



ArtsWave Pride Mural

Request for Qualifications- Now Accepting Artist Applications

ArtsWave Pride is a group that welcomes and connects LGBTQIA+ individuals and Allies.

ArtsWave Pride Grant Program

In 2018, ArtsWave created the [Pride Grant Program](#), an initiative from the ArtsWave Pride Committee, funded by a portion of the contributions made by Pride members to the ArtsWave Community Campaign. This specialized grant is awarded to arts organizations that create programming specifically geared towards the LGBTQIA+ community.

ArtsWave Pride Steering Committee

The ArtsWave Pride Steering Committee works to raise money for the ArtsWave Community Campaign and connects LGBTQIA individuals and Allies to the arts community through engaging arts experiences.

ArtsWave funding decisions are guided by the Blueprint for Collective Action, which helps to build a more vibrant regional economy and connected community through the arts. The Blueprint identifies five objective areas that reflect the resources and assets of the arts community, with the broader needs of the community.

1. Put Cincy on the map, attracting employees, new businesses and tourists to our region.
2. Deepen roots in our region, retaining employees and residents, including new college grads.
3. Bridge cultural divides, making our region more inclusive, diverse, equitable and respectful of all.
4. Enliven neighborhoods, improving everyone's quality of life.
5. Fuel creativity and learning, preparing kids to be productive citizens and future employees, and live creative lives.

This project resonates with Deepen Roots in the Region, Bridge Cultural Divides, and Enliven Neighborhoods.

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 an 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. In 2024, ArtsWave raised a record \$12.5 million through its yearly campaign from individuals, businesses and foundations to further the region's strategic growth goals.

ArtsWave Pride Mural

Project Overview

ArtsWave Pride is seeking an artist or artist team for the commission of a Pride mural in Covington, Ky. The mural will be located along the West elevation, backside of the building, of Madison Design. This first-of-its-kind project for ArtsWave Pride seeks to increase visibility of the LGBTQIA+ community in Northern Kentucky with a mural that celebrates the spirit of Pride.

The City of Covington was one of the first cities in Kentucky and the first in Northern Kentucky to pass an LGBTQ Fairness Ordinance in 2003, prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Currently, 24 communities in Kentucky have enacted a Fairness Ordinance, with nearly half located in Northern Kentucky. As the Northern gateway to the Commonwealth, LGBTQIA+ residents and visitors will feel, know, and see that “y’all means all.”

The completed mural should be a celebration of Pride through the lens of the chosen artist. The design may be a literal or interpretive take on the theme. If human forms are included in the design, diversity of race, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, body sizes, and abilities must be included.

There are currently no Pride murals in Northern Kentucky, and as the region's primary funder of the arts, it is only fitting that ArtsWave/ArtsWave Pride takes the lead in commissioning this new piece of public art. The goals for this mural are:

- To enhance the vibrancy of Covington through creative placemaking efforts that promote the history, arts, and inclusivity of the community.
- To provide economic opportunities for local and regional artists.
- To inspire, motivate, and instill pride in residents by creating a celebratory piece of public art.



Artist and artist teams are welcome to express interest in completing the mural. This is a qualifications-based selection process; applicants will develop a preliminary concept, and will be selected based on their concept, experience, artistry, alignment with the program's goals, and demonstrated interest.

The selection committee will select finalists with consideration of their entire portfolio of work. We welcome applications from seasoned muralists, local artists, and national and international artists.

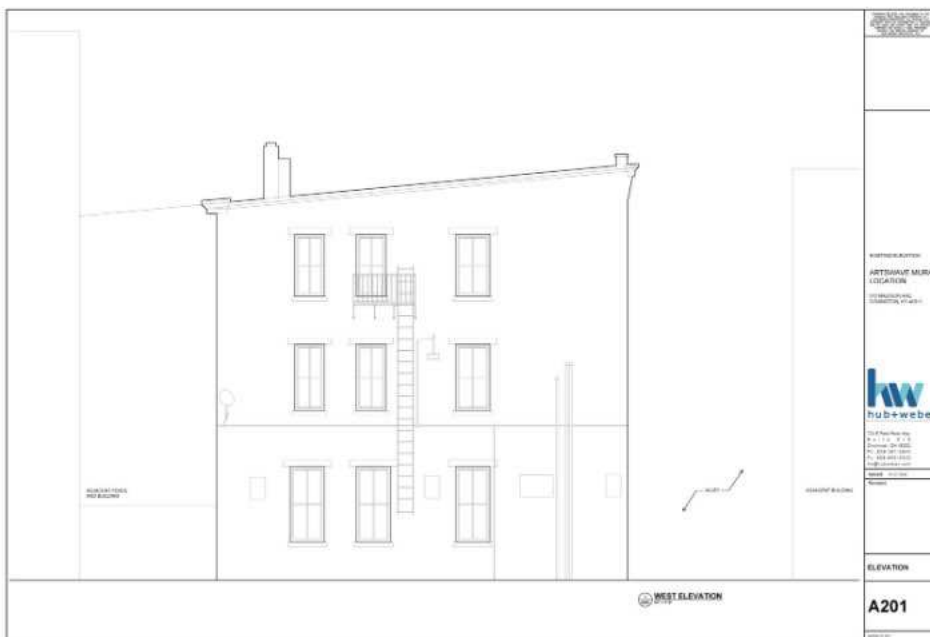
During the project, the artist will be asked to give their permission to be filmed and participate in interviews and related project development, as well as to document the mural creation process themselves.

