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ArtsWave awards another two rounds of affinity & networking group grants, amassing a total impact of over \$1.3 million.

CINCINNATI (November 21, 2023) — During ArtsWave's most recent Executive Committee meeting of the Board of Trustees, \$105,000 in grants were approved for allocation to projects and programming related to two of its affinity and networking groups, signaling a collective impact of more than \$1.3 million since 2016.

\$53,000 of the \$105,000 in grant awards will fund nine arts-related networking programs to engage Greater Cincinnati's young professionals aged 20-40 through the ArtsWave Young Professionals (YP) affinity group. The remaining \$52,000 will fund nine projects that showcase and celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community through ArtsWave Pride, ArtsWave's fastest-growing affinity group. Grant appointments for the combined 18 projects were made by a panel of volunteers from the community. These grant selections follow the \$100,000 approved at the previous board meeting for distribution to fuel capacity-building projects for Black-led or Black-centered organizations, funded in part by ArtsWave's Circle of African American Leaders for the Arts (The Circle).

These three networking and affinity groups from the region's non-profit engine of the arts have funded \$1,312,982 in arts programming since their inception, underwriting 146 projects over the past seven years. The arts play a critical role in connecting the community, and the programming made possible by these groups helps residents deepen roots in our region, one of ArtsWave's five Blueprint Goals for the arts in the community.

In addition to these three networking groups, ArtsWave has a Women's Leadership Roundtable group, a collective of over 450 women who raise more than \$1 million annually while gathering for a variety of shared arts experiences. A large group of ArtsWave's Leadership Donors (those gifting \$1,500 or more to the ArtsWave Campaign) are made up of the Circle, the Roundtable, ArtsWave Pride Leaders and ArtsWave YP Leaders, who together donate nearly \$3 million to the Campaign and receive recognition in the Community Report as well as invitations to various events to honor the impact of their gifts.

Details about the projects funded by this grant cycle can be found below. For more information on ArtsWave's affinity and networking groups, please visit artswave.org/groups. To help support projects like these, please visit artswave.org/give.

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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 initial investment matched by community support. In the late 1940s, it evolved to become 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 \$11+ million from tens of thousands of donors — corporations, employees, foundations, residents and others — to support more than 150 arts organizations, projects and artists. Donations can be made at artswave.org/give.

FY2024 ArtsWave Young Professionals Project Grants

ArtsWave convened a review committee of seven volunteer community panelists on Tuesday, October 31, 2023, to review 16 applications received for the FY2024 ArtsWave Young Professionals Project Grants. The panel recommended funding approval for nine projects totaling \$53,000.00.

The ArtsWave Young Professionals (YP) Grant Program began in 2016 and is an initiative that provides funding to support programming that engages young professionals. The funding to support the FY2024 YP Grant Program comes from donations made by young professionals to the 2023 ArtsWave Campaign.

Organization	Grant Award	Project Title
Cincinnati Shakespeare Company	\$10,000.00	Cincy Shakes YP Preview Night
National Underground Railroad Freedom Center	\$10,000.00	Freedom Fridays
Taft Museum of Art	\$10,000.00	Taft at Twilight
Contemporary Arts Center	\$5,000.00	CAC Co-LAB
Bi-Okoto Drum & Dance Theatre	\$4,000.00	“Agidigbo”
Sweet Sista Splash	\$4,000.00	AfroArt After Dark
Nrityarpana School of Indian Classical Dance	\$4,000.00	INDIAN AMERICAN Young Professional
Black Art Speaks	\$3,000.00	The Black Artist Exchange Retreat
The Ghostlight Stage Company	\$3,000.00	Shining a Light Series

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

Cincinnati Shakespeare Company

Cincy Shakes YP Preview Night

Cincinnati Shakespeare Company's *YP Preview Night* brings young professionals to the first public preview performance night of each Mainstage Show by offering them a subsidized ticket rate that also includes a complimentary beverage. Afterward, participants are invited to chat with members of the CSC artistic team and provide feedback. This program provides area Young Professionals with a mid-week outing to relax and socialize while giving them a chance to make their voices heard and to participate in the art-making process.

