

ANNUAL REPORT



[the arts are for **everyone**]

MISSION STATEMENT

Culture Works is the funding, advocacy, and service organization that passionately inspires, supports, and sustains arts and culture in the Dayton Region. As the united arts fund and arts service agency for the Dayton Region, Culture Works believes that creating and maintaining a vibrant and attractive community filled with quality arts brings measurable and immeasurable value to our citizens. From providing inspiring educational opportunities for our children, to attracting and retaining employees in our region, to adding beauty and entertainment to our lives, arts and culture reflect all the best and most beautiful parts of who we are.



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Rachel Evans Nead, *Director of Grantmaking and Impact*

Dorie Watts, *Director of Program Operations and Advocacy*

Diane Schoeffler-Warren, *Marketing, PR, and Communications*

Consultant, DSW Communications



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Sheri Sword, *Better Business Bureau of
Dayton/Miami Valley/Women in Business
Networking*

Shaun Yu, *Discover Classical*

*New Trustees for 2024-2025

Letter from the President and CEO

The fiscal year 2023-2024 has been a period of exploration, adaptation, and growth for Dayton's arts and cultural scene. This year, the arts community faced unique challenges, representing a significant shift toward understanding and navigating a "new normal." The focus on community, creativity, and collaboration has become more pronounced than ever:

KEY INSIGHTS:

Thriving Creative Community

The numbers and stories in the fiscal report reflect a community that has not just survived but thrived. Despite uncertainties, the arts sector in Dayton has shown remarkable resilience, proving that creativity is not just a force for healing, connection, and growth, but also a source of inspiration and hope for the future.

Collaboration and Innovation

This period saw increased collaboration between arts organizations, local businesses, and community groups. Creative solutions were sought to bring performances, exhibitions, and artistic experiences to people in new and innovative ways.

Profound Connections through the Arts

One of the most important lessons from this fiscal year is realizing the deep connections fostered through artistic expression. Whether through theater, music, visual arts, or dance, the arts served as a bridge to unite our community.

Economic and Social Impact

The arts play a crucial role in driving economic growth and social cohesion in the Miami Valley. Our fiscal report underscores the significant role of the arts and culture in enhancing the quality of life and boosting the local economy, particularly through tourism, job creation, and community engagement.

A Different Frontier

The arts in Dayton are now exploring a new frontier, balancing traditional forms with digital innovation, shifting audience expectations, and evolving financial models. This year has shown arts organizations the importance of flexibility, adaptability, and innovation to sustain their missions and reach broader audiences.



As Dayton and Culture Works look to the future, this fiscal year highlights the essential role of the arts in defining our community and shaping what lies ahead. Culture Works kicked off its 50th anniversary year with a New Years Eve celebration, marking five decades of commitment to a vibrant, accessible arts community. Through initiatives like the Campaign for the Arts, arts education, and creative placemaking, Culture Works sustains a thriving arts ecosystem. Thanks to generous support from individuals, businesses, foundations, and community groups, this year's Campaign awarded \$205,560 in Community Arts Grants to ten local arts organizations.

The varied grants available via our partnership with the Montgomery County Arts & Cultural District through Special Projects Grants and Artist Opportunity Grants provided more than \$256,000 to 27 organizations and nearly \$35,000 to local artists. These funds help foster opportunities for community engagement and individual artistic growth.

The achievements of this past year were made possible by the tireless dedication and unwavering passion of our remarkable staff. They have gone above and beyond, working long hours and bringing their full energy and commitment to every challenge in pursuit of our mission. Their steadfast dedication has truly been the heart of our organization. We are also deeply grateful to our committed Board of Trustees, whose focus on equity and ongoing support for Dayton's arts ecosystem have been instrumental to our success.

Of course, we are deeply thankful to you, our donors. Your unwavering belief in our mission and generous financial support has been energizing. Your support allows us to continue working toward a bright and exciting future, showcasing our community through the arts.



Thank you for standing with us!

With heartfelt thanks,

Lisa Hanson
President & CEO, Culture Works

Letter from the President, Board of Trustees

As we reflect on the 2023-24 fiscal year, I am honored to acknowledge the powerful impact Culture Works makes in fostering a vibrant and creative community that connects people of all differences and backgrounds. The arts drive economic growth, enhance well-being, create belonging and inspire connections across the Dayton region. Supporting Culture Works—through service, contributions, or participation—is an investment in the health of our community.

First, thank you to our dedicated board members for your invaluable insights and guidance this year—your commitment has shaped Culture Works into a dynamic organization. To our incoming members, welcome! We look forward to your fresh ideas and enthusiasm. To those concluding their terms, we deeply appreciate your service and dedication.

Our work would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors. Your financial

and in-kind contributions have been instrumental in expanding access to arts and culture throughout our community. More importantly, your support fuels our shared vision for a region where creativity is accessible to all. We appreciate your commitment to making the arts an integral part of our lives and the significant impact of your partnership.

