Cincinnati on Christmas Day, she brought creativity into every part of her life, from her exceptional baking (especially her famous chocolate chip cookies) to her passion for Mickey Mouse collectibles and a long-held dream of becoming a photographer. Sylvia's faith grounded her, and she shared joy freely with family, friends, colleagues and everyone who was fortunate enough to know her.

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100 years

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