

RESOLUTION NO. 73 - 2024

EXPRESSING the support of the Mayor and Council of the City of Cincinnati for the relocation of the Sundance Film Festival to Cincinnati and Council's intent to support appropriating \$2,500,000 in the FY26 Operating Budget for the Sundance Film Festival should the Sundance Film Festival commit to relocating to Cincinnati in January 2027.

WHEREAS, the Sundance Institute was founded in 1981 to foster independence, risk-taking, and new voices in American film; and

WHEREAS, since 1981, the Sundance team has grown to include a team of 165 employees working year-round to offer twelve labs and intensives, grants exceeding \$3,000,000, and ongoing mentorships that support more than 1,000 artists each year; and

WHEREAS, each January the Sundance Film Festival introduces a global audience to groundbreaking work and emerging talent in independent film; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the Festival, the Sundance Institute hosts many public programs in the United States and around the world to connect artists with audiences and present original voices, inspire new ideas, and create community around independent storytelling; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 Sundance Film Festival hosted 72,840 unique individuals in person and sold 141,212 in-person tickets; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 Sundance Film Festival contributed \$132,000,000 to Utah's gross domestic product, 1,730 jobs for Utah residents, \$69,700,000 in Utah wages, and \$13,800,000 in state and local tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, the Sundance Institute has selected three finalists to host the Sundance Film Festival beginning in 2027, with Cincinnati included among the finalists; and

WHEREAS, Council, with passage of Ordinance 371 - 2024, appropriated \$2,500,000 in the FY24 close out process for the purpose of assisting with capital expenses required if the Sundance Film Festival commits to move to Cincinnati; and

WHEREAS, Council supports a future appropriation of an additional \$2,500,000 in the FY26 budget for the purpose of assisting with operating expenses required if the Sundance Film Festival commits to move to Cincinnati; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Mayor and this Council support the Sundance Film Festival relocating to Cincinnati beginning in 2027.

Section 2. That the Mayor and this Council express their intent to appropriate \$2,500,000 in operating dollars in the FY26 budget, in addition to the \$2,500,000 already appropriated for capital dollars, for the relocation of the Sundance Film Festival to Cincinnati, which together represents a ten-year, \$500,000 per year commitment by the City of Cincinnati contingent upon the Sundance Institute selecting the City of Cincinnati as its new home and headquarters for at least 2027 through 2036.

Passed: October 30, 2024

Attest: _____

Clerk



Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Submitted by Councilmember Seth Walsh