A special thank you to the companies and individuals who supported our Workplace Giving Campaign. Your contributions directly fund impactful cultural programs and show that arts and culture matter to your organizations. We're especially grateful to the campaign coordinators whose dedication made this campaign a success—your efforts are a true gift to the community.

Finally, my sincere appreciation goes to Lisa and her dedicated staff. Their passion, dedication, resilience, and hard work daily bring the Culture Works mission to life. With unparalleled energy and expertise, they

have expanded the organization's reach and impact, dedicating countless hours to making a difference in our community. Your dedication does not go unnoticed.

To everyone who has contributed in service, funding, or active support, thank you for helping make this past year a success. As we look forward, let us continue to work together to create a vibrant and inclusive cultural landscape that resonates for future generations.

Sincerely,



Stacey Lawson
Chair, Board of Trustees,
Culture Works



Community Arts Grants

The Community Arts Grant is just that: a grant funded by community members across the Dayton region in support of the major arts organizations in our community. Thanks to individuals and their families and 32 local foundations and organizations who contributed to Culture Works and our Workplace Giving to the Arts Campaign, our major arts organizations continue to have access to Community Arts Grant funding.

Revenues from Culture Works Events, LLC also supported, in part, the 2023-2024 Community Arts funds grant distributions. It is important in this changing economic climate to be able to rely on multiple revenue streams in support of the arts, and Culture Works is proud to offer creative access to the Dayton Arcade through our events reservation and planning team.

As the only funding, advocacy, and service organization in the Dayton region, Culture Works is an enthusiastic supporter of creatives,

artists, and art organizations in our community. The Community Arts Grant is one benefit of that enthusiasm. This grant is an important funding resource for our area, especially since general operating offerings are increasingly rare in the arts. General operating support offers organizations the flexibility to use the funds in accordance with their unique and/or greatest need.

In 2023-2024, the Dayton community provided \$205,559.29 in Community Arts Grant funding in support of the 2024-2025 seasons for the following arts organizations:

GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT GRANTEEES

Organizations with budgets of \$500,000 to \$10 million

Dayton Art Institute	\$31,483.72
Dayton Contemporary Dance Company	\$19,232.50
Dayton Performing Arts Alliance (Ballet/Opera/Philharmonic)	\$54,206.25
Discover Classical W DPR/WDPG	\$20,151.25
The Human Race Theatre Company	\$19,649
K12 Gallery & TEJAS	\$9,463.13
Muse Machine	\$21,008.75
Springfield Symphony Orchestra	\$20,886.25

COMMUNITY ARTS DEVELOPMENT GRANTEEES

Organizations with budgets of \$100,000 to \$499,999

Bach Society of Dayton	\$4,517.20
The Contemporary Dayton	\$4,961.24

2024 Community Arts Grant Panelists

A panel of community members score and provide feedback on the applications submitted by Community Arts Grant applicants. Culture Works thanks each of our volunteer panelists for their commitment to the arts, their objectivity and thoughtfulness, effort and time throughout the review process.

[Erin Culp](#) | Director of Philanthropy, Kettering Health Foundation

[Lynda Hoffman](#) | Retired from Vectren Foundation

[Colleen Ryan](#) | Colonel, USAF (ret)

[Erin Smith Glenn](#) | Associate Professor of Art, Central State University

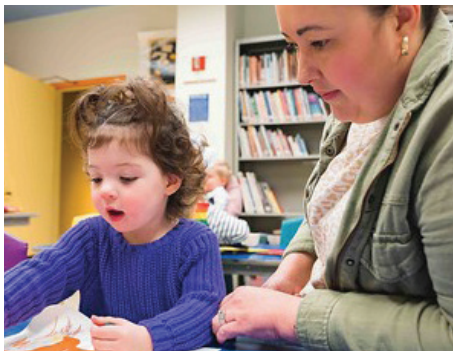
[Gregory Changa Freeman](#) | Writer, Photographer, and President of the African American Visual Artists Guild

2024 Financial Review Committee

A committee of accountants score and provide insight on the financial sections of the applications submitted by Community Arts Grant applicants. Culture Works thanks both CPA's for the insight they provided to the Community Arts Grant Panelists during the review process.

[Dave Stacy](#) | CPA and retired CFO

[Jim Kohls](#) | CPA and business owner



Community Arts Grantee Impact

In the 2023-2024 arts season, Community Arts Grantee organizations offered:

252

Performances, including plays, musicals, ballets, and concerts

772

In-school programs and 1,938 classes and workshops held outside of schools

98,831

audience members attended the arts for free, and at least 53,441 of them were children 18 and under

**Figures provided by grantees as part of their 2023-2024 Final Report.*

Artist Opportunity Grants



The Artist Opportunity Grant is a community grant funded by Montgomery County with the support of Montgomery County Arts and Cultural District and the Board of County Commissioners, administered by Culture Works. The focus of the grant is to support Montgomery County artists and creative entrepreneurs in deepening their relationship with their craft through professional development opportunities and support for new innovative work that furthers the artist's career.

