



Panel Guide  
2017 Project Support II (PS II) Grant Program Panel Review  
September 2016

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC) would like to thank you for your interest in the Project Support II panel review process. The purpose of this grant program is to promote public access and encourage the breadth of arts and cultural programming in our community by supporting Cuyahoga County-based projects. During the online panel review, arts and cultural experts from across the country (who are educated in CAC's funding criteria) scored applications and provided detailed comments.

## Applicants

AfricaHouse International	Empowering Epilepsy
Artists Archives of the Western Reserve	Encore Chamber Music Institute
ARTneo	Esperanza, Inc.
Arts for All Northeast Ohio	Euclid Beach Park Now
Arts in Strongsville	Euclid Historical Society
Bay Village Community Band	Famicos Foundation
Beachwood Arts Council	Far West Center
Beachwood Historical Society	FiveOne Music, Inc.
Bedford Historical Society	Fred and Laura Ruth Bidwell Foundation
Blue Streak Ensemble	Friend of the East Cleveland Public Library
Brooklyn Heights Service Clubs	Front Steps Housing and Services
Burten, Bell, Carr Development, Inc.	FutureHeights
Campus District, Incorporated	Good Company: a Vocal Ensemble
Carolyn L. Farrell Foundation for Brain Health	Greater Cleveland Media Development Corporation
Case Western Reserve University	Greater Cleveland Sports Commission
Catholic Charities Corporation	Green Triangle
Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District	Harvard Community Services Center
Cesear's Forum	Heights Chamber Orchestra
Chagrin Valley Rec Center	Historical Society of Old Brooklyn
Choral Arts Society of Cleveland	International Community Council
City of Fairview Park Ohio Municipal Foundation	Jamocho Arts Center
Clague Playhouse, Inc.	Judson Services
Cleveland Ballet	Kamm's Corners Development Corporation
Cleveland Blues Society Incorporated	Kiddie City Child Care Community
Cleveland Chamber Collective	Lake Erie Native American Council
Cleveland Chamber Symphony	Lake View Cemetery Foundation
Cleveland City Dance Company	LakewoodAlive, Inc.
Cleveland Composers Guild	Larchmere PorchFest
Cleveland Grays Armory Museum	Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Community Center of Greater Cleveland
Cleveland Inner City Ballet	Lexington Bell Community Center
Cleveland Kids' Book Bank	Literary Cleveland
Cleveland Leadership Center	Little Italy Redevelopment
Cleveland Philharmonic Orchestra	Lylesart
Cleveland Rape Crisis Center	Mamai Theatre Company
Cleveland Rocks: Past, Present and Future	MorrisonDance
Cleveland Shakespeare Festival	Mount Pleasant NOW Development Corporation
Collective Arts Network	Musical Upcoming Stars in the Classics
Coventry Village Special Improvement District	Negative Space Gallery & Studio
Cuyahoga River Community Planning	Negro League Baseball Legends Hall of Fame
Cuyahoga Valley Preservation and Scenic Railway Association	NO EXIT New Music Association
Dancing Classrooms Northeast Ohio	Northeast Ohio Hispanic Center for Economic Development
DJAPO Cultural Arts Institute, Inc.	
Donauschwaben German-American Cultural Center	
Dunham Tavern Museum	

Continued on page 2

## Applicants (Continued)

Ohio City Incorporated	The Gathering Place
Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation	The Harvard Square Center
Playwrights Local 4181	The Hummingbird Project
Reaching Heights	The Parma Area Fine Arts Council, Inc.
Restore Cleveland Hope, Inc.	The Roberto Ocasio Foundation
Rid-All Foundation	Thea Bowman Center
Schuhplattler und Trachtenverein Bavaria	Time Canvas
Shaker Arts Council	UpStage Players
Society for Photographic Education	West Side Catholic Center
South Euclid Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation	Western Reserve Chorale
St. Malachi Center	Western Reserve Fire Museum at Cleveland
Symphony West	Westlake Chinese Culture Association
The Benjamin Rose Institute	Westown Community Development Corporation
The Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation	Woodland Cemetery Foundation of Cleveland, Ohio
The Cleveland Vegan Society	Youth Challenge
	Zeta Omega Scholarship Fund, Inc.

