

## Member Spotlight:

ArtsWave

Kate Kennedy

Chief Operating Officer



### Tell me a little about your agency, yourself, your career, and your current position.



Kate Kennedy

*ArtsWave is the engine for Greater Cincinnati's arts. Through gifts from tens of thousands of individuals and companies each year, ArtsWave funds and supports 100+ arts projects and organizations through impact-based grants. Those projects and organizations create a wave of arts that connect our region and make it vibrant.*

*Kate Kennedy became Chief Operating Officer at ArtsWave in 2018. A seasoned fundraiser, Kate joined ArtsWave in 2012 and has held the roles of senior director, director, and manager with a focus on multiple areas, including philanthropy, business analytics, individual and leadership giving and campaign management. Prior to ArtsWave, Kate held roles at United Way of Greater Cincinnati, Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago, Greater Hartford Arts Council, United Way of Central Indiana, and Indianapolis Opera.*

### How long have you been a LC member and what prompted you to join?

*ArtsWave joined Leadership Council this summer.*

### How has membership in Leadership Council been of value to you?

*Over the years I have enjoyed various programs presented by the Leadership Council. I decided to make the decision to join as a member so that I could participate in Leaders Circles. I am looking forward to participating in that program and sharing the wide variety of programing offered with the entire ArtsWave team.*

### What is the best leadership advice you have received or given?

*Have fun and celebrate success.*

### Has your agency developed any notable partnerships, initiatives, and/or collaborations with other organizations (for profit or not for profit) to further your agencies work?

*Greater Cincinnati is home to a diverse array of arts organizations, large and small, that bring a unique value, allowing our region to punch above its weight class. We regularly earn high rankings in lists of places to visit, with our arts leading the headlines.*

*But where our arts shine brightest is not in the number of organizations nor patrons. It's the coordination, connections and collaboration that keep each part of our arts ecosystem strong.*

*BLINK®, illuminated by ArtsWave, was created through a host of creative collaborations. The creation of festival happened through collaboration between five organizations: AGAR, Brave Berlin, ArtWorks, the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber and the Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr./U.S. Bank Foundation. The event's kickoff, the Future City Spectacular Parade, resulted from a collaboration spearheaded by ArtWorks that brought together 3,200 individuals from 85 participating groups across the region. That included 19 performance groups, 18 lantern-making groups, 17 floats or kinetic sculptures, 17 costume groups, 7 puppet groups and 7 regional marching bands.*

### Please feel free to share any additional information, announcements, or news with the Leadership Council community.

*Greater Cincinnati arts organizations have been devastated by the impacts of COVID-19. Like other business sectors, Greater Cincinnati's Arts sector is a vital part of the economy. The local nonprofit arts sector – comprised of over 200 small businesses – has an economic impact of more than \$300 million annually and employs 10,000+ people. To ensure the solvency and vibrant return of our region's arts assets in the wake of this unprecedented crisis, ArtsWave has launched an Arts Vibrancy Recovery Fund. Learn more and donate at [give.artswave.org/recovery](http://give.artswave.org/recovery).*