A firm supporter of the innovation, experimentation, and community building arts fosters, Culture Works serves as the administrator of the Artist Opportunity Grant. With increased access to funding opportunities, artists and creatives can grow in their craft and creative process, fostering a dynamic environment that enhances community and personal connections across our region.

The Montgomery County Arts and Cultural District funded the 2023-2024 Artist Opportunity Grant cycle, granting a total of \$60,298 to 14 grantees based on the recommendations of a community review panel. This panel included local artists and creatives as well as leaders and administrators in the arts. Together, panelists assess an application based on the opportunity for growth that the project presents to the artist and their community, the evidence of secure project planning, and the innovative wealth a project exhibits. The 2023-2024 Artist Opportunity Grant funded the following projects over the course of 2024:

2023 - 2024 GRANTEES & OPPORTUNITIES

Niarra Gooden-Clarke, Dance Artist

Opportunity: Travel to New York City for dance classes, company auditions, and updated portfolio headshots.

Nicolay Dorsett, Dance Artist

Opportunity: Complete the Balanced Body mat training program to deepen knowledge of mat work and its health benefits for dance artists.

Michael London, Playwright, Author

Opportunity: Create an episodic, epistolary podcast with a unique release schedule, inspired by the slower pace of the 1870s post-Civil War era. The story follows a mysterious love tale unfolding along the Ohio River, diverging from today's culture of immediacy.

Mikee Huber, Visual Artist, Painter & Mixed Media

Opportunity: Attend a two-week artist residency at Golden Apple Art Residency in Harrington, Maine to create paintings inspired by the rugged coastal landscape.

Hyacinth Paul, Visual Artist, Painter, Fabric Artist, Author

Opportunity: Complete ten new mixed media fabric sculptures using recycled sarees worn by Indian immigrant women from Dayton, showcasing their stories and contributions. These sculptures will be exhibited in various locations throughout Dayton and beyond.

Danielle Rante, Visual Artist in Drawing, Painting, Printmaking

Opportunity: Create a body of work, Celestial Pathways, exploring the mythology of the Milky Way within the ancient mound building cultures of Ohio, to be exhibited at three Ohio venues.

Annie Pesch, Theatre Arts

Opportunity: Participate in a two-week online filmmaking workshop from the New York Film Academy to refine her directing skills in filmmaking.

Amy Deal, Visual Arts, Painter

Opportunity: Participate in a 4-week artist residency at the South Porch Artist Residency in Summerville, South Carolina, focused on creating monoprints of local flora and marine life. Artwork will form the basis for an upcoming exhibition and workshop in Dayton, Ohio, contributing to a new body of creative work.

Jesse Ly, Photographer

Opportunity: To fund the creation of work for invited FotoFocus concurrent exhibition at both The Weston Gallery and Studio San Giuseppe Art Gallery at Mount St. Joseph University.

Gretchen Durst Jacobs, Visual Arts in Drawing, Painting, Printmaking

Opportunity: To create a new body of work in encaustic monotype, advancing my skills and career.

G. Scott Jones, Musical Composition & Performance, Visual Art

Opportunity: Create a musical that narrates a journey growing up as a preacher's kid, exploring struggles with identity and questioning God's love.dies act as conduits for the life, love, and pain of the community.

Valentino Halton, Hip Hop Emcee

Opportunity: Travel to France to learn production from Martin Dezer while collaborating on our follow-up album. This will be our first in-person meeting and my first experience in shaping my album's instrumentation.

Kathleen Hotmer, Natural Plant Fabric Dyeing

Opportunity: Online workshops and tutorials for natural plant dyeing and eco dyeing that will help me develop my skills to both broaden my textile offerings and to prepare for offering natural dye and eco dyeing workshops.

Brian Mathus, Painting

Opportunity: To help with the promotion and preparation of a solo art gallery exhibition.

