



GIFT

SHOP

6546

BLACK
LIVES
MATTER

hello and welcome

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

What does it mean to be welcoming?

In 2022, we spent a lot of time exploring this important question. As our OF/BY/FOR ALL change process to advance equity reinforced, we know that being welcoming is much more than being friendly. Truly welcoming places have intentional, inclusive policies and practices that enable everyone to contribute fully and thrive.

We believe that our communities are enriched when voices representing all people are respected, heard and exhibited. The arts are all around us and inside every one of us.

At Kennedy Heights Arts Center, we collaborate with diverse artists to create welcoming spaces and inviting experiences for area residents through innovative exhibitions, artist residencies, performances, arts education programs and more.

In this Annual Report, we share stories about the impact of these collaborations and how your support is uplifting and enriching the lives of many.

Together, we build a more inclusive world.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature of Ellen Muse in purple ink.

Ellen Muse
Executive Director

MISSION

To enhance the life of our surrounding community through arts and cultural experiences that embrace diversity, foster creativity, and build community

OUR IMPACT

1 NEW EDITION

of teen-created
Tellus Zine



20 NEW WORKS

commissioned by
BIPOC artists

9 ART EXHIBITIONS



355 CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS



28 SUMMER CAMPS

100%

of programs FREE
or sliding scale

7470 PEOPLE SERVED

388

HOURS OF ART
integration
in schools

HELLO AND WELCOME



Photo by Will Jones

Since its founding, Kennedy Heights Arts Center has endeavored to be a place for everyone. Yet, we realize that too often arts institutions are associated with privilege and exclusion. Creating truly welcoming and inclusive cultural experiences goes beyond removing financial barriers to participation.

In 2022, we set out to make the idea of “welcome” tangible. We partnered with local Black artists to create spaces at the arts center that are unequivocally welcoming and deeply inviting for our diverse neighbors. Artists collaborated with residents to create vibrant outdoor art installations and curated a series of Community Days attended by more than 750 people on the 4th Saturday of each month.

We transformed our building façade with large-scale photos of people of Kennedy Heights with Will Jones; created beautiful and comfy gathering spaces on the front porch with Jennifer Cox; painted a colorful streetscape mural with Adoria Maxberry, Ke'Monte Figgs and Brent Billingsley; and adorned picnic tables and yard signs with inspiring messages with Lance Johnson.

We filled our campus with color, but more than that, it was filled with a sense of joy and togetherness not often experienced.

100% of participants surveyed reported feeling a sense of belonging. As one resident said, “The people and atmosphere are so welcoming... I am literally overwhelmed with joy every time we go (to KHAC)!”

VOICES OF FREEDOM

Solicit Colour by Dave McClinton



Kennedy Heights Arts Center was excited to once again partner with Juneteenth Cincinnati on a month-long, visual and performing arts series that examines Black history from a contemporary perspective.

“The collaboration between Juneteenth and KHAC allows us both to extend our impact, bringing together diverse audiences and celebrating Black cultural expression,” said KHAC executive director Ellen Muse.

The 2nd Annual Voices of Freedom explored the promise and reality of

“freedom” as experienced by those whose lives and destinies were touched by emancipation. The centerpiece of the project was an exhibition of new works by ten artists and ten poets, curated by Michael Coppage (visual art) and MoPoetry Phillips (poetry), as well as three sold-out music, dance and theatre performances featuring Jazz Renaissance, Deondra Means, Heavenly Doves, Cincinnati Metro Dance, Romel Sims and Ollica Spaulding.

“The (project) highlights the voices of artists, both emerging and established, whose individual practices address the human condition in regard to Black narratives and experiences. Each individual work is personal but should be seen as part of a larger collective diasporic voice,” remarked Coppage. “Through their lens we offer compelling stories, unearth truths, and define what the current state of liberation is, should be and could be.”



Ellen Muse and Juneteenth President Lydia Morgan.

Photo by Will Jones.

ART EXHIBITIONS SPARK DIALOGUE



Photo by Will Jones

Looking back on our 2022 season, it is clear that art has an amazing ability to spark dialogue.