This season, CSC seeks to not only connect YPs to CSC and each other but also to their community at large. CSC will now include a Community Table at *YP Preview Night* hosted by a community group related to the production.

National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

Freedom Fridays

Freedom Fridays is an immersive, monthly museum-after-dark experience, including education, cross-cultural dialogue, performances, and food/beverages from February 2nd to July 12th. Attendees will enjoy music, drinks and light bites and then can network with friends or make new ones by participating at our icebreaker stations. These stations will have crafts, art activities, games or icebreaker questions to help participants build rapport. Performances and guided tours or DEI programming intended to educate and spark dialogue will close out each evening event.

Taft Museum of Art

Taft at Twilight

Taft at Twilight is a new program aiming to build a community for young professionals at the Taft. The program includes social and creative events designed to engage young adults in the Cincinnati area through welcoming and exciting experiences in a museum setting.

In conjunction with *Taft at Twilight* events, the Taft will introduce a new young professional membership level. By presenting regular membership benefits in a way that appeals to young adults, the museum hopes to reach new audiences and give people opportunities to connect with peers of similar interests, providing young adults the chance to support the channels through which the Taft impacts the Cincinnati community.

Contemporary Arts Center

CAC Co-Lab

The CAC's Co-LAB (short for "Collaborative Laboratory") program is an experiment in what is possible. This public laboratory invites artists and creatives to collaborate with the CAC on community-based projects that engage our city, successfully reaching an overwhelmingly young professional (YP) audience with primarily YP creatives.

The fall 2023 Co-LAB focuses on the series "Architectural Abstractions," inspired by the 20th anniversary of the CAC's Zaha Hadid-designed building. This Co-LAB project works with female architect and designer Lauren Whitehurst on a collection of workshops and creative sessions focused on collaborative design-through-making experiences. Each four-month workshop will center on different abstract projects that work in a series and build upon one another. Participants will create drawings, models, and collages in an informal and collaborative learning space that allows them to explore architectural concepts without intimidation.

Bi-Okoto Drum & Dance Theatre

"Agidigbo"

"Agidigbo" is a quarterly gathering that fosters positive interactions, meetings, drumming, dancing, play reading and networking amongst young professionals ages 20-40.

YPs can unwind and socialize by learning fun and contemporary African dance moves, making African clothing using Ankara cloths and cooking simple African foods. They are paired with professional members of Bi-Okoto, and the group will perform dance drama with Bi-Okoto professional artists at culminating events. The events involve collaborations with local YP-centric groups such as Afro Dynasty Group, UC Ghana Students Association, UC Nigerian Students Association and Bi-Okoto YPs (Okoto Kekere).

Sweet Sistah Splash

AfroArt After Dark

AfroArt After Dark 'Selfie Park' is an annual event that brings together various art exhibitions, installations, craft vendors and live performances to encourage community members to become fully engaged participants and patrons of the arts.

Artists will create "Selfie" Installations with culturally diverse and on-spot graphics for social media content that the artist and young professional attendee design together. Attendees will freely flow through various stations, taking pictures and making videos, bringing the art to life, which creates greater visibility for our artists and city as the installations are shared across various social media platforms. *AfroArt After Dark* partners with and commissions local Black Arts Organizations such as Soul Palette and ROMAC to conceptualize the installations.

Nrityarpana School Of Indian Classical Dance

INDIAN AMERICAN Young Professional

This event series is designed to showcase the creative possibilities and benefits of living in Cincinnati for Indian American Young Professionals through various cross-cultural programming, beginning with a YP Mixer on November 3 in Anderson in collaboration with Revolution Dance Theatre. The series continues through April 2024 with incredible in-person Indian YP artist performances and workshops, set to culminate with *Bollywood on the Square*

in June 2024.