**Grant distributions reported in our year-end financials sometimes differ from amounts awarded due to grantee project cancellation or project budget adjustment.*

2023 – 2024 Artist Opportunity Grant Panelists

Desirae “The Silent Poet” Hosley, Panel Chair | Word Artist and Community Organizer

DeMarcus Akeem Suggs | Dance Artist, Educator, and Arts Administrator

Gregory Changa-Freeman | Writer, Playwright, Essayist, Poet, and Photographer

Janet Cooper | Retired, Public Relations Director / Account Manager for R&R Partners

Polly Creer Sutton | Retired, Dance Artist

Dr. Jenny Cruz | Professor of Piano and Chair of the Fine & Performing Arts department at Central State University

Kate Kennedy | Chief Operating Officer at ArtsWAVE, the engine for Greater Cincinnati's arts

Angela Meleca | Founder, Meleca Creative Advisors, an expert in arts advocacy and creative economy

Belinda Wright | Writer & House Manager for Dayton Live



Special Projects Grants



The Special Projects Grant program, which funds arts and cultural programs for small and medium-sized arts organizations that engage the Montgomery County community, is a testament to the commitment of the Montgomery County Arts and Cultural District (MCACD) and the Board of County Commissioners. Funding for the Special Projects Grants is provided by MCACD and administered by Culture Works.

Small to mid-sized arts and cultural organizations, other nonprofits, schools, colleges and universities, municipalities, and government agencies located in Montgomery County have the opportunity to make a significant impact with these grants. Awards can be up to \$10,000, can support a variety of arts and cultural projects from festivals and exhibitions to in-school arts programming. They can also be used for capacity-building projects such as strategic plans, board development, marketing and branding initiatives, website development, staff professional development training, and feasibility studies, all of which have the potential to transform an organization and the community it serves.



2023-2024 SPECIAL PROJECTS GRANTEES:

African-American Artists Guild

\$10,000- Visual Art- Exposition through Art Program (ETAP), What's New?

Bach Society of Dayton

\$10,000- Cultural/Multi-Arts- Paths of Visionaries - Silk Road Concert

British Transportation Museum

\$9,200- Visual Arts- British Themed Mural, Hopeland Street

Chosen Outreach Museum

\$5,200- Cultural/Multi-Arts- Bring Back the Neighborhood

Dayton Dance Conservatory

\$10,000- Literary Arts/Performing Arts- Art & Movement for All

Dayton International Peace Museum

\$10,000- Literary Arts/Performing Arts- Peace 101: Creating Peace Through Art & Education

Dayton Liederkrantz-Turners, Inc

\$10,000- Cultural/Multi-Arts- GermanFest Picnic

Dayton Literary Peace Prize Foundation

\$10,000- Visual Arts- Dayton Literary Peace Prize Student Author Series

Dayton View Triangle Federation, Inc.

\$10,000- Visual Arts- ZAPP Mural Preservation and Expansion

Downtown Dayton Partnership

\$10,000- Cultural/Multi Arts-Art in the City

Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton

\$10,000- Cultural/Multi-Arts- Dayton Jewish Film Festival, Jewish Community Center of Greater Dayton

Magnolia Theatre Company

\$10,000- Femme Artisan: A Staged Reading Series-Literary Arts/Performing Arts

Montgomery County ADAMHS Board/Montgomery County Prevention Coalition

\$10,000- Visual Arts- Fostering Connections Through Positive Art Messaging

Preservation Dayton, Inc.

\$10,000- Visual Arts-Santa Clara Business District Storefront Murals

Puerto Rican American and Caribbean Organization

\$10,000- Cultural/Multi-Arts- Dayton Hispanic Heritage Festival 2023

Sweet Adelines International- Gem City Chapter

\$10,000- Capacity Building

The Blue House Arts

\$10,000- Capacity Building- Welcome Back : Blue House Garage Gallery

The Dayton Foundation

\$10,000- Visual Arts- Art Contest for Suicide Prevention

The Greater Dayton LGBT Center

\$3,000- Visual Arts-Faces of Pride

The Journalism Lab

\$9,800- Education- The Bureau Fall Journalism Workshop 2023

Trotwood Madison City School District

\$10,000- Education- Arts Integration into Elementary and Middle School at Trotwood Madison

University of Dayton

\$10,000- Visual Arts- University of Dayton Galleries Visiting Artist Program

Washington-Centerville Public Library

\$750- Literary Arts/Performing Arts-Storytelling Workshop

YWCA Dayton

\$7,020- Visual Arts- Art Projects for YWCA Dayton's Victim Services

2023-2024 Special Projects Grants Panelists

[Shaun Yu \(Panel Chair\)](#) | President/CEO, Discover Classical

[Ron Anderson](#) | Consultant, The Danielson Group

[Andre Bennington](#) | Dir. of Programming & Licensing, Dayton Live

[Edward Dixon](#) | Founder, Edward A. Dixon Gallery

[Audrey Logan](#) | Founder, 2getherwecango Programs

[Jean Love](#) | Sr. Proposal Specialist, Sawdey Solution Services

[Katy Marquee](#) | Education & Development Manager, Dublin Arts Council

[Ena Nearon](#) | Writer, Independent Grant Management, and Fundraising Professional

[Ariel Walker](#) | Grants and Research Officer, Dayton Art Institute

Leonard P. Roberts Memorial Scholarship

Culture Works is invested in the lives of our region's artists, creatives, and lovers of the arts of every age and demographic. The Leonard P. Roberts Memorial Scholarship of the Dayton Foundation is founded on the interdisciplinary ingenuity of our region's high school seniors and college students exhibiting a passion for the arts regardless of their declared major. Leonard P. Roberts, a prominent businessman in Dayton, was also a passionate advocate for the arts who served as Chairman of the Dayton Performing Arts Fund, now Culture Works. This combination of creative ingenuity and business savvy is a skill set Culture Works "works" to foster in our region, starting with our youth.