Photographer Tina Gutierrez's Coronavirus Wearable Art Response Project showed how our community navigated the Covid pandemic through portraits of people wearing self-created costumes that expressed how they felt about the coronavirus, quarantine, and social distancing.

"For many, Covid-19 led to isolation and loneliness. For me, this work is about embracing rather than resisting sadness, loss and discomfort using the creative process. This time challenges us all, and the act of creating art as a response can be a healing act," remarked Gutierrez.

Saad Ghosn of SOS Art curated an amazing collection of artworks from the Czech Republic. *Voices from Czechia* was the third biennial exhibit featuring printmakers from different countries who use art to reflect on their culture, beliefs,

and social problems they face. "Sharing the art of international printmakers contributes to cultural exchange and illustrates the power of the artist's voice for a better world," remarked Ghosn.

Examining humans' contribution to climate change, *What's Left Behind* explored how what we consume, what we collect, and what we discard affects the environment we live in and our lives. Photographs by 40 local artists helped us consider what record we are leaving behind for future generations.

These exhibitions encouraged important conversations about social issues of our time, and allowed us all to take a deeper look at our world. We can only strive to improve our lives and the lives of others by examining our beliefs, asking difficult questions, and discussing it together.

Luckily, artwork can help us do just that.

JAZZ STUDENTS PERFORM IN NYC AND BARCELONA



This year saw tremendous growth in our after-school jazz academy at KHAC in partnership with Cincinnati Public Schools.

Launched in 2018, Youth Jazz Cincinnati (YJC) inspires economically and racially diverse students to develop their creative ability and confidence through the dynamic music of jazz. Participants come from 22 different Cincinnati Public Schools in grades 4-12, and over 70% qualify for the free lunch program. All students receive a free instrument, transportation and meals; and participate in weekly individual music lessons and ensemble rehearsals led by professional jazz artists, all at no cost--an incredibly rare opportunity for any student, let alone those most marginalized.

With support from Impact 100, Activities Beyond the Classroom, the Mayerson Foundation and Albert Harris, YJC expanded to five days a week, participation climbed to 120 students, and our young musicians shined in performances both near and far.

In Cincinnati... All YJC students performed at the Aronoff Center for the Arts in the CPS International Jazz Festival in May, including four days of master classes with renowned jazz artists from around the world and an evening concert with guest artists.

In the US... Our junior high combo students traveled to Pittsburgh and New York City in June for a recording session at the world-class Manchester Craftsmen's Guild studios, a performance at the Harlem Jazz Club, and master classes at Jazz at Lincoln Center.

And the world... The older elementary combo group traveled to Barcelona, Spain in September to perform at the JAZZING International Festival and collaborate with the St. Andreu Jazz Academy.

From beginners to the world stage, these young musicians are learning they can aspire to and accomplish great things.

VOLUNTEER AWARD: THE KENNEDY COLLECTIVE



Photo by Will Jones

If you've attended events at Kennedy Heights Arts Center, or dropped by on any given day, chances are you encountered a member of the Kennedy Collective.

This group of 40+ local artists commit to volunteer service as part of their membership in the creative community. Members contribute more than 200 hours annually leading activities at community events, assisting in the art shop, organizing and installing exhibitions, working in the office, and more.

In 2022, members took on a special project to create a "book nook" at Talbert House's Passages residential program for teen girls, where KHAC has offered an art therapy class for many years. The students love the weekly art class, but were asking for opportunities to do creative art making

on their own between visits. Passages art instructor (and Collective member) Lynne Gibb shared this with the group and they sprang into action.

Collaborating with Passages staff, Collective members contributed more than \$2,000 and worked together to create a welcoming, healing space for the girls to explore and express their creativity. Artist James Tanner and the students collaboratively painted an inspiring mural; comfy chairs and bright furnishings were purchased; a library of books donated; and individual art supply kits were provided for every student.

"(The space helps me remember that) I'm worthy of moving on and healing," said one of the Passages residents. "Today me, isn't tomorrow me".

