

City of Cincinnati



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Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney
Vice Mayor

MOTION

WE MOVE that the administration allocate \$150,000 from the General Fund Contingency Account to support the Art Academy of Cincinnati's Security Safe Zone Proposal for 2025-2026. Since relocating to OTR in 2025, The Art Academy of Cincinnati has contributed significantly to the neighborhoods revitalization. Despite great progress, public safety remains a concern that impacts perception and participation. Establishing a permanent security presence will address key safety gaps and support continued growth. See attached proposal containing further details about the plans for a security safety zone.

Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney



Art Academy
of Cincinnati
College of Art & Design

**Art Academy of Cincinnati
Security Safe Zone Proposal: FY 2025–2026**

**To: Cincinnati City Council
From: Art Academy of Cincinnati
Date: June 2025**

Subject:

Detailed Budget Analysis as Requested from City Council for Establishing a Security Safe Zone in Over-the-Rhine

Executive Summary

The Art Academy of Cincinnati (AAC), located in the heart of Over-the-Rhine (OTR), is requesting targeted financial support from the City of Cincinnati to establish a designated **Security Safe Zone** surrounding its campus. This investment will enhance safety, wellness, and public confidence—ensuring that students, faculty, staff, and the wider community can thrive in an urban arts environment.

Why This Matters

- Since relocating to OTR in 2005, AAC has contributed significantly to the neighborhood's revitalization.
 - Despite progress, public safety remains a concern that impacts perception and participation.
 - Establishing a permanent security presence will address key safety gaps and support continued growth.
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Proposed Budget: FY 2025–2026

Item Description	Monthly	Annual
Merchant Security (3rd-party coverage)	\$8,582–\$9,498	\$105,737.85
Weekend & Event Security Coverage	One-time	\$24,000
Upgraded Lighting & Surveillance System/Cameras	One-time	\$38,500
Emergency Blue-Light Stations(3) + Security Booth	One-time	\$47,500
CPD Partnership – Neighborhood Patrol Support	One-Time	\$21,000
TOTAL NEEDED		\$236,737.85

TOTAL Budget Request from Cincinnati City Council \$150,000.00

Remainder: \$86,737.85 has been sourced by Grant Funding and Individual donor support and confirmed for FY2026. During this pilot fiscal year for the program, AAC will make strategic plans to absorb into next year's annual budget the employees hired(\$131,000) for security.

*OHDE(Ohio Department of Higher Education Safety Grant) Confirmed Mar 2025/Received 06/2025	\$50,000
*Shurtape LLC Campus Support: Confirmed Jan 2025/Received 06/2025	\$20,000
*Individual Donor Support: Received May-June 2025	\$16,737.85

Impact

- Enhanced protection for 400+ students, faculty, staff, and visitors daily.
- 24/7 rapid-response readiness in collaboration with local authorities.
- Safer environment for late-night arts events and community programming.
- Encourages increased enrollment and positive neighborhood perception.
- Demonstrates Cincinnati's leadership in supporting arts and education institutions.

Final Note

The Art Academy of Cincinnati respectfully urges the City Council to support this forward-thinking initiative. Together, we can model how arts institutions and public partners can collaborate for community wellbeing.