The Leonard P. Roberts Memorial Scholarship of the Dayton Foundation has awarded over \$400,000 to area students since 1994. The 2023-2024 Scholarship Committee awarded a total of \$23,000.00 to 17 students for their 2024-2025 school year. Culture Works celebrates the contributions of the scholarship recipients for their achievements thus far and for the passionate advocacy they bring to the arts in our area.

2023-2024 Leonard P. Roberts Memorial Scholarship Recipients



Caroline Woessner
Oakwood High School
Class of 2024



Danielle Scott
Stivers School for the Arts
Class of 2024



William Chadwick
Arcanum High School
Class of 2024



Anna Hedges
Wright State University
Class of 2027



Maggie Weckesser
Chaminade-Julienne High School
Class of 2024



Ava McKinney
Tippecanoe High School
Class of 2024



Booker Atkins
Cedarville University
Class of 2027



Aurora Henry-Jones
Centerville High School
Class of 2024



Reegan Enix
Springboro High School
Class of 2024

Leonard P. Roberts Memorial Scholarship

2023-2024 Leonard P. Roberts Memorial Scholarship Recipients



Noah Engel
Miamisburg High School
Class of 2024



Diya Percy
Alter High School
Class of 2024



Benjamin Motz
University of Dayton
Class of 2027



Elaina Hayle
Spring Valley Academy
Class of 2024



Kaylee Johnson
Centerville High School
Class of 2024



Abigail Cromwell
Versailles High School
Class of 2024

Scholarship Selection Committee

Carol Loranger (Committee Chair) | Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, Wright State University Member, Culture Works Board of Trustees

Nicolay Dorsett | Dance Artist with Dayton Contemporary Dance Company

Carol Prewitt | President at Prewitt Consulting LLC - Civility, Etiquette, and Business Protocol Training

Carolyn Granger | Social Program Specialist with Montgomery County Job and Family Services

Wil Hoffman | Community Outreach and Education Specialist with Springfield Arts Council

Kay Koeninger | Professor of Art at Sinclair Community College

Jessica Miller | Pro Freelance Creative Director and Graphic Art Designer

Jalyn Roe | Founding Partner of "The Jael Group," a business management consulting firm

Arts & Economic Prosperity 6



Throughout much of 2022 and 2023, Culture Works, along with the active participation of our community, joined 373 other communities across the United States and Puerto Rico in partnership with the Americans for the Arts' Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 Study. We collected data in Montgomery, Miami, Clark, and Greene Counties to measure the economic impact of arts and culture. In early 2024, the final report, a testament to our collective efforts, was released to the community. The full report is available on the Culture Works website.

In January 2024, Culture Works brought Randy Cohen, VP of Research at Americans for the Arts, to the Dayton region for presentations in Dayton, Tipp City, and Springfield to share the exciting news: Nonprofit arts and culture in our area is responsible for more than \$239M in total industry expenditures and \$153M in personal income paid to residents. This thriving sector supports nearly 5,000 local jobs and accounts for more than \$42M in federal, state, and local taxes, painting a promising picture for our local economy.

The data overwhelmingly supports the concept that investment in the nonprofit arts and culture industry builds communities where people want to live and work. It is where entrepreneurs and creative economy businesses are launched and where nighttime economies flourish. When we prioritize diverse cultural expressions and traditions, we not only nurture social connections but also promote community pride and identity, fostering a sense of belonging and unity. Moreover, the arts boost tourism by providing authentic experiences that draw visitors to this region, showcasing the cultural richness of our community. Creating livable communities is economic development.



Our Town Creating Placemaking

In June 2024, Culture Works completed a two-year *Our Town* Creative Placemaking program funded by the National Endowment for the Arts. *Our Town* grants are awarded to projects that integrate arts, culture, and design into local efforts that strengthen communities.

Culture Works' project was designed to help emerging artists gain business skills and work in the community to develop projects. Over the course of 18 months, seven established local artists used their experience and professional development curricula from *Springboard for the Arts* to train and mentor a group of emerging artists.

The capstone project of this training, an artwork developed in collaboration with the Edgemont community, provided the artists with hands-on experience in community outreach, ideation, planning, and execution of a large-scale community project. The installation of a mosaic mural, hosted by our community partner, The Edgemont Solar Garden, has not only beautified the area but also created a new outdoor classroom space. This space, a testament to our collective efforts, will strengthen the Edgemont Solar Garden's programs and its impact on the community.



