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**Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney**  
Councilmember

September 14, 2020

## FY2021 CARRYOVER BUDGET PRIORITIES

As City Council begins to work through the 2021 Carryover Budget, please accept these as my priorities for public discussion and consideration:

**Cincinnati Arts Access Fund (CAAF):** a one-time investment of \$200,000 should be made to address the loss of income and financial support that artists, creatives, and neighborhood arts organizations have faced amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The fund should be managed and administered by ArtsWave to ensure public trust and to leverage the deep expertise of a leading local institution that funds and supports 100+ arts projects and organizations through impact-based grants that result in a wave of arts that connect our region and make it vibrant. I have submitted a motion (*see Cincinnati Arts Access Fund Motion*) requesting a report about how to move forward with the creation of this fund, which also outlines specific program parameters and requirements.

**Harbor Fund (Code Enforcement Relief):** an initial \$400,000 investment should be made to create a program (or set of programs) similar to what was formerly known as the "Harbor Fund", which provided low-income homeowners with grants to resolve code violations and make necessary repairs to their homes to bring them up to code. Property owners, particularly in low-income neighborhoods, are losing their homes. Homeownership in Cincinnati (38%) already is lower than the national average (62%), and even lower for Black, Brown, and low-income communities. Homeownership is a means for families to build wealth, strengthen neighborhoods, and even improve physical and psychological health. For these reasons, we must take proactive steps to help increase access to homeownership, which includes providing opportunities for low-income families to invest in and maintain their properties.

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