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ArtsWave announces Fourth Annual Black and Brown Artist Showcase, July 12-14

ArtsWave is pleased to announce the fourth annual showcase of new works by [22 of the region's leading Black and Brown artists](#). The "Truth and Innovation Artist Showcase" is free and open to the public Friday, July 12 at the Contemporary Arts Center, Saturday, July 13 (with exhibitions running for the next month) at the newly-built Clifton Cultural Arts Center, and July 14 in Northern Kentucky at The Carnegie. A detailed schedule is currently being built at artswave.org/truth.

This year's artists are creating projects across genres focusing on the modern BIPOC experience and, within that context, exploring the meaning of "Truth" and "Innovation." Each artist has also incorporated some form of community collaboration, ensuring we can all play a role in innovating toward a more just and equitable future for the Cincinnati region.

The showcase features visual art, painting, sculpture, musical composition, film, theater, dance, multidisciplinary works and more. The projects reflect not only the African American experience, but the experiences of other often-underrepresented groups and cultural traditions throughout modern American life.

For example, Brandon Hawkins' project, a mural in Woodlawn titled "Where Honor is Due," explores the under-told stories of BIPOC military personnel who served proudly but are often under-recognized as they don't fit the cultural 'mold' of a soldier in our modern culture. Another example of the showcase shining light on stories usually left in the dark is from Anupama Mirle, presenting "DOR" a theatrical, classical Indian dance performance about a young, 'unmarriageable' widow with a five-year-old daughter who decides to leave India for the United States.

All projects were selected by ArtsWave's panel of community stakeholders in a competitive process for funding last fall. Out of 71 proposals, the most ever, the [22 awardees](#) were determined to best capture the idea of "truth and innovation," and together received a total of \$212,500 to finance their projects.

The showcase is part of ArtsWave's Black and Brown Artist Program, which has funded 90 artist projects and distributed \$950,000 in grants over the past four years.

In addition to working capital, ArtsWave's program helps artists develop valuable business and entrepreneurial skills. This year's artists received professional development courses conducted through Wave Pool's "Driving Lessons" program, as well as networking and progress meetings with ArtsWave staff and consultants.

This year's 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.

An invitation-only opening night party with remarks from city and county officials, arts leaders and artists will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Clifton Cultural Arts Center. Information regarding press opportunities will be released to the media early in the week of July 8.

These projects advance overarching goals of ArtsWave's Blueprint for Collective Action by bridging cultural divides, promoting understanding and empathy, deepening residents' roots, and improving neighborhoods.

The Black and Brown Artist Program is also a key component of ArtsWave's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access plan, "Lifting as We Learn," in which ArtsWave is intentionally increasing resources for Black and Brown arts throughout the region. ArtsWave president and CEO Alecia Kintner notes, "With the continued growth of these investments, ArtsWave has established one of the largest annual grant programs dedicated to Black and Brown artists and cultural organizations in the Cincinnati region." To support these programs and more, donate at artswave.org/give.

For descriptions of all projects, visit artswave.org/BBArtistGrants.
For photos and bios of all artists and projects, [click here](#).

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About ArtsWave

ArtsWave, the local nonprofit arts agency 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 established 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. Each year, ArtsWave raises millions of dollars from tens of thousands of donors — corporations, employees, foundations, residents and others — to support more than 150 arts organizations, projects and artists. This year, ArtsWave raised a record \$12.5 million through its yearly campaign from individuals, businesses and foundations to further the region's strategic growth goals. Donations can be made at artswave.org/give.