2023 KENNEDY AWARD: BETH MUETHING



“Leave no trace” was one of Beth Muething’s mottos. The Pleasant Ridge resident and mother of four believed in having the smallest ecological footprint possible.

So when she visited a creative reuse center in Portland her first thought was how to create something similar in Cincinnati. She came home and gathered a team of local residents, and Kennedy Heights Arts Center as fiscal sponsor, to dream and plan.

Beth wrote grants, scouted for sites, recruited volunteers, made presentations to community groups and funders, painted the walls, and laid the floor... literally and figuratively.

The result was Scrap It Up, a volunteer-run nonprofit that promotes sustainability and creativity by keeping usable materials out of the waste stream and putting them into the hands of creators. Community members visit the store on Ridge Road to purchase yarn, fabric, paints, and any number of other supplies for creative pursuits for just pennies a pound.

Since 2017, Scrap It Up has diverted more than 137,817 pounds of materials from the landfill and provided low-cost creative resources for thousands—from students to teachers to a quilter who uses the fabric to make blankets for sick kids. 100 percent of the net proceeds are donated back to arts and green community organizations.

Sadly, Beth passed away in 2022 after a battle with pancreatic cancer, but her legacy continues to enrich our community and generations to come.

“Beth cared deeply for her family, her community, the earth, and our scrappy little endeavor,” remarked fellow volunteer Mindy Burger. “She was a bright, kind, innovative, and humble leader who was passionate about making the world around her a better place.”

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS

Includes contributions of \$100 and more received between
January 1 - December 31, 2022.

CHAMPIONS

Activities Beyond
the Classroom
ArtsWave
Cincinnati Public Schools
Albert Harris
Impact 100, Inc.
Ohio Arts Council
Ohio Department
of Education

BENEFACTORS

Ruth J and Robert A
Conway Foundation
Charles H. Dater
Foundation
FotoFocus
Marlene and Bill Muse
National Endowment for
the Arts

SUSTAINERS

Cynthia Barr
Tom and Mary Clare
Brennan
Mimi Gingold and
Al Gerhardstein
Craig and Lucy Joffe
Richard Ladrick, RSL
Commercial Architecture
Jim Muething
Jim and Patti Rulli
Thomas Schiff
Anne Schoelwer and
Stephen Lavelle

PARTNERS

Heather Rae Byer
Margaret and Joseph
Conway
William and Paula Cordes
Clyde N. Day Foundation
Linda Fabe
Lynne Gibb
Greater Cincinnati
Foundation

David Gruber and
Esperanza Tovar
Mike and Fran Harmon
Duane Holm
Chris and Mary Ray

PATRONS

Jan and Gerald Checco
Lynn and Michael
Conaway
John and Jenny Dorich
Lynne George
Susan Glazer
Donald Gruber
Guardian Savings Bank
Rhonda Holyfield-
Mangieri
Kate Kern and
Pat MacVeigh
Kathleen Kraemer
Rex VanAlstine and
Duane Lewis
Amy Muse and
Doug Phillips
National TTT Society Ohio
Laura Porter
Marianne R. Rowe
Calista Smith
Susan Wade-Murphy
Ruth Anne Wolfe and
Andrew Jewell

FRIENDS

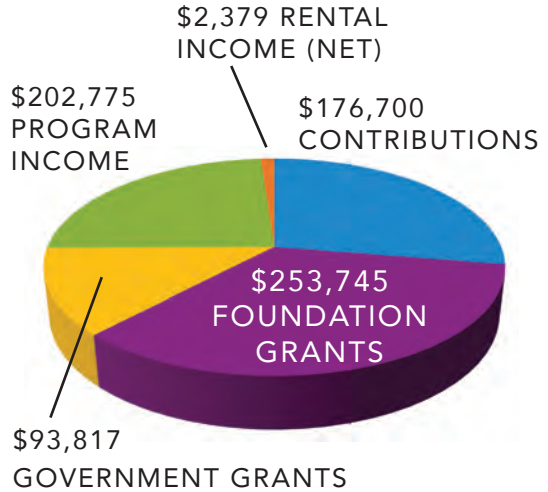
James and Rachel
Anderson
Ryan and Lisa Andrews
John and Jean Bange
Jody Barkley
Meredith Barrett
Bill and Janet Berger
William and Mary Bolton
Charles and Jeanette
Bronson
Christie L. Brown
Mary Ann Buchino