## Panel Review Process

To ensure an impartial and transparent application review process, CAC convened a panel of arts and cultural professionals from outside the region who evaluated and scored eligible applications. Panelists thoroughly reviewed each organization's application and support materials.

New for this year, CAC tested an online only panel process for Project Support II grants. The results of CAC's panel review were made public the week of November 14, 2016, and we encourage our applicants to review the panelists' feedback. Panelist scores and comments were shared with applicants, and posted on CAC's website as a public record and may be used as a learning tool for applicants during the grant period.

CAC staff monitored the online panel review, but did not score or provide opinions on applications. Staff ensured that panelist comments were factual based on the information provided in each application, and that they adhered to the language used in CAC's funding criteria, outlined below.

## Scoring

Panelists scored each application based on the Funding Criteria, with an emphasis on Public Benefit. As a reminder, the three Funding Criteria are as follows:

### Public Benefit

An organization's ability to successfully engage its community through its project.

### Artistic and Cultural Vibrancy

An organization's ability to create a fresh and exciting project.

### Organizational Capacity

An organization's ability to successfully plan for and manage its project.

## Scoring Descriptions

Panelists used the following scoring descriptions when assessing applications, and while leaving their comments about each application during the online panel review.

**Yes:** The applicant provides evidence throughout the application that Funding Criteria are fully met. The applicant's responses and budget are clear, well-articulated and appropriate. The support materials are of high quality, highly relevant and lead to a deeper understanding of the organization.

**Somewhat:** The applicant provides some evidence throughout the application that the Funding Criteria are met. The applicant's responses and budget are sufficient. The support materials are of average quality and relevance.

**No:** The applicant does not provide evidence throughout the application that Funding Criteria are met. The applicant's responses and budget lack detail and/or are hard to understand. The support materials are insufficient and/or of poor quality.

## Final Score and Funding Recommendations

An application that demonstrated that it met each of CAC's three Funding Criteria was recommended for full funding (100%) or partial funding (a minimum of 75% of request amount) based on the outcome of the panel's evaluation of each application. If the panel determined that an applicant had not provided evidence that Funding Criteria were met, the organization did not receive funding.

One of CAC's intents for this grant program was to fund as many applications as possible, while still being good stewards of public funds. For applications that received 3 or more "no" scores from panelists, no funding was recommended. For applications that received a majority of "yes" or "somewhat" scores from panelists, funding was recommended. A higher standard was set for full funding (4 out of 5, or 5 out of 6 "yes" scores), others received partial funding. This resulted in 58 applications with full funding, 54 with partial funding and 4 with no funding.

CAC staff notified all applicants via email the week of October 10, 2016, of their final score and whether or not they were recommended for funding. Panel scores and grant amounts were confirmed at CAC's Board meeting on Monday, November 14, 2016 at 4 pm at the Mandel Jewish Community Center, 26001 South Woodland Road, Beachwood, OH 44122. The week following the Board meeting, all panelist comments and scores were made available to applicants and posted to the CAC website.

## Panelists for 2017 Project Support II Panel Review

Panelists play a pivotal role in Cuyahoga Arts & Culture's grantmaking process, serving as the independent group of outside experts that review and evaluate all applications. Staff devoted substantial time to secure a diverse and reputable roster of panelists. \*\*denotes previous service as a Cuyahoga Arts & Culture panelist



Rebecca Berrios (Nashville, TN)

Rebecca Berrios is the director of community engagement for the Metro Nashville Arts Commission (Metro Arts). She leads various initiatives to expand equity and support the arts in Nashville including Metro Arts' \$2.2 million grants program; THRIVE, a neighborhood focused funding program that encourages professional development and community participation in the arts; Artober Nashville, a citywide month long celebration of arts and culture; and the Racial Equity & Arts Leadership (REAL) program. With nearly 20 years of experience as an arts administrator, she has specialized in community relations, marketing, event-planning and program management in the nonprofit, higher education and government sectors, including positions at the Watkins College of Art, Design & Film and the Percussive Arts Society. Rebecca earned her bachelor of arts in political science and government from Cameron University.



