

City of Cincinnati



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WML/KK/102

Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney
Vice Mayor

January 12, 2026

MOTION

WE MOVE that City Council allocate to the Art Academy of Cincinnati \$250,000 from the FY'25 Carryover Budget to support increased safety measures and infrastructure of the college. See Attachment A. The AAC is committed to community safety, accessibility, and the well-being of students in the five block radius immediately surrounding our AAC college campus in OTR. The college is situated at a busy intersection with high pedestrian traffic, and must prioritize safety and security, while also addressing broader community concerns and reducing local crime through proactive engagement. In addition to serving several hundred students, faculty, and staff, the AAC fosters an inclusive neighborhood by hosting events, public art projects, and collaborative initiatives that engage thousands of Cincinnati residents and tourists annually.

Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney
Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney

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ATTACHMENT A

September 15, 2025

Art Academy of Cincinnati (AAC)

Joe Girandola, President/CEO

joe.girandola@artacademy.edu

310-801-5504 - mobile

Ask: \$250,000

The AAC seeks immediate funding to support increased safety measures and infrastructure of the college. The AAC is committed to community safety, accessibility, and the well-being of our students and the five block radius immediately surrounding our college campus in Over-The-Rhine. As the pioneering organization to dedicate itself to the revitalization of OTR, our commitment and our financial impact on the community is significant. Founded in 1869, the AAC is a historic cultural and educational anchor in OTR. Our campus, situated at a busy intersection with high pedestrian traffic, prioritizes the safety and security, while also addressing broader community concerns and reducing local crime through proactive engagement. In addition to serving several hundred students, faculty, and staff, the AAC fosters an inclusive neighborhood by hosting events, public art projects, and collaborative initiatives that engage thousands of Cincinnati residents and tourists annually. Our efforts not only enhance safety but also contribute to the local economy, as students living, studying, and remaining in Cincinnati support neighborhood businesses and cultural vitality.

The AAC requests \$250,000 to support our ongoing efforts to secure our campus and protect the community of OTR. The funds will be spent on the following:

\$62,500	Camera and Lighting Upgrades Replaces outdated security system with 30 high-definition cameras and LED wall pack exterior lighting for the 110,000 sq. ft. building.
\$14,645	Security Monitoring Additional Support Adds an additional remote monitoring station in the Executive Director of Facilities office (also accessible through secure online portal) allowing for a back-up station to the security guards,
\$73,548	Additional Security Guard Detail One-time allocation for emergent needs for FY 2025-2026. This amount will be added to the AAC budget through traditional budget practices in subsequent years.
\$12,850	Student Safety Ambassadors Funds training for 30 students for the next three years (ten per academic year) through Community Matters or other safe-schools ambassador program.
\$35,000	Right-of-Way / Engineering Survey (phase one of pedestrian street project) Topographic measurements, curb and utility mapping, traffic and pedestrian flow analysis, and the preparation of a detailed site plan. This work will be completed in collaboration with Cincinnati DOTE.
\$105,000	Retractable Bollards (phase two of pedestrian street project) Purchase and installation of 14 retractable bollards (5 at each closure on Jackson St and 4 at exit from 3CDC Parking Lot on the West side of Jackson closest to 12 th Street).

TOTAL NEED: \$303,543

(\$51,400)

*Art Academy of Cincinnati has readjusted FY 2025/2026 budget for \$51,400 raised over the past two weeks to be utilized for these additional emergent costs.

TOTAL NEED REMAINING: \$252,143

TOTAL REQUEST: \$250,000

City Council can help secure the AAC's long-term ability to retain creative talent and strengthen Cincinnati's cultural future. Ensuring the safety of our campus protects young people who live, work, and study in OTR while reinforcing the AAC's role as a stabilizing force and trusted community partner.