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ArtsWave announces Black and Brown Artist Program grant recipients

December 12, 2023 — At a recent Board meeting, ArtsWave approved \$212,500 in funding to 22 local BIPOC artists for the fourth year of its Black and Brown Artist Program grants. A review committee of ten volunteer community panelists recommended the projects for funding out of a highly competitive group of 71 applicants from across the region

As a key component of ArtsWave's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access strategy, "Lifting as We Learn," ArtsWave's Black and Brown Artist Program is designed to give artists of color in the Cincinnati region the resources they need to interpret and express the themes of our times. It has funded 90 artist projects with over \$950,000 in grants over the past four years.

The Black and Brown Artist Program has explored important themes of the BIPOC experience, including truth, reconciliation, inspiration and healing. The artists selected for [this year's grant](#) will create projects across artistic genres focusing on the themes of Truth and Innovation, connecting historical events and visions of a more equitable future. The grants are made possible by the ArtsWave Campaign, in partnership with the City of Cincinnati, Duke Energy, Fifth Third Bank, the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, Macy's, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Walter C. Frank, and Peter and Betsy Niehoff, with media support from Creativity Squared.

Each artist will incorporate some form of community collaboration, ensuring that we can all play a role in reconciling the moment and innovating toward a more just and equitable future for the Cincinnati region. As a group, the projects advance the goals of ArtsWave's Blueprint for Collective Action by bridging cultural divides, promoting understanding and empathy, deepening the roots of residents and improving neighborhoods.

ArtsWave offers professional development services to help the artists through the grant writing process and beyond. The services began with a series of grant writing workshops and mentoring prior to the submission deadline. Through a partnership with Wave Pool, all grant recipients will complete a "Driving Lessons" program, along with monthly networking and progress meetings with ArtsWave staff and consultants.

ArtsWave President & CEO Alecia Kintner is pleased that the Black and Brown Artist Grants program has grown in its impact, mentioning that "Each of these artists tells a different story through their work, and in doing so, brings us together as a community to better understand and appreciate the value we bring to each other."

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About ArtsWave:

ArtsWave, a nonprofit 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.

Strong funding for the arts has allowed Cincinnati's arts and culture scene to become a national draw and regional asset, creating a wave of economic and community benefits. Each year, ArtsWave supports the work of over 150 arts organizations, school outreach programs, festivals, community centers, neighborhoods and various collaborations through impact-based grants. These grants create thousands of concerts, shows, exhibitions, arts for school children, public art, festivals and events like BLINK®. ArtsWave met its 2022 Campaign goal, raising \$11.5 million for the arts, an amount necessary, given the difficult health and economic crisis that has spanned more than two years. Donations can be made at artswave.org/give.