Leah Bowe (St. Paul, MN)

Leah Bowe is the collections mediator for the State Historic Preservation Office at Minnesota Historical Society (MHS), as well as the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) coordinator for the Collections Department at the same agency. Leah's expertise is the art and cultures of Native America. Her work with MHS involves protecting culturally sensitive objects and remains of any origin in collections across the state. She is a regarded researcher, specializing in the art of the late Mississippian, Colonial, Modern Southeast and Great Lakes region and is the author of an extensively-used teacher's manual of K-12 instructional best practices for teaching youth about the art history of the Native American Southeast. Leah's academic training is in the fields of Native American art and museum law.



Ernest Disney-Britton \*\* (Indianapolis, IN)

Ernest Disney-Britton is the director for grant services at the Arts Council of Indianapolis. Ernest manages the annual grant program for arts organizations, as well as the Creative Renewal Arts Fellowship and Robert D. Beckmann Jr. Emerging Artist Fellowship programs. He previously held several positions over ten years' time at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. Ernest serves as a support mechanism for arts organizations and individuals who apply for grant and fellowship funding through the Arts Council. Additionally, he works to raise the visibility of the Arts Council's work and the work of the arts organizations and artists of Greater Indianapolis. Ernest received his bachelor's of art degree in arts management and master's degree in communications from Eastern Michigan University.



Andrew Goldberg (Miami, FL)

Andrew Goldberg is the vice president for marketing at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County. Andrew oversees all marketing, communication, and ticket sales efforts for the Center, including more than 90 titles spanning more than 400 events annually, including signature series Broadway in Miami, Jazz Roots, Flamenco Festival, Theater Up Close, Knight Masterworks Classical Music Series, plus several nights of comedy, pop, world music, and more. Previous companies include Florida Grand Opera, Brooklyn Philharmonic, Lyric Opera of Chicago, and the Ravinia Festival. Andrew has a degree in music composition from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana and is the immediate past chair of the national consortium for performing arts center marketing directors.



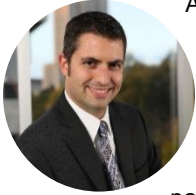
Ruby Lopez Harper\*\* (Washington, DC)

Ruby Lopez Harper is the director of local arts services for Americans for the Arts (AFTA), where she works with 4,500 local arts agencies to create healthy, vibrant and equitable communities through the arts. Prior to joining AFTA, Ruby served as director of grants and services at the Greater Columbus Arts Council. Ruby is a past American for the Arts Next Generation Leader fellow and serves on the Grantmakers in the Arts "Support for Individual Artists" steering committee. She is a past member of the Emerging Leaders Council for the AFTA, as well a board member of or advisory to a variety of theater and arts organizations in central Ohio (Wild Goose Creative, Little Theatre Off Broadway, Ohio Community Theatre Association and Emerald City Players). She is a transplant from California, where she taught tap, jazz, ballet and hip-hop dance classes and created award-winning choreography for musical theatre productions. She is a frequent grant panelist (Ohio Arts Council, Kentucky Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts). Ruby has an associate degree from Cerritos College, a certificate in corporate community involvement from Boston College, is a trained meeting facilitator and a Certified Tourism Ambassador.



Trey Hartt \*\* (Richmond, VA)

Trey Hartt is the resource development manager at ART 180, a youth arts nonprofit, where he manages fundraising, volunteers, events and communications. Trey has experience in the traditional development role as well as arts advocacy, grassroots organizing, and using art as a tool for social change. Currently, he is on the board of directors of The Conciliation Project and is an executive committee member of Alternate ROOTS, a regional organization that supports the creation and presentation of original art to eliminate oppression. Trey received his bachelor's of fine arts in theatre performance at Virginia Commonwealth University, and he started on a master's of fine arts in theatre pedagogy until realizing he was more interested in creating theatre than teaching it.



