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ArtsWave Awards \$10M+ in Grants Across Region, Expanding Support to More Organizations

CINCINNATI (June 21, 2019) – Friday afternoon, ArtsWave’s Board of Directors approved \$10,019,308 in grant expenditures from its recent 2019 Community Campaign, slated to support more than 120 arts organizations throughout the Greater Cincinnati region in the upcoming year.

As part of this approval, 44 organizations were authorized to receive Sustaining Impact Grants totaling \$9,744,135. Designed to underwrite annual costs that keep the impact of organizations at a high level, these grants represent between 4% and 11% of the recipients’ operating budgets. Grants are renewable for an additional two years based on organizational performance as defined by interim reports as well as the results of each year’s ArtsWave Community Campaign.

The number of organizations that successfully competed for sustaining grants increased by seven from the last open cycle in 2016. First-time organizations for operating support include: Arts Connect of Springfield Township, Collegium Cincinnati, Contemporary Dance Theatre, Learning Through Art, NrityArpana School of Performing Arts, Pones Inc, and Young Professional Choral Collective.

Grant recipients and funding amounts were determined based on demonstrated community impact aligned to ArtsWave’s Blueprint for Collective Action. The Blueprint is a 10-year strategy to create a more vibrant economy and connected community through the arts sector. Thirty-eight community volunteer panelists representing ArtsWave’s business, civic and community groups, including a diverse cross-section of individuals, were involved in the grant evaluation process.

In addition to Sustaining Impact Grants, \$275,173 was approved for 2020 grant initiatives, including Catalyzing Impact grants, Young Professionals (YP), Pride and other project support.

Grants were made possible by the 2019 Community Campaign, which ended April 30 with \$12,355,136 in donations given by nearly 35,000 Cincinnatians and hundreds of companies, marking the sixth year in a row surpassing the milestone of \$12 million. In addition to the total investment announced today, the Campaign is making possible a series of targeted funding initiatives, to be announced as they are introduced.

ArtsWave President & CEO Alecia Kintner reflected on the list of projects and organizations ArtsWave supports, noting “a wide variety of arts organizations are critical to connecting us as a community and creating economic vibrancy.” ArtsWave Board Chair Teresa Tanner remarked, “We’re pleased to see how intentionally the arts are impacting our region and creating public value.”

About ArtsWave:

ArtsWave, a nonprofit serving the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky Region, is the lead planner, promoter and fundraiser of 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 ripple effect of economic and community benefits. Each year, ArtsWave supports the work of over 100 arts organizations, school outreach programs, festivals, community centers, neighborhoods and various collaborations through impact-based grants. In 2019, ArtsWave raised \$12,355,136 for the region's arts, marking its sixth year in a row surpassing the milestone of \$12 million. ArtsWave remains the largest community campaign for the arts throughout the country, both in total contributions and number of donors.