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ArtsWave awards \$15,000 in Pride grants

CINCINNATI (January 22, 2021) — ArtsWave, the engine for the arts, has awarded its annual set of grants for arts projects of interest to LGBTQIA+ individuals and allies.

A total of \$15,000 was approved this afternoon by ArtsWave’s Board of Directors from the 2020 ArtsWave Campaign. Grants were allocated to four different nonprofit arts organizations who were notified immediately afterward. Projects were selected by community volunteers, including the ArtsWave Pride Steering Committee. These projects cover a wide variety of arts, including choral, theater, dance, visual arts and classes. Here is the list:

Arts Organization	Project	Description
Cincinnati Men’s Chorus	Big Gay Broadway Sing-Along Virtual Concert	Cincinnati Men’s Chorus will produce a Big Gay Broadway Sing-Along Virtual Concert. The event will channel the fun and energy of an in-person event by encouraging participation but can be enjoyed from the comfort of your living room.
Cincinnati Shakespeare Company	The Commission and Development of New Play by LGBTQIA+ Playwright	Cincinnati Shakespeare Company will commission an adaptation of the 1968 film, “The Night of the Living Dead,” reimagined for 2020 by LGBTQIA+ playwright, Isaiah Reeves. The new play will receive a world-premiere workshop and public reading and feedback session at CSC in 2021, with the option to appear in an upcoming season.
Revolution Dance Theatre	shOUT!	shOUT! is a concert dance experience bringing to life the coming-of-age stories of multiple LGBTQIA+ people. The show will explore the themes of faith, shame, secrecy and suicide as well as courage, bravery, unconditional love and coming out.

Wyoming Fine Arts Center	Loving Wyoming	Wyoming Fine Arts Center will create and facilitate celebrations of the LGBTQIA+ community while teaching students the power of acceptance, love, and courage through the lens of queer creatives. Art class curriculum will educate students about queer art history and include weekly projects that give students an opportunity to reflect on their learnings.
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In total, \$43,000 in grant requests were made by nine different nonprofit organizations. ArtsWave Pride Grant Panel Chair, Ford Clark mentions, "this was a very competitive grant process, and the committee selected the highest impact programs which we believe will be executed effectively, given the state of the pandemic." ArtsWave President & CEO Alecia Kintner is pleased that the Pride networking and affinity group continues to grow, adding "Cincinnati's arts organizations shine even more brightly when they innovate with new programming that intentionally includes and celebrates diverse audiences."

ArtsWave Pride is ArtsWave's networking and communications group that welcomes and connects LGBTQIA individuals and allies that support the arts through donations to ArtsWave. This networking and communications group has been the fastest-forming networking and communications group that ArtsWave has ever created, with over 1,700 sign-ups during the 2020 ArtsWave Community Campaign. Thanks to PNC Bank, ArtsWave Pride members who make a gift of \$75+ receive invitations to ArtsWave Pride events as well as opportunities to become involved in various arts performances that accompany these events.

For more information on ArtsWave's grant and other funding opportunities, visit ArtsWave.org/Funding.

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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 100 arts organizations, school outreach programs, festivals, community centers, neighborhoods and various collaborations through impact-based grants. In 2020, ArtsWave amassed \$13+ million for the arts, through a combination of its 2020 Campaign and a separate Arts Vibrancy Recovery Fund, designed to ensure the solvency and a vibrant return of the region's arts assets in the wake of the unprecedented health and economic crisis.

ArtsWave is focused on helping the Cincinnati Region's arts sector weather the coronavirus crisis. The region's arts sector has an economic impact of more than \$300 million annually and includes more than 225 organizations throughout Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky and Southeastern Indiana that employ 10,000 individuals as artists, performers and staff. The sector was hit at the onset of the coronavirus crisis, when venue and performance closures were announced in early March. ArtsWave has accelerated \$2.4 million in grant payments for 43 organizations which receive operating revenues, expanded its \$10,000 Working Capital Bridge Loans for eligible arts organizations, and has provided Emergency Arts & Culture Organization grants to 47 organizations. It's also administered \$3,700,000 in relief funds at the federal, county and city level to arts organizations and artists. The public can help fund these and additional, evolving efforts at artswave.org/give.