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Arts organization seeks funds to relocate to Dayton Arcade

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A leader in the region's contemporary arts scene is seeking new funding to support its move to the Dayton Arcade.

The Contemporary Dayton, formerly known as the Dayton Visual Arts Center, is requesting \$250,000 in funding to relocate to the Dayton Arcade, according to an application submitted through the Dayton Region Priority Development and Advocacy Committee, an initiative led by the Dayton Development Coalition.

For the past 28 years, the organization has attracted audiences through its presentation of art and education, serving as the region's connector to artists through engagement and experiences of contemporary art. These funds will support the relocation of the organization's galleries and operations to the Dayton Arcade, which would allow the organization to serve 30,000 more visitors, hundreds of more Ohio artists, leverage relationships with the University of Dayton and increase revenue overall.

The organization will be the Arcade's arts anchor, connecting historic, academic, technology, innovation and retail entities into the structure's unique creative hub. The total cost of the move is \$1.8 million, with plans to spend the requested funds within the next six to 12 months.

The application notes the move benefits the community in three ways:



OLIVIA BARROW

The Contemporary Dayton is aiming to move to the Dayton Arcade, following its new funding request.

The organization's new space will be an economic driver for the city through hundreds of thousands of tourists and residents who will spend funds on food, drink, entertainment and more services in and around the Arcade.

It will serve as the greater downtown Dayton plan's arts and entertainment focus area, to "ensure a strong arts community to provide a vibrant, diverse and thriving downtown." The space will boost artists' professional opportunities with national and international exhibitions, commissions, sales, awards and more.

The PDAC committee will submit its chosen projects to government officials, who will then decide which projects receive funding. This process is typically completed in April.

This move to the Dayton Arcade is a major development following its rebranding transformation in September 2018. The organization moved away from its brand as the Dayton Visual Arts Center and became The Contemporary Dayton, aligning with its growth as a contemporary arts center over the years. Along with this growth, the organization has maintained its mission of being an exhibition presented featuring regional and national artists' work, according to executive director [Eva Buttacavoli](#).

"We remain committed to presenting local artists to the community just as we always have," she previously told the Dayton Business Journal. "The new brand and name simply reflect the true nature of the art we have been presenting for the last several years. We believe our new name and our new tagline, 'Art that's now,' says it all."

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