Mary Ann Butkovich
Kate and Kevin Clarisey
Cedric Cox
Tom and Barb Daugherty
Kenneth and Johnie Davis
Jeffrey Dey
Dorothy Fraembs
BJ Gardner
Mike and Sharon Garry
Vicky and Tim Garry, Jr.
Steve and Lin Grieser
Brian Gruber
Judith Harmony
Datha Harrison and
Lisa Butler
Marcia Hartsock
Mary Hennigan
Bob and Marilyn Herring
Anita Hisle
Richard and Barbara
Homlar
Steve and Nancy Hurst
Noel Julnes-Dehner and
Joe Dehner
Bobbie and Sandy Kalman
Harriet and Ben Kaufman
Ann and Jon Keeling
Tom Kinsel
David Knutson
Maria Kreppel
Peggy Landes
Marjorie P. Lee Chapel
Fund
Monica Lira
Michael Maloney
Anne Marciniak
Sharon McCreary
Joanie Medert
Patty Muhleman
Lawrence and
Barbara Murray
Barbara Neumann
Patti and Doug Newberry
Mary Nicolay
Shawn and Marilyn Nolan

DONORS! FINANCIAL SUMMARY

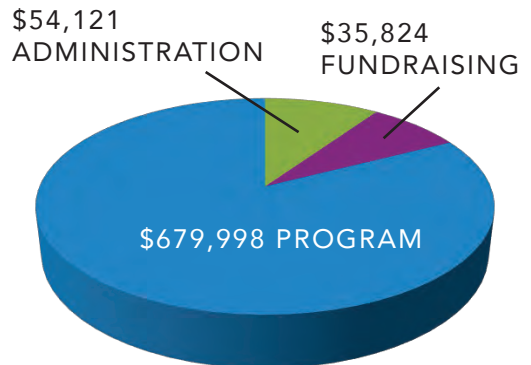
Mary Odwyer
Paul Debono and Donita Parrish
Mark Patsfall
Jane and Charles Patty
Audrey Pettengill
Daniel Pfahl
Ben Pipkin
Sue and Bob Ramsay
Dave and Colleen Rettig
Herb Robinson
Catharine B Saelinger
Rina Saperstein
Kimberly and Kenneth Schon
Christine Schumacher and Hal Hess
Andrew and Sally Shott
Lise and Kevin Sigward
David Smith and Debora Liberi
Victoria and David Smith
Sue Ann Spears
Jane T. Stanton
Carole Staples
Harry and Susan Stebbins
Mike and Barbara Streff
Bruce Strickland
Emilie Sulkes
Rhonda and Jerome Tepe
Shirley VanAbbema
Jacky and Raul Villar
Edna M. Walker
Matthew and Elizabeth Wallbrown
Todd and Mary Washburn
Jeffrey and Joan Weidner
Ericka Wiebe
Joe and Ann Wilmers

INCOME:



*Includes COVID relief funding from the American Rescue Plan

EXPENSES:



Total Income: \$729,416

Total Expense: \$769,943



KHAC STAFF

(left to right)

- Sarah Rodriguez, Director of Education
- Clare Miller, Program and Events Manager
- Shawndale Thomas, After School Program Coordinator
- Mallory Feltz, Director of Exhibitions
- Ellen Muse, Executive Director
- Quentin Coleman, Youth Jazz Program Assistant

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Donita Parrish, President | William Jones |
| Spencer Mapes, Vice President | David Gruber |
| Robert Ramsay, Treasurer | Tamara Lang |
| Amber Hurak, Secretary | Audrey Pettengill |
| Lisa Andrews | Lise Sigward |

DONATE

When you give to Kennedy Heights Arts Center, you help create a more vibrant and connected community. Your support ensures that our programs are accessible to everyone no matter their circumstance. Give today at kennedyarts.org.

Annual Operating Support Provided By

