



Contact: Ryan Strand
Vice President, Marketing & Communications
513.632.0148: ryan.strand@artswave.org

ArtsWave, MeetNKY and Northern Kentucky Port Authority Announce Susan Byrnes as Inaugural OneNKY Center Artist-in-Residence

COVINGTON, Ky. (April 23, 2026) – ArtsWave, MeetNKY and the Northern Kentucky Port Authority today announced that **Susan Byrnes will be the first Artist-in-Residence at the OneNKY Center Gallery Fueled by ArtsWave.**

The Artist-in-Residence program builds on a formal collaboration between the organizations to expand creative placemaking efforts across Northern Kentucky. "This exhibition and residency serve our goal to ensure that the arts are central to how we design spaces, grow our economy and build connection in Northern Kentucky," says Rachael Parker, ArtsWave's Director of Northern Kentucky Creative Placemaking

"This residency is a powerful example of how Northern Kentucky continues to invest in its creative future," said Julie Kirkpatrick, president and CEO of MeetNKY. "It helps to shape our community's identity and enhances Northern Kentucky's appeal as a destination."

"The arts are an essential part of creating a welcoming space," adds Christine Russell, executive director of the Northern Kentucky Port Authority. "This residency and the gallery itself reflect their important role in economic development and community building."

Susan Byrnes is a multidisciplinary artist whose work includes painting, sculpture, multimedia installation, radio broadcasts and writing. Her work exhibits close

attention to detail and an interest in how ordinary objects and materials contextualize human history.

Byrnes' work has been exhibited in galleries and museums in Cincinnati, Dayton, Cleveland, Chicago, Minneapolis, Albuquerque and Amarillo. Her works of public art appear in regions across Ohio, and her audio pieces have been broadcast on public radio stations in Ohio and Kentucky.

"I'm thrilled to participate in this brand new residency program, and proud to be part of an arts community that truly values what artists provide for the region, says Byrnes, "I look forward to creating new work in support of the project, and inspiring fellow artists to seek out this incredible opportunity in the future."

On April 24, an exhibition of her work will open at the OneNKY Center Gallery. Running through September 10, 2026, "**Streams of Consciousness: Fields/Clouds/Bubbles**" consists of works made through an intuitive, continuous approach, similar to how writers use "stream of consciousness" as a literary device.

Byrne notes that the imagery reflects patterns of an urban landscape, while also reflecting "the merging of information, nature and technology, and how I process this vibrant, often chaotic world."

An opening reception for members of the press will take place April 24, 2026. Additional events for the general public, including Artist Talks, will take place over the summer.

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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, now in its second 10-year cycle, ArtsWave strategically makes investments that maximize the arts' impact across the region. To learn more and give, visit artswave.org.

About MeetNKY

MeetNKY drives quality of life and economic growth for Northern Kentucky through tourism marketing and destination development. Learn more at **MeetNKY.com** and **visitcincy.com**.

About Northern Kentucky Port Authority

The Northern Kentucky Port Authority (NKY Port) was jointly formed as an economic development organization by Boone, Campbell, and Kenton counties in 1968 under the provisions of KRS 65.510 to 65.650. The BE NKY Growth Partnership activated the NKY Port Authority in 2022 as a real estate and development tool as a key initiative of the Build + Elevate Northern Kentucky investor campaign, providing staffing and back office support. Learn more at **www.NKYPort.org**.

About OneNKY Center Gallery Fueled by ArtsWave

Dedicated on September 12, 2025, the OneNKY Center Gallery Fueled by ArtsWave represents a landmark collaboration between the Northern Kentucky Port Authority, meetNKY, and ArtsWave, embodying our shared commitment to integrating arts and culture as essential components of community vitality. The gallery is a testament to the power of creative placemaking, demonstrating how strategic investment can transform public spaces into meaningful experiences and how important the creative economy is to the future of the region. Through this dedicated space for artistic expression, we celebrate Northern Kentucky's distinctive character and reinforce our belief that arts are not merely decorative but fundamental to building connected, vibrant communities.