Al Jacobsen (Pittsburgh, PA)

Al Jacobsen is the director of corporate support at the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (PSO) & Heinz Hall for the Performing Arts where he is responsible for all corporate fundraising initiatives. Additionally, Al is the primary fundraiser for all PSO touring activities which have included performances in Europe and New York City in recent years. His prior experience includes positions at the Westchester (NY) Philharmonic and the Anderson Center for the Performing Arts in Binghamton, NY. As a member of the League of American Orchestras, Al has been a finalist for the League's Orchestra Management Fellowship Program and participated in the Essentials of Orchestra Management seminar. In addition to his professional activities, Al is an amateur French horn musician and has held roster positions at several community orchestras in New York and Pennsylvania. Al holds a bachelor of arts in music and a bachelor of science in management from Binghamton University (SUNY). He also holds an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh's Katz Graduate School of Business.



Grace Kewl-Durfey \*\* (Fort Lauderdale, FL)

Grace Kewl-Durfey is an arts administrator with the Broward County Cultural Division, providing leadership in arts education, advocacy, grants and partnerships. Grace has public/nonprofit sector background in arts and culture, community and neighborhood development, and nonprofit organizational management. Grace is also founder of Creative Pulse, Inc., a volunteer organization that contributes to the socioeconomic transformation of at-risk and underserved individuals and neighborhoods. She serves as secretary of The Association of American Cultures, a national arts service organization dedicated to cultural democracy, equal participation and equity in funding and leadership; and is an adjunct faculty member of UMass Amherst College of Humanities and Fine Arts, Arts Extension Service. Grace holds a master's degree in public administration from Nova Southeastern University and a bachelor's degree in community studies from Union Institute and University.



Shin Yu Pai (Seattle, WA)

Shin Yu Pai is Philanthropy Northwest's special initiatives manager, where she leads the Catalyst Fellowship program and co-manages the Momentum Fellowship. Prior to joining her current role, Shin Yu served as the managing director of the Hendrix-Murphy Foundation, a funder devoted to language and literary arts. She has worked in the nonprofit, museum, arts and higher education sectors and as a writer for newspapers and ethnic media publications. In her spare time, she curates programs for performing arts venue On The Boards as one of its ambassadors. She currently serves as consultant to the City of Redmond as their Poet Laureate. She holds a master's in museology from the University of Washington and an M.F.A. from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She is the author of several award-winning books of poetry.



Miguel Rodriguez \*\* (Boston, MA)

Miguel Rodriguez is the executive director of Boston Baroque. He has spent more than 16 years working to advance several cultural institutions in Massachusetts. His prior experience includes positions with the Fuller Craft Museum, Opera Boston, Boston Landmarks Orchestra, Boston Musica Viva and Scullers Jazz Club. Miguel was selected in 2011 to join the 21st Century Fellows Program, managed by The Pipeline Project, and designed to provide intensive leadership support to people of color managers at LGBT organizations. He is a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) with more than 12 years' experience and a long record of building donor relationships for a number of organizations in New England. Miguel studied voice performance at the University of Michigan and completed his graduate studies at Boston University.



Samuel Sellers (Brooklyn, NY)

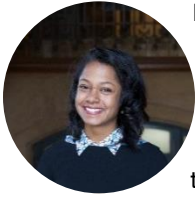
Sam Sellers (aka Rabbi Darkside) is a hip hop MC, DJ, beatboxer and arts educator. Sam tours internationally and his latest album topped the CMJ Hip Hop charts. He is a guest lecturer at The New School (NYC), teaching graduate seminars and short course intensives of his own design. Sam serves as a hip hop diplomat/cultural ambassador to Uganda with the Next Level Initiative, a collaboration between the U.S. State Department and UNC-Chapel Hill. Sam is also the co-founder of the Hip Hop Re:Education Project, a hip hop education fellow at the H2ED Hip Hop Ed Center at NYU, and the artistic creator of NYS Regents test prep program "Fresh Prep." He's been featured on MTV's "Made," Okayplayer, CBS Early Show, and in the New York Times and the Village Voice. He's recently headlined the Blue Note Jazz Festivals, SXSW, CMJ Festival, and competed in the WNYC Battle of the Boroughs. Sam has shared stages, studios and classrooms with Antibalas, bell hooks, Black Sheep,

Blue Man Group, Common, DJ Rob Swift, Fishbone, Robert Glasper, Rosie Perez, Sadat X, Slick Rick, Talib Kweli, among many others. Sam Sellers earned a BA in political science and government from Grinnell College.