Creative placemaking programs advance local economic, physical, and social outcomes in our communities, showing us how we are connected, revealing our shared humanity, celebrating our differences, uniting us, and changing us from many communities into one. Culture Works is grateful to have community support for projects like *Our Town*. We believe this support helped the NEA recognize our region's commitment to creative placemaking and the role art plays in building better lives.

Thank you to *Our Town* project sponsors: The National Endowment for the Arts, CenterPoint Energy, Ernst Concrete, Messer Construction, and Montgomery County.

Thank you to participating Artists:

Nicholaus Arnold, Semi-Conceptual Artist, Trainer · Curtis Bowman, Writer, Project Coordinator · Amy Deal, Visual Artist, Trainer · Jes McMillan, Mosaic Artist, Trainer · Brian Mathus, Visual Artist, Trainer · Valerie J. Lewis Coleman, Writer, Trainer · Omopé Carter-Daboiku, Storyteller, Trainer · G. Scott Jones, Musician, Trainer · Lova Delis, Visual Artist, Trainee · Candace Lomax, Textile Artist, Trainee · Maria McGinnis, Visual Artist, Trainee · Hadley Rodebeck, Visual Artist, Trainee · Kathleen Caffrey, Visual Artist, Trainee · G. Changa Freeman, Photographer, Trainee · Paul "Hitch" Lyons, Photographer, Trainee · Molly Brockman, Visual Artist, Curation, Trainee · Ismail Soldan, Writer, Poet, Trainee



Artini 2023

Culture Works' annual Artini fundraiser transformed the historic Dayton Arcade Rotunda into a vibrant celebration of art and community. Guests enjoyed music by the Deron Bell Band, perused a curated exhibition of local artwork, and savored exquisite cocktails and mocktails crafted by local mixologists, each inspired by the artwork on display.

Participating local artists included Lori Daugherty, Jon Daugherty, Mike Elsass, Erin Smith Glenn, Brian Matus, Jes McMillan, Samantha Nicole, Lisa Maryanne Patrick, Jen Perkins, Julie Riley, Rodney Veal, Jo Ann Vincent, Terry Welker, and Amy Williams, who partnered with mixologists from local restaurants and bars; Bar Granada, Century Bar, De'Lish, Est! Est!! Est!!!, Fifth Street Brewpub, Gather by Ghostlight, Mudlick Tap House, Smith's Boathouse, Sueno, Table 33, Van Buren Room, Wholly Grounds, Zen Lounge, and Mercenary Bartenders.

Thank you to our 2023 event sponsors: Brady Ware & Company, Coolidge Wall, Crowdpurrr, Ligature Creative, Heidelberg Distributing Company, and McCormick Baron Salazar.



CENTURY BAR
BEST TASTING



GATHER BY GHOSTLIGHT
BEST MOCKTAIL



SMITH'S BOATHOUSE
MOST CREATIVE

New Year's Eve Celebration!



COUNTDOWN
TO 2024
At the Dayton Arcade!

To celebrate fifty years of service to Dayton's artists and arts organizations, and kick off the next fifty, Culture Works hosted the first-ever New Year's Eve party in the Dayton Arcade on Dec. 31, 2023. The event featured non-stop music from the 2023 Dayton Battle of the Bands winner, crabswithoutlegs, and DJ Isicle. iHeart Media's on-air personalities Gina Ferraro and Josh Martinez kept the audience moving on the dance floor until midnight when the crowd fired confetti cannons and drank champagne from commemorative 50th Anniversary flutes. Funds raised from the New Year's Eve celebration significantly impacted Culture Works programming, inspiring hope and creativity in the arts community. Culture Work's mission is to support, promote, and advocate for the arts in our region. We are grateful to live in a community that believes the arts matter.



Special thanks go to our event committee, especially Rodney Veal and Libby Ballengee, and to our event sponsors: iHeart Media, The Dayton Daily News, Arlt and Co., Dayton Physicians Network, Curtis Bowman, CareSource, Mikee Huber, Square One Salon & Spa, Interger Wealth Partners/UBS, BLC Entertainment, Bockrath Flooring and Rugs, and Balloon Dog Events.

The ONYX Program

The ONYX Program, launched by PNC Band and supported by White Allen Chevrolet, was created to make a lasting, positive impact on Dayton's cultural landscape. Designed to uplift BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) artists, ONYX provided resources and platforms for these artists to create, share, and celebrate their work. Over the course of four showcases—held on February 22, March 21, April 25, and May 23—the program curated events that highlighted BIPOC artists, promoted emerging talent, offered free access to performance spaces, and fostered inclusivity within historically underserved communities.