Mural Site Location and Specification

515 Madison Ave. is a three-story Italianate commercial building. The brick building is a part of Covington's Downtown Commercial historic district. 515 Madison has an unpainted brick exterior; as such, the mural is not permitted to be painted on the facade. An alternative installation method, such as marouflage (adhering a painted canvas to a facade) or aluminum composite panels, must be used.

The building's utilities enter the building halfway up the chosen facade. While not a requirement for the final design, incorporating this unavoidable detail into the final design is desired.

The wall will be approximately 200 square feet. A lift will be necessary to access the upper areas of the exterior wall.



arts wave | Pride



Selection Process

ArtsWave Pride is seeking an artist or artist team for this project, with preference given to Kentucky or Ohio based artists or artist teams.

The ArtsWave Pride committee, along with stakeholders at Madison Design, will serve as the preliminary selection committee to review proposals and select three finalists.

The three finalists will be reviewed by the ArtsWave Pride committee, Madison Design stakeholders, and the donors whose gifts made this project a reality. The selection committee will convene to determine the chosen artist & design.

Selection Criteria

The final artist/artist teams will be selected based on the following criteria, as evidenced in application materials and conversations with listed references:

- Artistic accomplishment as demonstrated by images of previously completed artwork
- Alignment of preliminary design to the project scope
- Technical competence and comparable scale of past works.
- Demonstrated ability to complete projects on time and within budget.
- Professional references who can confirm the artist's skills and professionalism



Key Dates

March 25 – Application Opens

April 2- Virtual Webinar Guidelines and Application Overview

Register Here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1985913696325?aff=oddtcreator>

April 25* - Application Closes

First week of May – Internal Review

Second week of May- Proposal Review & Selection Event

End of May– Notifications to Applicants

*Application closes at 5pm on the deadline date

Budget

The stipend for the mural is \$12,500. Artists will receive half of the stipend after the contract has been signed. The remaining balance of the stipend will be paid upon completion of the project.

The artist will be responsible for travel costs, materials, including paint and installation equipment, and personal liability insurance. Artists will be expected to use high-quality exterior paint and seals to ensure the longevity and sustainability of the murals and to protect the work from graffiti.

Application Instructions

All application materials must be submitted via Submittable, ArtsWave's online grantmaking system. We strongly recommend that you begin your online application well before the due date to familiarize yourself with the online system and to address any technical concerns. While completing your application, remember these tips:

- Be brief, clear and direct, focusing on what is most important.
- We recommend that you prepare your responses offline in a word processing program and then copy and paste them into the appropriate sections of the online application.
- Limit the use of bullets and other formatting in text fields.
- Add Impact@ArtsWave.org to your safe senders list to ensure that you receive all communications from the online grantmaking system.
- Use one of the following compatible browsers: Chrome® v.22+, Firefox® version v.27+, Internet Explorer® v.8-10 (if enabled), Internet Explorer v.11, Safari® v.7+, or Edge®.

The application for the ArtsWave Pride Mural can be accessed using the following link:

<https://artswave.submittable.com/submit/>



Application

Applications will run through Submittable.

- First name and last name (artist moniker, include in parenthesis)
- Email address
- Phone number
- Address
- Professional website
- Social media channel (optional)
- Personal Statement (no more than 1,000 words)
- Experience (no more than 1,000 words)
- Project idea: Written description (required) and sketch (optional) of your vision for this project (1,000 words and up to 5 visual images)
- Preliminary Budget (template provided)
- Prior work samples: Up to 10 and no less than 5 visual images of related art and design projects you have completed, named and numbered to match an annotated image list – Name, Year Completed, Location, and a Brief Project Description. Do not use images created with the use of generative artificial intelligence programs such as Midjourney or Picasso (100 words or less).
- References: Three references from previous projects with current contact information, with their relationship with the artist noted.
- Insurance: Artist must be able to provide proof of insurance in the form of a Certificate of Insurance in the amount of \$500,000 for comprehensive liability/bodily injury and property damage. If insurance will be obtained before the start of the project, please indicate those plans.

Contact ArtsWave

Please E-mail Nick Wade at nick.wade@artswave.org for any question regarding this Mural Application.