

Happy New Year!

We hope your 2026 is off to a bright and inspired start, despite the cold and gray skies. If you need something to keep you warm until the sunnier days arrive, we invite you to join us for two special events kicking off the 2026 ArtsWave Community Campaign! We look forward to seeing you soon, where we'll connect, celebrate and champion the arts together!

In this newsletter:

- Meet our newest Steering Committee Member.
- Read a recap of the last Roundtable event: First Look at FotoFocus.
- Discover how the Roundtable is directing Catalyzing Impact Grants.
- Check out a full lineup of exciting upcoming events.

New Year, New Members

The Roundtable is an extraordinary network of 700+ women, with 25 new members already this year!

Let's meet one of our newest Steering Committee Members:



Sarah Cameron

Sarah is a Partner at Dinsmore & Shohl LLP and manages the firm's Northern Kentucky office.

"I am truly honored to join the Women's Leadership Roundtable Steering Committee. The arts — especially the performing arts — have shaped my life in so many ways. Growing up in Eastern Kentucky, arts opportunities were limited. I was fortunate to have a teacher whose passion and energy opened a world of possibility for me. Through the Pike County Performing Arts program, I discovered a space where my creativity could flourish and my understanding of the world could grow.

Today, supporting the same kinds of opportunities for students in Northern Kentucky is important to me, and Suits That Rock has been a meaningful part of that mission. Next year will mark my tenth year with Suits That Rock, and I am incredibly proud of the resources we've helped raise for arts education. I'm excited to continue championing the vibrancy of the Cincinnati region through the arts with ArtsWave."

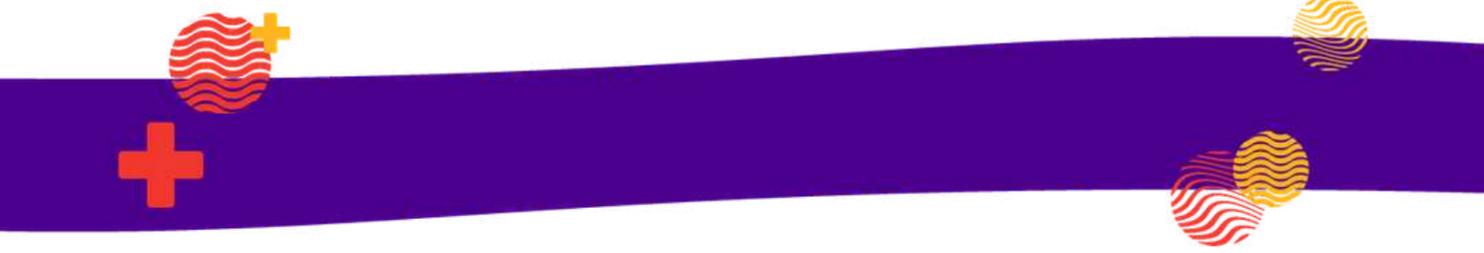
Event Recap: First Look at FotoFocus



Thank you to everyone who joined us back in November to experience the new FotoFocus Center for photography and lens-based art. We started the evening at Lightborne Communications, the temporary headquarters for FotoFocus. Executive Director Kate Siegwarth led us on a walking tour from Lightborne to the new building, where we learned about the architecture of the new space.

The building, intended to represent elements of photography, is a wonder in and of itself! Notable details include custom gridded steel window frames — a reference to a camera's viewfinder, allowing light into building's common spaces — as well as white exterior marble and interior wood, referencing the monochromatic richness of photography; and contemporary versions of corbelled brick, marble and steel, paying homage to the surrounding neighborhood's rich architectural history.

The new center is scheduled to open this spring. At the reception, Alecia Kintner, President & CEO of ArtsWave, announced that the Roundtable will be fueling ArtsWave's Catalyzing Impact grants program. This is in perfect alignment with our mission of supporting the arts and a visible demonstration of our collective support.



Roundtable Members Directing ArtsWave's Catalyzing Impact Grant Program

Isabel Mendez, a P&G Finance and HR Executive in Global R&D and founding member of the Women's Leadership Roundtable, is serving as the Chair of the Catalyzing Impact Grants Panel. Isa shared her impressions with us regarding the grant submissions she has read so far:



"I am honored to serve as chair of the Catalyzing Impact Grants committee, ArtsWave largest funding source for project support grants. As a Roundtable member, seeing the impact of our collective support is gratifying.

I am impressed by the immense talent and creative ideas I have been reading about in the grant submissions. It's exciting work!"

Five other Roundtable members join Isa on the committee: Katherine Anderson, MC Brennan, Lori Rappold, Bennette Veals and Susan Wade Murphy. These volunteers will lend their time and expertise to determine project support funding, which will be presented to the ArtsWave Board of Directors for approval in February.

Stay tuned to hear about the grant recipients in our next newsletter!



Save the Dates

March 19

Women's Leadership Roundtable Symposium at the renovated Emery Theater

May 6

Artful Connections & Conversations: Placemaking and Partnerships at the new OneNKY Center

May 19

ArtsWave Campaign Finale Celebration



Keep in Touch

We invite you to join the ArtsWave [Women's Leadership Roundtable Facebook page](#) and encourage you to share arts events, articles and pictures. We use this page to connect with each other more often, both at our arts events and around our communities.

We also hope you stay connected with ArtsWave on our primary [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#) accounts.

If you have not renewed your membership, or know someone who would like to join, please contact lisa.wolter@artswave.org for more information or to share comments and suggestions.

On behalf of the Women's Leadership Roundtable Steering Committee, thank you for your support!

Steering Committee Members:

Kate Botos, Chair
Alyssa Sanker, Vice Chair

Katherine Anderson, Sarah Cameron, Monica Johnson Mitchell, Helen Kemp, Kelly Kolar, Jessica Laine, Jodi Maieron, Esther Mast-Byrne, Susan McPartlin, Isabel Mendez, Martha Sarra, Rosemary Schlachter, Kelly Soller, Kelly Wittich

The Women's Leadership Roundtable isn't just a giving circle — it's a powerful movement of women coming together to create lasting change in our community.

Roundtable Members:

Create meaningful connections with women leaders through the arts.
Direct Catalyzing Impact Grants to drive community impact across the region.
Gain exclusive access to behind-the-scenes experiences at unique venues.
Receive a special invitation to our annual Women's Leadership Roundtable Symposium — an inspirational gathering featuring prominent women leaders in arts and business.
Enjoy all leadership giving benefits while amplifying your impact through collective giving.
Thank you for actively transforming our region through the arts!