Black Art Speaks

The Black Artist Exchange Retreat

Led by Asha White, owner of Asha the Artist LLC and project manager with Black Art Speaks, "The Black Artist Exchange Retreat" is set to provide a transformative experience for Black artists aged 18-40. This immersive weekend retreat takes place in an open studio setting, allowing participants to engage in critiques, artist talks, and inspiring field trips. Through these experiences, they'll refine their artistic abilities, gain insights from established artists, and cultivate valuable connections within the art community.

Black Art Speaks will collaborate with Creative Time, a New York-based arts non-profit, to coincide with the arrival of the *Moving Chains* sculpture to Cincinnati. This partnership with Creative Time will produce a curated experience, "The American Manifest" exhibition, and facilitate a Docent and Mentorship Program. The retreat participants will visit the "Moving Chains" exhibition in Cincinnati, engaging in a thought-provoking discussion led by Charles Gaines, the creator behind *Moving Chains*, offering vital context and inspiration for the works created during this retreat.

The Ghostlight Stage Company

Shining A Light Series

This program is an educational fine arts workshop and lecture series targeting Young Professional Artists in Greater Cincinnati. The Ghostlight is a leader in unique, cutting-edge lectures to train young professional artists and arts organization leaders, providing a community for young professional artists to learn and connect.

February 2024: Financial Freedom for Artists with Julie Locker

This workshop will focus on gaining financial literacy.

March 2024: ASL Interpretation in the Arts with Ghost Light Artistic Interpreting

This workshop will focus on ASL interpreting within artistic spaces and how young professional artists can create more accessible art.

April 2024: Fatphobia in Theatre with Caroline Stine

This lecture will focus on how important representation of all kinds is in the arts, with a special focus on body diversity.

May 2024: Anti-Racism in the Arts

This lecture will focus on how artists can actively work towards being anti-racist with their art, guided by a local DEIA expert specializing in arts spaces.

FY2024 ArtsWave Pride Project Grants

ArtsWave convened a review committee of six volunteer community panelists on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, to review 22 applications received for the FY2024 ArtsWave Pride Project Grants. The panel recommended funding approval for nine projects totaling \$52,000.00. The ArtsWave Pride Project Grants are funded in part by ArtsWave's Pride affinity donors.

The ArtsWave Pride Grant Program provides funding for arts or cultural heritage projects that promote and/or celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community, advancing Cincinnati's reputation as a welcoming and inclusive community through the arts.

Organization	Grant Award	Project Title
Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra	\$10,000.00	2024 Pride Concert
A Mindful Moment/The Well	\$7,000.00	Saturdays on Planet Love: Creativity, Connection, Community
Cincinnati Art Museum	\$7,000.00	Queer Possibility: An Open-Source Guide to the Cincinnati Art Museum
Revolution Dance Theatre	\$7,000.00	The Dream Project: Guest Artist Series
WordPlay Cincy	\$7,000.00	Youth Arts in Action
Visionaries + Voices	\$6,500.00	"Joy Fuel" Inclusive Art Workshops & Exhibition highlighting the intersection of Disability and LGBTQIA+ Communities
Queen City Performing Arts Org. dba Cincinnati Men's Chorus	\$2,500.00	Free Community Outreach Concert: "Sons of Song"
Cincinnati Shakespeare Company	\$2,500.00	ShakesQueer – A Bawdy, Bard-y Burlesque and Drag Show
Church of our Savior/La Iglesia de Nuestro Salvador	\$1,500.00	LGBTQIA+ Arts Showcase

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

Church of Our Saviour/La Iglesia de Nuestro Salvador

LGBTQIA+ Arts Showcase

The music and arts ministry of the Church of Our Saviour (Lives United/Vidas Unidas) will host a cross-disciplinary event featuring LGBTQIA+ artists of Cincinnati for a one-night

extravaganza. The event celebrates performing, visual and culinary LGBTQIA+ artists who live and work in Cincinnati. Church of Our Saviour will emphasize the work of young artists whose art reflects their personal experiences as Queer individuals. The event begins with an hour-long performance of these artists' work, followed by a reception with catering and culinary arts by Jeff Thomas, as well as a visual art installation.

