

[External Email] Cincy Nice: Community Voices In Support of Our Recovery Vision

Billy Thomas <williamthomasii@gmail.com>

Tue 5/11/2021 3:58 PM

To: Cincy Nice <cincynice@gmail.com>

2 attachments (2 MB)

ARR_FUNDING_CINCY_NICE_COMMUNITY_SUPPORT.pdf; image001.jpg;

External Email Communication

Dear Members of the Budget & Finance Committee,

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify this afternoon regarding our recovery strategies focused on directly invested in and uplifting black-led ideas, creativity, and programming.

We didn't want to take up too much of your time today, but did want to pass along some of the many community voices, including from the Walnut Hills Area Council and Model Group, that have risen up in support of our vision.

Their statements are attached.

On behalf of the community we serve, we look forward to collaborating with the City and thank you for reviewing and considering our American Rescue Plan Act proposal.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share our vision for a more creative, more joyful, and more equitable future Cincinnati.

Sincerely,

Your friends at Cincy Nice (Billy, Destinee and Pwvce)



--

William Thomas II

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MAY 11 2021

COMMUNITY VOICES IN SUPPORT OF CINCY NICE'S VISION & PROPOSAL

CINCY NICE

“FROM THE COMMUNITY”

True to their mission, Cincy Nice is bringing more joy, arts, community and collaboration to our city. We have been working with them in Walnut Hills and have been inspired by the work they are doing in 5 Points Alley and what it can mean for quality of life for Walnut Hills residents, local and regional artists, and continuing the momentum of a diverse artistic and entrepreneurial ecosystem at Peebles Corner. Walnut Hills is experiencing an amazing renaissance and having Cincy Nice at the table will help ensure it includes “A funky, cool permanent cultural hub filled with great people & lots of activations, programming, space for hosting, collaborating, creating... and more!”.

Steve Smith, Principal, Model Group

“FROM THE COMMUNITY”

Cincy Nice has been a breath of fresh air for the often insulated arts and cultural community in Cincinnati. They have provided programs that center civic engagement, community, and access both before and during a very difficult time in our collective history. They have planted seeds, that with the right support, could evolve to have as much an impact as organizations like Artworks have on our city's people and reputation. I believe they and more specifically the work they do will be a key contributor to our city's ability to retain our best citizens and attract the talent necessary to be viewed as a cultural center in the Midwest.

- Eli Meiners, Senior Museum Director, 21c Cincinnati

“FROM THE COMMUNITY”

Cincy Nice has been an invaluable partner in Walnut Hills. Thanks to their energy and expertise, Five Points Alley has been reactivated. Their ability to curate collaborative, creative, and community-minded events is unparalleled. Walnut Hills Redevelopment Foundation looks forward to continuing and deepening our partnership.

**- Samantha Reeves, Executive Director,
Walnut Hills Redevelopment Foundation**

“FROM THE COMMUNITY”



April 9, 2021

Dear City of Cincinnati Council Members,

I want to express my support of Cincy Nice Social House as a board member of the Asian American Cultural Association of Cincinnati (AACAC) and as a Contributing Editor with Asianati.com.

As you know, Cincy Nice Social House has quickly become a force in building and celebrating community within the City. Banner events such as *Our Tables*, *Stay Nice*, and *Soul Plates* have demonstrated both their vision and execution in creating spaces that are diverse, collaborative, and inviting. It is because of these attributes that AACAC and Asianati.com have sought to partner with them. They have currently made possible a small pop-up space at 5 Points Alley together with the Walnut Hills Redevelopment Foundation (WHRF) that AACAC is utilizing as part of Asian American Pacific Heritage Month in May. We are also partnering with Cincy Nice to host an activation for the 2021 Asian Food Fest at the Banks.

I believe in Cincy Nice's vision for a permanent cultural hub in the culturally-rich neighborhood of Walnut Hills. When discussing their plans, it is evident how passionate they are about the neighborhood and how aware they are of the needs of the communities that share Walnut Hills.

I am excited about the ongoing partnership between AACAC, Asianati.com and Cincy Nice and hope that the City of Cincinnati would affirm and materially support their work in Walnut Hills.

Sincerely,

JP Leong
Board Member - Asian American Cultural Association of Cincinnati
Contributing Editor - Asianati.com

About the Asian American Cultural Association of Cincinnati

AACAC is an Asian-led 501c3 with a vision to make Cincinnati a more diverse and inclusive city by centering Asian-American

“FROM THE COMMUNITY”

PLAY

***-Kathryne Gardette, Walnut Hills resident, small
business owner and neighborhood advocate***

*(footage capture during Culture Forum hosted by
Cincy Nice, 4.27.2021)*

“FROM THE COMMUNITY”



April 12, 2021

To Whom it May Concern,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for the organization, Cincy Nice. This spring I had the opportunity to get to know Cincy Nice through their creative programming and exhibition, *Soul Plates*. Through this initiative, the organization managed a series of four programs in which they provided pay what you can meals from a variety of cultures. They also curated and organized an exhibition housing a number of local artists. Not only was it a pleasure to work with Cincy Nice, but they were organized with their budget, maintained all necessary deadlines, and had great connections with the community at large. *Soul Plates* with Cincy Nice became both one of my favorite events to organize, as well as one of my favorite events to attend within the past year.

