

Ohio Arts Council,

This letter is in support of Keep Cincinnati Beautiful's application for the ArtSTART Grant. This letter has been approved by the Over-The-Rhine Community Council Board of Trustees and will go before the full membership at the March 26th meeting. Keep Cincinnati Beautiful has been actively involved in helping to restore communities throughout the fifty-two neighbors that make up Cincinnati. They have partnered with a variety of community organizations to increase safety and reduce blight, graffiti and trash. The ArtsSTART grant provides Keep Cincinnati Beautiful flexible funding to complete short term projects and address their goals and objectives.

This year they are hoping to secure funding for Future Blooms, Building Revitalization Project (the painted windows and doors!). Listed below is a brief description of the work they have completed and a summary of the impact of that work.

- 1068 vacant buildings painted with trompe l'oeil representations of facades
- 9% decrease in crime in target areas
- 22% decrease in blight in target areas
- 39% increase in economic development in target areas
- 1800+ volunteers engaged in art making since 2009
- 18 neighborhoods impacted
- <http://www.keepcincinnatibeautiful.org/programs/arts/>

We urge that you approve their application for the ArtSTART Grant.

Respectfully,

Robert Sehlhorst
Chairman of OTR CC Public Services and Safety Committee