Cincinnati Art Museum

"Queer Possibility: An Open-Source Guide to the Cincinnati Art Museum"

The Cincinnati Art Museum will produce the "Queer Possibility" guide — a free, printed booklet inspired by internationally respected, non-binary museum consultant Margaret Middleton's 2022 prototype. Inviting, open and playful in tone, the guide acknowledges and affirms the perspectives of Queer visitors, giving all visitors tools to look at the museum's collection through a Queer lens.

Cincinnati Men's Chorus

"Sons of Song" free community outreach concert

The Cincinnati Men's Chorus will begin a new tradition in its 33rd season, presenting a free community outreach concert every March. The 2024 outreach concert, "Sons of Song," features the talents of the Cincinnati Men's Chorus, Cincinnati Boychoir and Covington Catholic Chamber Choir.

Cincinnati Shakespeare Company

"ShakesQueer"

Cincinnati Shakespeare Company once again partners with local drag and burlesque troupe Smoke and Queers to produce Cincinnati's second annual Shakespearean drag show. After the successful pilot of this program, CSC and Smoke and Queers plan to expand in the coming season. The evening will open with a cocktail hour, during which attendees can socialize with fellow Shakespeare and drag show aficionados before being treated to a bawdy, Bard-y ballyhoo. CSC encourages performers to make their acts a communal, interactive audience experience. At the end of the production, performers will engage with the audience for photos and social media engagement.

Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra

2024 Pride Concert

The Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra will present a free Pride Concert as part of its annual Brady Block Party series. The Orchestra will collaborate with the Cincinnati Men's Chorus and other local organizations to present the concert in one of Cincinnati's neighborhood parks. Brady Block Parties are planned collaboratively with local neighborhoods, aiming to connect individuals to the music and with each other by highlighting and reflecting assets within their communities. In that spirit, this Pride-focused Brady Block Party will bring together and highlight LGBTQIA+ art, artists, community organizations, social services and more — all with a fun, inclusive atmosphere for Cincinnatians of all ages and backgrounds to enjoy.

A Mindful Moment/The Well

Saturdays on Planet Love: Creativity, Connection, Community

Saturdays on Planet Love is a series of peer-facilitated gatherings where LGBTQIA+ youth and adults can come together at The Well for free community connection, art-making and mindful practice. The gatherings will include guided meditation, movement and awareness practice, and prompts to get to know each other better and create a work of art or writing. At the end of the session, attendees will share what they worked on and what it means to them. The Well will exhibit works created during the sessions in a quarterly exhibition.

Revolution Dance Theatre

The Dream Project: Guest Artist Series

The Dream Project is a groundbreaking initiative using social marketing, live performances and arts education opportunities to center historically underrepresented communities. In providing positive representation in media and on stage, The Dream Project is an opportunity for the disenfranchised to find a voice and to see themselves in a new story. The workshop and performance series will connect nationally recognized Queer talent with Cincinnati artists and audiences.

Visionaries + Voices

"Joy Fuel" inclusive art workshops and exhibition

An essential attribute of V+V is the creation and expression of joy. Building on its partnership with the Imperial Sovereign Queen City Court of the Buckeye Empire (ISQCCBE), V+V will offer a slate of LGBTQIA+ artist-led workshops throughout the year. In advance of its biannual "Bands & Drag" events, the organization will teach costume design, makeup and choreography techniques to bring that joyful art form to a wider audience. V+V will also host a Pride-themed group exhibition with a guest curator selected from the local Queer community.

WordPlay Cincy

Youth Arts in Action

The Youth Arts in Action program allows LGBTQIA+ identifying Teen Artists to explore social justice while honing artistic excellence. Youth teams will research social justice issues affecting their lives as teaching artist-mentors provide instruction in their chosen artistic medium. Students will examine their lived experiences to uncover and share personal narratives fostering empathy, connection and belonging. Creative projects will focus on present-day social issues that impact local communities, culminating in a youth-led public showcase.