It is my opinion that Cincy Nice would be a wonderful candidate for any arts related funding. Made up of a number of creatives, the team had the potential to transform the way our art and culture is represented and valued. I have already seen them bring more joy, arts, and connection to our city and know that they are full of ideas to continue down this path. Cincy Nice represents to me a promise of connection, the opportunity for people to learn about one another, and a growth of the arts community here in Cincinnati.

It is with the utmost confidence that I write this recommendation for Cincy Nice. They bring positive energy, commitment, and enthusiasm to everything that they do. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any further questions.

Sincerely,

Beth Boswell
Teen and Adult Programs Manager
bboswell@cincycac.org // 513.345.8409
Loius & Richard Rosenthal Center for Contemporary Art
44 East Sixth Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

“FROM THE COMMUNITY”

I'm not sure where our region would be if it weren't for the Cincy Nice team. The energy, cultural relevance and artistic interventions that they have built and led has transformed for many what it means to be a Cincinnati and who is welcome at the table when it comes to setting the course for the future. Their active approach to creating a happy and welcoming city has and will continue to transform the streets, districts and neighborhoods that make up Cincinnati and I think make the region one of the most diverse, creative and active places in the country.

- Kevin Wright, Co-Founder & Principal, Yard & Company

“FROM THE COMMUNITY”

Cincy Nice are: Innovators, Disruptors, Visionary, Inclusive, Transformative, Connectors, Facilitators, Risk Takers, Problem Solvers, Dreamers and Creators.

I have had the joy of being invited to the table with the brilliant team that has created Cincy Nice. I have watched them grow from an idea into an organization that supports and celebrates local BIPOC artists, thinkers and creators. They recreate spaces into open, exciting and dynamic gathering hubs that welcomes all to engage and learn with them.

From Cincy Nice's beginnings at BLINK 2019, as "the Place", (a happening, a community dwelling for conversation and connection) to Our Tables, creating an authentic, safe and welcoming place to have a powerful conversation during a difficult isolating time in our world to helping first time voters understand their voice matters and they are an important part of our city's future to recreate the Five Points Alley into a vibrant space for music and community gatherings.

I have reached out to the team at Cincy Nice to elevate what I am doing as part of the Cincinnati art community. They have passion, intelligence, artistry and a love of our community that we as a city need to support. They are a young organization that has the chutzpah to make important changes in our city's present and future.

Cincy Nice is an artist collective in the truest meaning of the word.

I am so proud to call them friends and collaborators. As decisions are being made regarding funding, Cincy Nice should be on the top of that list.

- Pam Kravetz, Artist & Educator

“FROM THE COMMUNITY”

One word... community. Speaking from experience as a producer with Cincy Nice, I share some similar ideals to their overall mission. I'm here to be part of multiple movements, to break down barriers and bring people together. Cincy Nice is helping bridge that gap in a city divided. Reader, I urge you to take a look at the footage from the Our Tables event here. Please reflect on the conversations you see and the people eagerly looking for accessible outlets to engage in a prosperous way.

- Jordan Tuss, Founder of The Fridge Cincy

(which launched as a pilot at the More Free 2020 HQ, Cincy Nice's voter engagement initiative)

“FROM THE COMMUNITY”



URBAN CONSULATE CINCINNATI

April 9, 2021

To City of Cincinnati Council Members:

It is our pleasure to write in support of Cincy Nice's vision to activate a cultural hub in Walnut Hills with diverse cultural & community programming. Their demonstrated record of convening creative visionaries to help us shape the future of Cincinnati is an asset to our city.

In July 2020, it was our honor to feature their work in Urban Consulate's cross-city exchange event, *We Built This*, featuring city-builders and changemakers from New York, Philadelphia, Detroit, Memphis & Cincinnati. Our cross-city audience was impressed with their *Our Tables* project to bring people together safely outdoors during a public health crisis and racial reckoning. And we appreciated their GOTV campaign leading into the 2020 election.

Urban Consulate brings people together to share ideas for better cities. Since 2016, we have hosted hundreds of conversations in Detroit, Philadelphia, New Orleans, Austin, Chicagoland and Cincinnati to invite people to imagine how to build more just & equitable communities. In 2019, we launched monthly community dialogues in Cincinnati with The Mercantile Library, Afrochine & Haile Foundation. Cincy Nice co-founders Destinee Thomas and Will Thomas offered valuable input and support for the launch.

We look forward to working in partnership as they grow their impact in the city.

Sincerely,

Naimah Bilal, Megan Trischler, JP Leong & Sulin Ngo
Urban Consulate Cincinnati
UrbanConsulate.com/Cincinnati
[@urbanconsulate](https://www.instagram.com/urbanconsulate)

“FROM THE COMMUNITY”

Cincy Nice has quickly engaged and endeared a large contingent of the creative and culturally curious Cincinnati populous. Their programming and pop ups are fun, inclusive, poignant, and timely. They are exactly what we need more of in Cincinnati as our city grows, heals, and moves towards equitable prosperity.

Cal Cullen, Executive Director, Wave Pool Gallery

“FROM THE COMMUNITY”

We were honored to be selected to participate in the Cincy Nice's Soul Plates event. We felt it was a well curated, and safe event during these trying times. Cincy Nice's passion and vision to bring all cultures and communities from our beautiful city together is in my opinion exactly what we need. We look forward to participating and helping with all future events by Cincy Nice to continue to connect all of Cincinnati's communities together.

- Danny Yant, Partner, Lang Thang Group (Pho Lang Thang, Quan Hapa, Hi-Mark, Lang Thang Coffee)