Jared Shenk (St. Paul, MN)

Jared Shenk serves as the arts and crafts chairman for the Rockingham County Fair, a position he's held since 2006. A native of Appalachian Virginia, he has been involved with the Fair for over 20 years. As a practicing musician, he's played saxophone in various bands for a decade. His daily work is as an epidemiologist specializing in public health and community-based health strategies; Jared has worked with nonprofit, governmental, and university organizations in Minnesota, Virginia and the District of Columbia. He has worked at the Whitman-Walker Clinic in Washington, DC and served as treasurer of the Metropolitan Washington Public Health Association. Jared holds undergraduate degrees in finance and public health from James Madison University, and a master's degree in public health from the University of Minnesota.



Lindsay So (Philadelphia, PA)

Lindsay So is the research and policy associate for the City of Philadelphia Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy (OACCE). She is responsible for OACCE's policy and research activities that support and promote arts, culture and the creative industries in Philadelphia and ensures that culture and creativity are included in local development strategies. Her expertise is in place-based projects and the integration of arts and culture into commerce, education, planning, behavioral health, and other social goals. She also manages the City of Philadelphia's Poet Laureate and Youth Poet Laureate positions and is co-chair of the Americans for the Arts Emerging Leaders Council. Lindsay holds a degree in art history from New York University and a degree in arts administration from Drexel University.



Giuseppe Taurino \*\* (Houston, TX)

Giuseppe Taurino is the assistant director of the Creative Writing Program at the University of Houston. Prior to that he served as the manager of capacity building initiatives for the Houston Arts Alliance, and as executive director of Badgerdog Literary Publishing. Giuseppe has also worked as a writer-in-residence with Writers in the Schools Houston, taught undergraduate and postgraduate English and creative writing, and served as a fiction editor for Gulf Coast: A Journal of Literature and Fine Arts. Giuseppe is also a contributing editor for American Short Fiction. He earned his master's of fine arts from the University of Houston.



Christy Uchida \*\* (Chicago, IL)

Christy Uchida is a senior program officer at the Brinson Foundation, where she oversees education and endorsement portfolios. Prior to joining Brinson, Christy worked in global corporate citizenship at The Boeing Company, where she executed strategies aligned to the function's five focus areas: education, arts & culture, health & human services, civic and environment. Christy previously held positions in nonprofit arts organizations including Performing Arts Chicago, Writers' Theatre and Redmoon, a nonprofit spectacle theater company in Chicago, which specializes in transforming public spaces into places of celebration. Christy serves as vice president of Links Hall, an independent performing arts incubator, and a mentor for Chicago Women in Philanthropy. She has also been active with United Way, the League of Chicago Theatres, Arts Alliance Illinois and the Arts & Business Council. Christy earned an undergraduate degree in environmental studies and biology from Tufts University and a master's degree in business administration from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.



Hollyann Vickers (Alameda, CA)

Hollyann Vickers is a grants manager at Pacific Foundation Services (PFS) and oversees grantmaking for the Crescent Porter Hale Foundation and the WLS Spencer Foundation, with funding priorities in art education and music education as well as cross-cultural art programming for youth. Prior to joining PFS, she worked in college access and success at Bottom Line in Brooklyn, NY and at the Meritus College Fund in San Francisco. Hollyann recently served as an application reviewer for the Mandela Washington Fellowship, part of President Obama's Young African Leaders Initiative. Hollyann graduated from Mills College with degrees in economics and political science, and earned her master's degree in international education from American University.