



**Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney**  
*Councilmember*

## MOTION

WE MOVE for the City Administration to deliver a report to City Council regarding the feasibility of creating a Cincinnati Arts Access Fund (CAAF) to address the loss of income and financial support that artists, creatives, and neighborhood arts organizations have faced amid the COVID-19 pandemic. WE FURTHER MOVE for this fund to 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. WE FURTHER MOVE for this report to include recommendations for implementation that take into account the following proposed parameters:

- (1) a total of \$200,000 in city funding, along with the option for philanthropic organizations, nonprofits, corporations, and others to contribute to the fund on a voluntary basis;
- (2) a tiered grant funding award system (e.g. \$500 - \$2500) that is based on an applicant's employment classification/level and financial need, as well as best practices from similar programs nationwide;
- (3) a requirement for applicants to demonstrate financial need and provide justification about how they have been adversely impacted financially by COVID-19 (e.g. unable to pay rent, loss of employment, cancelled events, etc);
- (4) a requirement for grant funding to be used for living costs (e.g. food, rent, medical expenses, childcare) and/or to adapt/develop crafts and skills necessary to generate income amid the coronavirus pandemic;
- (5) a requirement for grantees would to make an arts project or final product of their choosing available to the general public within 12 months, whether by means of virtual mediums and methods or a physical/in-person medium; the program should categorize this as "Give Back" requirement, along with a requirement for the grantee to specify which neighborhood(s) would be impacted by their public artistic/creative contribution (e.g. musical performance at a nursing home; hosting a free virtual class; a public art display, etc.);
- (6) an advisory council and/or working group comprised of local artists, creatives and community arts organizations, as well as representation from City Council and the Office of the Mayor, to advise on implementation and administration of the fund on an ongoing basis.

WE FURTHER MOVE for this report to be delivered within 14 days following passage of this motion.

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