



Small Arts Organizations

The arts create jobs, increase the local tax base, boost tourism and improve the overall quality of life in our region. Small arts organizations enrich the cultural life of the community, often undertaking artistic endeavors and pursuing artistic goals not addressed by larger organizations. Small arts organizations rely on earned income to support their programming, as do the majority of all arts organizations, but due to their size, unearned income from fundraising and donations is especially critical to their survival. They are especially challenged in an environment in which state arts budgets have experienced cuts as high as 80% since 2003. The longevity of many of the organizations featured below is an indication that the community finds these small arts organizations to be an important part of the local cultural fabric.

The following organizations have been reviewed by The Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF) in the recent past.

ArtWorks

Established in 1996, ArtWorks connects artists of all ages with opportunities in the arts through apprenticeships, community partnerships and public art. Major programs include the summer and after-school youth employment program, which reaches 100-150 teens (Apprentice Artists) and ten-15 professional artists (Teaching Artists) each year; public art projects, such as the Big Pig Gig and Bats Incredible; and the Time Warner Cable Gallery, an exhibition space in downtown Cincinnati. During the summer of 2007, ArtWorks launched their

(CONTINUED ON INSIDE)

What can you do?

This is a small sample of small arts organizations GCF has recently supported. If you would like to contribute to one or more of these organizations or want more information please contact a member of our Giving Strategies Group at (513) 241-2880.



newest initiative, the MuralWorks project, which will ultimately result in the creation of a community mural in each of Cincinnati's 52 neighborhoods. In its 10-plus year history, ArtWorks has won several awards including two Post-Corbett Awards and a Community Impact Award from the American Marketing Association.

www.artworkscincinnati.com

Carnegie Visual and Performing Arts Center

Established in 1972, The Carnegie utilizes its historic building in Covington to provide a venue for emerging and established artists to create, perform and exhibit; provides educational opportunities for the discovery and enhancement of creativity; and celebrates the arts. Each year nearly 30,000 individuals attend an exhibit in one of The Carnegie's five galleries or a performance at its recently restored theater. More than 2,500 youth participate each year in The Carnegie's education programs. The Carnegie received the Kentucky Governor's Award in the Arts for Education in 2004 and the Post-Corbett Award for Arts Organizations in 2003.

www.thecarnegie.com

Children's Theatre

Established in 1947, The Children's Theatre introduces young audiences in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana to the performing arts through professional productions that educate and entertain. The Children's Theatre offers a four-production Main Series season, three-school outreach programs, and two age-appropriate arts training and enrichment programs to nearly 100,000 children each season.

www.thechildrenstheatre.com

Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra

Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra (CCO) was established in 1974 with the mission of performing music that is not generally heard when attending concerts presented by larger orchestras and thereby offering a distinctive musical experience to the listener. Programming includes the Sunday Masterworks Series, featuring classical standards; the Musical Explorations Series, featuring a blend of musical performance and instruction; an educational outreach program for schools; and a community engagement series that brings the CCO to various venues around the Cincinnati area. Approximately 4,400 individuals attend CCO programs each season.

www.ccocincinnati.com

Cincinnati Shakespeare Company

Established in 1993, Cincinnati Shakespeare Company (CSC) is a resident ensemble theatre company bringing Shakespeare and the classics to life for audiences of all ages. CSC produces seven professional Main Stage productions each season, with an average season attendance of 14,000 individuals. CSC also offers several education programs, serving nearly 14,000 youth each year. Programs include a two-hour long touring production, weekday matinees of Main Stage productions, classroom workshops and summer camp programs. CSC was one of the first associate members of the Fine Arts Fund.

www.cincyshakes.com

Contemporary Dance Theatre

Contemporary Dance Theatre (CDT) was established in 1972 with the mission of connecting the community through diverse and socially relevant dance and performance art. CDT presents seven to nine sponsored events each season, as well as several co-sponsored events. CDT also provides a variety of classes, workshops, and rehearsals, and through its home facility, the College Hill Town Hall, provides basic administrative support to individual artists at minimal cost. CDT is a member of the National Performance Network, whose members are dedicated to presenting innovative and challenging performance work.

www.cdt-dance.org

Elementz: Hip Hop Youth Arts Center

Elementz: Hip Hop Youth Arts Center is the central program of the nonprofit organization Control. Elementz opened its doors in February 2005. Each Tuesday and Thursday night (5-10 p.m.) it serves approximately 90 youth ages 14 - 24. Elementz offers classes in music production, hip hop dance, graffiti art, and other topics of interest to the youth. Elementz is located at the corner of Central Parkway and Liberty, easily accessible to the many youth that live in or frequent Over-the-Rhine and the West End. Ninety percent of the youth attending activities at Elementz report that they do not attend any other youth-serving program or organization.

Elementz director, Gavin Leonard, was awarded the Jacob E. Davis Volunteer Leadership award in the Arts & Culture category by GCF in 2005.

www.natiyouthcenter.org

Enjoy the Arts

Enjoy the Arts (ETA) was established in 1980 with the mission of connecting audiences to the arts. While ETA focuses primarily on full-time students and individuals 30 and younger, programs are also available for individuals of any age. ETA works to connect individuals to 28 local arts organizations through membership programs offering free and discounted tickets, special events, “behind the scenes” opportunities, and volunteer opportunities. ETA also developed and maintains the website www.cincinnatiArts.com, which includes comprehensive scheduling and ticketing information for the local arts community.

www.etastart.com

Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati

Established in 1986, Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati (ETC) is a professional Equity theatre dedicated to the production and development of new works and works new to the region. Major programs include the Premiere Series, six new works by promising and award-winning contemporary theatre playwrights; Prelude Program, which helps students develop plays based on their lives; and the Fairy Godmother Program, which each season enables 1,200 area children to attend ETC’s family-oriented musicals free; as well as educational outreach, community performances, and an internship program for young theatre artists. In November 2005, ETC was awarded the Post-Corbett Award for Outstanding Arts Organization.

www.cincyetc.com

Know Theatre

Know Theatre was established in 1997. Its mission is to engage a diverse audience making theatre more accessible for all. Know Theatre's primary programs include a six-production performance season (total audience of approximately 5,000 per season) and the Know-To-Go Education Series (total audience of approximately 4,000 students per year). Know Theatre recently purchased and renovated a building on Jackson Street, helping to provide another anchor in an emerging arts district along with the nearby Ensemble Theater and Art Academy. Know Theatre has received several awards for its productions, including the 2003 Post Corbett Award for Extraordinary Events in the Arts and the 2005 Enquirer's Acclaim Awards - Award for Direction.

www.knowtheatre.com

Madcap Productions Puppet Theatre

Madcap Production Puppet Theatre was established in 1981 with the mission of creating the highest quality of live puppet theatre entertainment and education for children. Madcap performs nearly 1,200 shows each season with its giant, engaging puppets, reaching more than 500,000 children in 20 states. It has been recognized for excellence both locally and nationally, including the Champions for Children award from 4C for Children and recognition from the National PTA for contributing to the quality of life of children in schools around the country.

www.madcappuppets.com

MUSE: Cincinnati Women's Choir

Established in 1984, MUSE: Cincinnati Women's Choir is a 60-member women's choir dedicated to musical excellence and social change. The organization is committed to diversity in membership, programming and audience. MUSE performs in approximately 30 venues annually and is highly regarded nationally as well as in the Greater Cincinnati area.

www.musechoir.org