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New Book to Honor Women Who Shaped Greater Cincinnati's Arts and Culture

(September 9, 2019) – ArtsWave, the region's lead fundraiser and engine for the arts, announced at a leadership donor event this afternoon, that it is producing a unique book, "Imagineers, Impresarios, Inventors: Cincinnati's Arts and the POWER OF HER," celebrating women who have shaped Greater Cincinnati's arts. The project is being led by Kathy Merchant, former President/CEO of Greater Cincinnati Foundation and ArtsWave Women's Leadership Roundtable member.

The book is part of ArtsWave's 18-month POWER OF HER initiative, presented by P&G with support from the Charlotte R. Schmidlapp Fund, Fifth Third Bank, Trustee, LPK and various community leaders. POWER OF HER salutes and honors female leadership with woman-centric works of all kinds, underscoring creativity as the vehicle for inclusion and equality. Inspired by the many Cincinnati cultural and civic organizations which were founded by women and will be celebrating milestone anniversaries over the next year,* POWER OF HER encompasses art forms of all types.

Earlier this year, ArtsWave issued a region-wide call to nominate women, both legacy and living, who have played a major role in shaping Greater Cincinnati's cultural landscape. The goal was to identify and profile 100 women. The community's response was overwhelming, with several hundred women nominated for inclusion.

The nominations were reviewed by leaders within the arts community and vetted by a volunteer committee using a review process with multiple rounds and criteria, including historical research supplied by our arts organizations. The final product is diverse and inclusive, but by no means exhaustive. In fact, it became clear early on that part of the criteria would have to be a long-time commitment to Greater Cincinnati's arts, which means some of the top arts leaders of today and tomorrow may not appear, allowing for coverage and recognition possibilities in future years.

The book will sell for \$50 a copy and is slated for publication in summer 2020 by Orange Frazer Press, an Ohio-based, woman-owned publishing house. For information on preorders, go to ArtsWave.org/200Women.

"Imagineers, Impresarios, Inventors: Cincinnati's Arts and the POWER OF HER," will feature 122 essays arranged in 100 organizational and individual profiles that will also include the names of the leading women who founded our arts organizations in the 1800s and 1900s – 200 women in all. The essays were written by 34 local writers, many of whom are women.

"Cincinnati has benefited from the leadership and innovation of scores of women over the past 100-plus years," says Kathy Merchant. "We are looking to honor them and tell their stories." "ArtsWave is honored to help organize this



tribute to so many women who have made such meaningful impacts on our region's arts landscape," says Alecia Kintner, President & CEO of ArtsWave.

The book will be unveiled at a release party in 2020 and made available for purchase at various bookseller outlets, at CVG, and through online sellers including Amazon. Revenue from the sale of the book will be used to fund arts and culture projects in Greater Cincinnati run by and/or benefiting women.

Philanthropic support to cover production costs for the book are being underwritten by four local women leaders: Karen Bowman, Melanie Chavez, Sara M. and Michelle Vance Waddell. Additional support for the book comes from The Landen Family Foundation, The Greater Cincinnati Foundation, and The Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr./U.S. Bank Foundation.

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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.

*2019-2020 milestone anniversaries include: Taft Historic House – 200 years ; Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra – 125 years; The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati – 100 years; Cincinnati Opera – 100 years; Junior League of Cincinnati – 100 years; Contemporary Arts Center – 80 years; Cincinnati Public Radio – WMUB 70 years, WGUC 60 years, WVXU 50 years; Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park – 60 years; Vocal Arts Ensemble – 40 years; National Underground Railroad Freedom Center – 15 years.