



Supporting and Promoting
Artists and the Arts Year-Round

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Summerfair Cincinnati: Supporting and Promoting Artists and the Arts Year-Round

For 40 years Summerfair Cincinnati has been supporting and promoting artists and the arts in Greater Cincinnati. The organization's activities include: 1) supports for individual artists including grants and exhibitions; 2) community-based art activities and events; and 3) a nationally recognized annual fine arts festival.

The effectiveness of Summerfair Cincinnati activities has earned the organization regional and national recognition including: Greater Cincinnati Convention & Visitors Bureau Outstanding Service Award, Southwestern Ohio Art Education Award for Distinguished Organization, American Marketing Association Community Impact Award, the National Association of Independent Artists Artists' Choice Award, and the Post-Corbett Award of Excellence.

Supports for Artists – Grants and Exhibitions

Aid to Individual Artists

Summerfair is the largest non-government source of grants for individual artists in our area. The organization also helps promote artists to the local community through exhibitions, its annual art fair, and smaller community-specific events.

Emerging Artist Exhibition

The Emerging Artist Exhibition offers Greater Cincinnati college art students an opportunity to exhibit with their peers from other area programs and to gain public exposure. Nearly 6,000 people attended the 2006 exhibition showcasing works by 18 college students representing 6 schools.

Scholarships for High School Students

Scholarships for art lessons or a class and related supplies are available to high school sophomores or juniors. In 2006, Summerfair Cincinnati received scholarship applications from students in 6 counties in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana. 4 students received scholarships valued at \$250 each.

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Scholastic Art Awards

The Regional Scholastic Art Awards ceremony is held each February in downtown Cincinnati. Each year, five “Best of Show” as well as 75 individual category pieces and 36 portfolios are selected from thousands of regional entries to be sent to New York for the national competition. Of the 36 portfolios sent to New York in 2005, 15 students received over \$540,000 in scholarships to study art in college. Summerfair provides sole funding for the competition in this region.

Community Art Programs

Community-Inspired Art Programs

Each year, Summerfair Cincinnati works with representatives from individual Greater Cincinnati communities to develop art programs or events specific to their interests and needs. In 2006, Summerfair Cincinnati partnered with Price Hill WILL! to create an exhibition of photographs exploring the concept of community. The exhibition included images by Price Hill resident and professional photographer Brad Austin Smith as well as those by students from Price Hill’s five high schools.

Grants for Small Arts Organizations

Summerfair Cincinnati’s Grants for Small Arts Organizations help to increase opportunities for arts experiences for all members of our community regardless of age, ability, income, or location. Criteria for consideration of funding requests include: quality of the art produced, diversity and number of people benefiting, innovative qualities, and potential for attracting a new audience for the arts. Eleven visual and performing arts organizations received grants in 2006.

Summerfair: The Fair

Since its development in 1967, Summerfair has become a nationally recognized event featuring more than 400 visual and performing artists. During the last decade it has consistently been identified as one of the 200 best shows in the United States by Sunshine Artist magazine and has received three Artists’ Choice Awards from the National Association of Independent Artists.

Execution of the Festival depends upon the enthusiasm, cooperation and dedication of 400+ volunteers representing 8 counties in Ohio, Northern Kentucky and Southeast Indiana.

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