A true testament to collaborative impact, the ONYX Program was made possible through the generous contributions of PNC Bank and White Allen Chevrolet.

Culture Works thanks PNC Bank, White Allen Chevrolet, Oregon Express (for hospitality support), Libby Ballengee, Gary King and the participating artists:

Dionte Allen	Erin Smith Glenn	Pucca Scotty
Brandon Austen	Alexandra Hudson	Sons of April
Devin Baker	Jo'el and Jeremy	Luther Suede
Khellie B	Cayman K	Taggz
Guy Banks	Katlyn King	Teeya Skipper
The Bars Kid	Day Luster	Tiara Green
Leroy Bean	MelinaMarie	TreDon the Don
ceofdreams	Brian Mathus	TrigNo
Felicia Chapelle	Natural Onyx	Tronee Threat
Damac	Karah Paddock	Vibes
DJ Cuest	Poetiic	Young Vader
Thomas Ellison	Renaissance	YVNN
Matt Eugene	Blanche Robinson	
RA.Fake	Kandis Robinson	



Culture Works Events

CW Events, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Culture Works, is the managing partner for all events held in the Dayton Arcade's Rotunda and the Tank, Inspired by CenterPoint Energy (lower level of the Arcade). The CW Events Team has successfully organized, planned, and implemented a diverse range of events, from beautiful, elegant weddings to corporate meetings, parties, fundraisers, and many more. As a matter of fact, the Events Team has weddings and other events booked well into 2026!

CW Events/Culture Works Staff:

Michelle Gnau, Director of Event Production and Sales

Rae Ankeney, Event Logistics Manager

Culture Works/CW Events, Inc. Board of Trustees

Lisa Hanson, President and CEO of Culture Works, CWE Board Chair

Kevin Tunstall, Vice Chair

Greg Ewers, Secretary

Dave Litteral, Treasurer

An event at the Arcade or the Tank is not just an event, it's an investment in our community! Revenue earned through CW Events, Inc. is not just reinvested into Culture Works programs and the local arts community, it's a commitment to future growth and supporting local arts and arts organizations. When you book with us, you're not just hosting an event, you're contributing to a greater cause.



Interested in hosting your next event at the Dayton Arcade?
Visit DaytonArcadeEvents.com for more information.

FROM JULY 2023-JUNE 2024,
CW EVENTS MANAGED:

48

Days of community events that were free and open to the public

91

Private events bringing in more than 30,000 guests to the Arcade

48

Nonprofit events

240

Tours that booked events scheduled through 2026

Campaign for the Arts

The 2024 Campaign for the Arts celebrated 50 years of raising funds to support arts organizations across the Dayton region. To honor this milestone, Culture Works selected two prominent leaders to champion the cause: Artistic Chair Willis “Bing” Davis and Community Chair Rodney Veal. These chairs, knowledgeable and passionate advocates, are particularly suited to speak about the transformative power of the arts in Dayton. They have lived here, creating, teaching, and advocating for the arts. They have seen how the community’s investment in the arts positively impacts its artistic and economic prosperity.

Culture Works relies on the community to help the *Campaign for the Arts* be successful. As such, Bing and Rodney spent countless hours promoting the campaign by speaking with employees at Workplace Giving sites, recording promotional videos and PSAs, sharing their art, and discussing how support from Culture Works helped their careers.

Workplace Giving sites and their coordinators encouraged employees to support Culture Works by offering incentives such as tickets to arts performances from Community Arts Grantees, Culture Works swag (the totes were a hit!), and even paid time off. Sites also hosted local artists to perform, speak, or paint live at their workplaces and offsite extracurricular events such as bowling night, flower sales (Montgomery County), and wine tastings (Lexis Nexis). The City of Dayton Campaign for the Arts held a competition among city departments, offering the chance to win an original artwork for their workspace.

These efforts resulted in more than \$200,000 in Campaign contributions, showcased our region’s richness and diversity of artists and arts organizations, and raised awareness of how Culture Works’ activities, advocacy, and outreach impact the Miami Valley. Culture Works relies on the community to help the *Campaign for the Arts* be successful.



Bing-Bing Davis is an internationally renowned artist, a Daytonian, and a lifelong advocate for the arts. He served on the 1992 community panel that assessed arts needs in the Dayton area and voted to combine the United Arts Fund, at that time known as ArtsDayton, and the Local Arts Agency, the Miami Valley Arts Council into one agency: Culture Works.

Rodney Veal is a multi-disciplinary artist, choreographer, host, filmmaker, and community arts advocate—he once worked at Culture Works!



22

WORKPLACE GIVING SITES FOR 2023-2024

886

TOTAL NUMBER OF WPG GIFTS/DONORS
(138 NEW DONORS!)

