



## Reggie Harris Councilmember

June 9, 2022

### MOTION

#### Councilmember Reggie Harris Budget Motion Request

**WE MOVE** that the City Administration allocate money to the below organizations focused on Housing, Food Insecurity, Workforce Development, and Arts:

Funds go towards the ArtsWave Black and Brown Artists Fund and the African American Chamber of Commerce that both receive one-time funding but saw reductions in the most recent budget. These organizations are key to Black economic mobility and culture in the city and proved to be essential at lifting people out of poverty. To bring them back up to their previous year's funding, the following should be allocated:

African American Chamber	\$50,000
ArtsWave Black & Brown Fund	\$50,000

We also recommend that funds go towards funding essential leveraged support that is critical to our most vulnerable communities as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. Many are still feeling the financial, social, and emotional burden of the pandemic, and so it is critical that we fund social service organizations. In order to achieve this, the following funds should be allocated:

Bethany House	\$42,500
Center for Addiction Treatment	\$42,500
MORTAR	\$25,000
Urban League of Greater Cincinnati	\$125,000
Produce Perks	\$75,000

We should advance youth employment and engagement through creative and artistic programming. To achieve this, we support the Artworks capital request that will allow them to have a permanent home in Walnut Hills that will act as a catalyst for future projects and programming critical to our city's character and development. In order to achieve this, the following funds should be allocated:

Artworks	\$75,000
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**To fund these projects and organizations, administration should use General Fund contingency funds, remaining FY22 ARP dollars, unused capital funds, and if necessary, position vacancy allowances (PVA) to ensure that other essential services aren't cut.**



## Reggie Harris

*Councilmember*

It is important that we continue to invest in the future of our underserved communities. One of the successes of the FY2023 budget is its allocation in the Boots on the Ground Fund. In order to further this project, we recommend an additional \$100,000 of carryover budget go towards the Boots on the Ground Fund, and Council ensure the scope of the fund remains broad enough to ensure that any organization making a significant community impact, including arts organizations, have access to it.

Another target area is the strategic growth and investment in our communities. The work is already being done to revitalize and uplift communities that need it most, and the city should prioritize funding those organizations. In order to achieve this, the following funds should be allocated in the carryover budget:

Homebase	\$420,000
Community Economic Advancement Initiatives	\$200,000

Lastly, there are exciting projects throughout the city that we ought to invest in to ensure the vitality, growth, and sustainability of our neighborhoods. We believe strongly in these projects, but due to their relatively large capital needs we recommend deeper engagement with our Department of Economic Development, with the ultimate goal of utilizing closeout capital reserve funds in the fall to help move them forward and ensure their success. In order to achieve this, the following funds should be allocated during the carryover budget process:

ROMAC	\$2,300,000
Queen Mother's Market	\$750,000
Imperial Theater	\$450,000

With these investments, and the already strong budget proposed by the Mayor and City Manager, we are putting our best foot forward for equitable growth in the coming years.

Reggie Harris, Councilmember