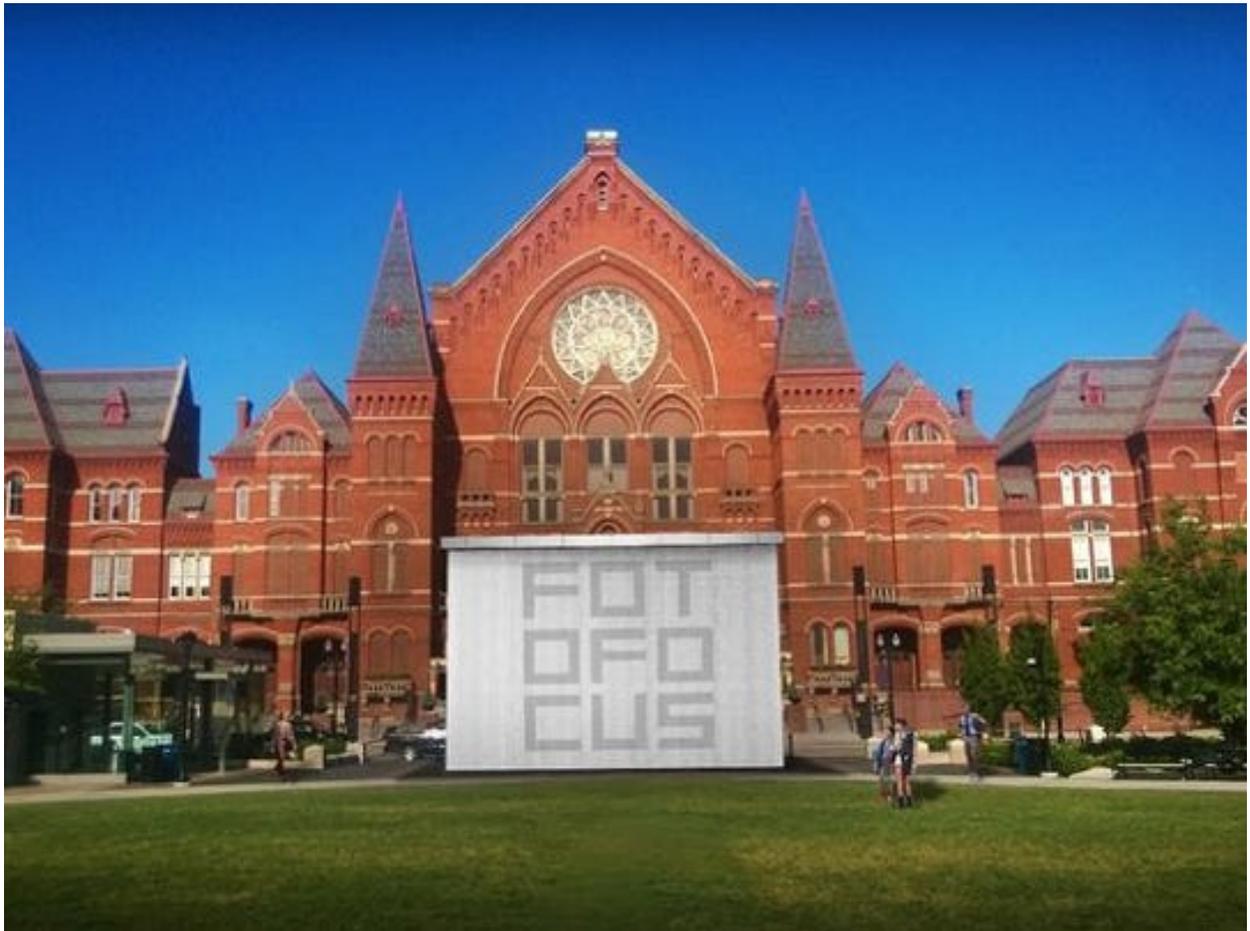


FotoFocus cancels 2020 event, grants \$800K to Greater Cincinnati arts organizations

[Briana Rice](#), Cincinnati Enquirer Published 11:57 a.m. ET April 28, 2020 | Updated 12:14 p.m. ET April 28, 2020



An early rendering of FotoGram@ArtHub, a site in Washington Park to view FotoFocus images on Instagram (Photo: Provided)

FotoFocus, a photography and lens-based art nonprofit, has canceled its biennial event and is using the budget to support art in the region during the coronavirus pandemic.

[FotoFocus](#) is America's largest photography biennial, according to a press release. The event was slated for October 2020 but the money intended for the event will instead be used to support art communities in Greater Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky, Dayton and Columbus during the pandemic.

FotoFocus will immediately grant \$800,000 to over 100 participating venues and partners that were selected as part of the 2020 FotoFocus Biennial. The \$800,000 is inclusive of all grants that would

have originally gone to these venues for biennial programming, plus an additional 10% for each grant in honor of FotoFocus' 10th anniversary, according to a press release.

The venues and partners include:

- Contemporary Arts Center
- Cincinnati Art Museum
- Taft Museum of Art
- Wave Pool
- Weston Art Gallery
- Columbus Museum of Art
- Dayton Art Institute
- The Carnegie

“After many discussions about how we should move forward with this year’s FotoFocus Biennial, we kept coming back to the same conclusion – the best thing we can do to help the arts survive this crisis is reconfigure our grantmaking. We are about to move into our second decade and we need our community with us. We hope this money will help our partners get by at the time they need it most,” said Mary Ellen Goeke, FotoFocus executive director, in a press release.

FotoFocus will support 15 academic institutions with grants totaling over \$177,000 as part of the pledge including:

- Art Academy of Cincinnati
- Miami University
- University of Cincinnati
- Xavier University
- Columbus College of Art and Design
- Wright State University
- Northern Kentucky University
- Thomas More University

Smaller arts venues that will be supported by the FotoFocus grant include:

- Art Beyond Boundaries in Over-the-Rhine
- Basketshop Gallery in Westwood
- Clay Street Press in Over-the-Rhine
- Kennedy Heights Art Center in Kennedy Heights
- Manifest Gallery in East Walnut Hills
- PAR-Projects in Northside
- Visionaries + Voices in Northside

The next Fotofocus Biennial is scheduled for Oct. 1-8, 2022. It will have a new theme.