\$205,560

AMOUNT DISTRIBUTED THROUGH
COMMUNITY ARTS GRANTS

Workplace Giving Coordinators

Thank you to the Workplace Giving Coordinators who brought arts and culture to their workplaces and built support for the 2023–2024 Campaign for the Arts!

Bach Society of Dayton
Steve Makovec

Better Business Bureau
Terene Chatfield

Brady Ware & Company
Brian Jacob

City of Dayton
Darius Beckham

Coolidge Wall Co., LPA
Chip Herin
Jennifer Bucciarelli

Dayton Aerospace, Inc.
Chris Coombs

Dayton Art Institute
Jasmine Spirk
Andrea Deskins

Dayton Children's
Beth Julian

The Dayton Foundation
Kari Diemunsch

Dayton Metro Library
Jamie McQuinn

Dayton Performing Arts Alliance
Bill Perry

Destination Dayton
Lynn Gathagan

Discover Classical WDPR/WDPG
Shaun Yu

Fifth Third Bank
Delisha Murray
Marya Rutherford-Long
Jessica Huhn

LexisNexis/RELX
Pam Rath
Stephanie Singer
Karen Williams
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LION, Inc.
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Thompson Hine LLP
Steve Elleman
Kayci Zamarelli

Wright State University
Lisa Ragan

2023 – 2024 Donors

CORPORATE, FOUNDATION, GOVERNMENT, AND WORK- PLACE GIVING SUPPORT

CULTURAL VISIONARY **\$50,000+**

Montgomery County Arts and
Cultural District

CULTURAL DEVELOPER **\$25,000+**

Fifth Third Employees and Fifth
Third Foundation
Ohio Arts Council
Premier Health Employees
Atrium Medical Center
Employees
Compunet Clinical Employees
Fidelity Health Care Employees
Miami Valley Hospital
Employees
Premier Physician Services
Employees
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Employees
Samaritan Behavioral Health
Employees
Upper Valley Medical Center
Employees

CULTURAL INFLUENCER **\$15,000+**

Dayton Children's Employees
LexisNexis/RELX Group
Employees + Company Match
Messer Construction Employees
+ Company Match

CULTURAL PIONEER **\$10,000+**

Heidelberg Distributing
Company
Montgomery County Employees
Thompson Hine Employees

CULTURAL COLLABORATOR **\$5,000+**

Dayton Aerospace, Inc.
Employees
The Dayton Foundation
Employees
LION, Inc. Employees + LION, Inc.
PNC
White Family Companies, Inc.

CULTURAL CATALYST **\$1,000+**

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City of Dayton Employees
Coolidge Wall Employees
Culture Works Employees
Dayton Contemporary Dance
Company Employees
Dayton Metro Library Employees
Dayton Performing Arts Alliance
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MEMORIAL GIFTS

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Rebecca Corson *in Memory of Larry Corson*
Mary Kay Feller *in Memory of Alta B. Droste*
John F. Emery *in Memory of Kathleen Emery*
Gordon & Darlene Walbroehl *in Memory of Isabel Entrikin*
Rolland & Kathleen Hall *in Memory of Richard Hall*

Barb Kuhns *in Memory of Ed & Marge Kuhns*
Lynn Wurzelbacher
in Memory of Tom Wurzelbacher

HONORARY GIFTS

Jane A. Dunwoodie *in Honor of Bing Davis*
Denise Hockey *in Honor of Dorothy Hockey*
Renate Frydman *in Honor of Out of the Attic*

IN-KIND GIFTS

Arlt & Company
BLC Entertainment, LLC
CareSource
Cox First Media
Crowdpurr
Dayton Magazine
Ernst Concrete
iHeart Media
Messer Construction
Montgomery County Parking Services
Diane Schoeffler-Warren
Springfield Balloons LTD., DBA Balloon Dog Events

Financial Snapshot

Financial Activity for Culture Works beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024. *Numbers are not audited

REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT

Campaign for the Arts	
<i>Without Donor Restrictions</i>	\$110,888.00
<i>With Donor Restrictions</i>	\$278,144.00
Community Engagement and Restricted Grants	\$182,861.00
Operating Support	\$374,549.00
In-Kind Contributions	\$ 92,716.00
Distributions from Trusts & Investment Returns	\$ 61,235.00
Other Nonoperational Income (excludes CWE)	\$270,297.00
TOTAL	\$1,370,690.00

EXPENSES

Grants to Organizations and Individual Artists	\$614,762.00
Scholarships	\$ 24,000.00
Program Services	\$511,416.00
<i>Community Impact Programming</i>	
<i>Community Engagement, Arts Awareness,</i>	
<i>& Advocacy</i>	
Fundraising	\$ 84,856.00
Operations & Administration	\$114,686.00
TOTAL	\$1,349,720.00

Thank You

Thank you to our major corporate, foundation and workplace giving Sponsors:





Art Credit: Julie Riley