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- EMBARGOED TO 1:30 P.M. TUESDAY, JANUARY 5 -
\$100,000+ in Artist Relief Available for 100 Artists in 15 Cincinnati Counties

January 5, 2021 – At a press conference at The Art Depot, part of ArtScape Lebanon, ArtsWave, the engine for the region's arts, announced that \$100,000+ is available in new relief funds for artists whose livelihoods have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2021 Regional Artist Relief Fund will provide grants of \$1,000 each to as many as 100 performing and visual artists who live within the 15-county Greater Cincinnati MSA.* Applications received by 5 p.m. on January 12 will be reviewed by or around January 19; applications received by 5 p.m. on January 26 will be reviewed by or around February 2.

This funding opportunity mirrors the December distribution of \$200,000 in CARES Act dollars by ArtsWave on behalf of the City of Cincinnati, to 107 city-based artists. Thanks to new private sources, including ArtsWave's Arts Vibrancy Recovery Fund, this next relief program expands assistance to artists who live beyond the city limits.

"We can't expect our region to restore its cultural vibrancy if our resident artists don't survive the prolonged loss of work due to COVID-19," said Alecia Kintner, ArtsWave President & CEO. "Whether they are musicians who perform in clubs or pit orchestras, actors or crew in our regional theaters, visual artists who depend on galleries and art fairs to sell their work, or arts educators whose contracts with schools have been suspended, these highly skilled creative workers are under grave threat as the pandemic wears on."

Grant awards will be based on clear demonstration of lost work and financial hardship due to the coronavirus. Awards will reflect the broadest possible range of diversity based on the applicant pool. To be eligible, artists must earn 25% or more of their income through their art and must not have received funding in the prior round.

The 2021 Regional Artist Relief Fund includes \$50,000 from the Kent and Martha Savage Family Charitable Fund at Greater Cincinnati Foundation, matched by ArtsWave's Arts

Vibrancy Recovery Fund. In addition, proceeds from Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park's last day (January 3) of Journey BOREALIS are being donated, as are exhibition revenues from Cincinnati Art Museum's community engagement days in December and January. Anyone who would like to donate to the 2021 Artist Relief program can do so by going to artswave.org/artist between now and January 31.

Eligibility guidelines and application for ArtsWave's Regional Artist Relief program can be found at: artswave.org/apply.

**Applicants must live in the Cincinnati-Middletown, OH-KY-IN MSA, which includes the following counties: Brown, Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, and Warren Counties in Ohio; Boone, Bracken, Campbell, Gallatin, Grant, Kenton, and Pendleton Counties in Kentucky; and Dearborn, Ohio, and Union Counties in Indiana.

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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.

