



## Panel Guide

2018 Project Support II (PS II) Grant Program Panel Review  
October 2017

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) score applications and provide detailed comments.

### Applicants

AfricaHouse International  
Arts for All Northeast Ohio  
Arts in Strongsville  
Arts Renaissance Tremont (ART)  
Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities-  
Case Western Reserve University  
Bay Village Community Band  
Beachwood Arts Council  
Beachwood Historical Society  
Blazing River Arts Group  
Blue Streak Ensemble  
Broadview Heights Spotlights  
Brooklyn Heights Service Clubs  
Bureau of Drug Abuse Cleveland Treatment Center Inc.  
Burning River Baroque  
Burten Bell Carr Development Inc.  
Campus District Inc.  
Catholic Charities Corporation  
Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District  
Cesear's Forum  
Choral Arts Society of Cleveland  
City of Fairview Park Ohio Municipal Foundation  
Cleveland Blues Society Inc.  
Cleveland Chamber Collective  
Cleveland Chamber Symphony  
Cleveland City Dance  
Cleveland Clinic  
Cleveland Comedy Festival Inc  
Cleveland Composers Guild  
Cleveland Eid Unity Festival  
Cleveland Hearing & Speech Center  
Cleveland Leadership Center  
Cleveland Philharmonic Orchestra  
Cleveland TOPS Swingband  
Cleveland West Art League Inc.  
Collective Arts Network  
Connecting for Kids of Westlake OH  
Coventry Village Special Improvement District  
Cuyahoga River Community Planning  
DANCEVERT  
Dancing Classrooms Northeast Ohio  
Deutscher Musik Verein Inc.  
Djapo Cultural Arts Institute  
Donauschwaben German-American Cultural Center  
Dunham Tavern Museum  
Dyngus Day Cleveland  
Eliza Bryant Village  
Empowering Epilepsy  
Environmental Health Watch  
Errin Ministries  
Euclid Beach Park Now  
Famicos Foundation  
Far West Center  
FiveOne Music Inc.  
FOCUS ON EDUCATION  
Folknet  
Fred and Laura Ruth Bidwell Foundation  
Friends of Euclid Creek  
Friends of the East Cleveland Public Library  
From Me 2 U Inc.  
Front Steps Housing and Services  
FutureHeights Inc.  
Golden Ciphers Inc.  
Good Company: A Vocal Ensemble  
Greater Cleveland Sports Commission  
Harvard Community Services Center  
Hummingbird Project  
International Women's Air & Space Museum  
Jewish Family Service Association of Cleveland Ohio  
Joyful Noise Neighborhood Music School  
Julia De Burgos Cultural Arts Center  
Kamm's Corners Development Corporation

## Applicants continued

Lake City Fuse  
Lake Erie Native American Council  
Lake View Cemetery Foundation  
LakewoodAlive Inc.  
Larchmere PorchFest  
Little Italy 2000 Redevelopment Corporation  
LYLESART  
Malachi Center  
Mamai Theatre Company  
Mental Health Services for Homeless Persons Inc  
MorrisonDance  
Mt.Pleasant NOW Development Corporation  
Musical Upcoming Stars in the Classics  
NAMI Greater Cleveland  
Negative Space Gallery  
Negro League Baseball Legends Hall of Fame Inc.  
New Avenues to Independence  
No Exit New Music Association  
North Union Farmers Market  
Ohio City Incorporated  
Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation  
Open Tone Music  
Organization of Chinese Americans Greater Cleveland  
P.A.L.S. for Healing  
Parma Symphony Orchestra  
Pink Tutu Outreach Company  
Playwrights Local  
Praxis: Integrated Fiber Workshop  
Quire Cleveland  
Reaching Heights  
Cleveland Heights-University Heights-  
Public School Foundation  
Restore Cleveland Hope, Inc.  
Schuhplattler und Trachtenverein Bavaria  
Shaker Arts Council  
Slovenian Museum and Archives  
Society for Photographic Education  
SOS: Strengthening Our Students  
StandUP! For Change  
Stellar Acrobatic Dance Academy  
Suburban Symphony Orchestra  
Symphony West  
The Cleveland Grays Armory Museum  
The Cleveland Shakespeare Festival  
The Cleveland Vegan Society  
The Foundation for Inner city Development  
The Gathering Place  
The Harvard Square Center  
The Movement Project Inc  
The Near West Side Multi Service Corporation  
The Parma Area Fine Arts Council Inc  
The Roberto Ocasio Foundation  
The West Shore Chorale  
Thea Bowman Center  
Time Canvas  
Union Miles Development Corporation  
UpStage Players  
Wake Up And Live's Actors' Studio  
West Creek Conservancy  
West Side Catholic Center  
Western Reserve Fire Museum at Cleveland Inc.  
Westlake Chinese Culture Association  
Westown Community Development Corporation  
YMCA of Greater Cleveland  
Youth Challenge

## Panel Review Process

All eligible applications are evaluated by a panel of arts or cultural professionals from outside the region in an **online panel review process**. Panelists will review and score applications independently and provide written feedback for each. Unlike other CAC grant programs, there is not an in-person panel review for Project Support II.

Panelists are chosen to represent a cross-section of professionals qualified to provide expert knowledge of specific arts or cultural disciplines, as well as for their management experience, professional knowledge of the sector and prior panel experience. CAC staff and trustees take every effort to ensure that the panel is diverse in all respects. All panelists receive an honorarium for their service.

CAC staff members provide eligible grant applications and support materials to panelists approximately four weeks prior to the panel review meeting in order to allow panelists sufficient time for their evaluation. During the panel review, **the panel evaluates all applications based on CAC’s Funding Criteria: public benefit; artistic and cultural vibrancy; and organizational capacity.**

CAC staff monitors the online panel review, but does not score or provide opinions on applications. Staff will manage all administrative and logistical actions necessary to conduct a successful panel review: provide panelists all documentation necessary to evaluate applications effectively; inform the panel in matters of CAC policy and procedures; and provide all available objective information regarding an applicant to the panel.

## Scoring

Panelists scores 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 writing their comments about each application online.

**Yes:** Yes, evidence is provided throughout the application that the funding criteria are fully met. The applicant’s responses are clear and address the questions in the application. The support materials are clear, highly relevant and lead to a deeper understanding of how the criteria are met.

**Somewhat:** Some evidence is provided throughout the application that the funding criteria are met. The applicant’s responses are sufficient and address the questions in the application. The support materials are relevant but provide only some understanding of how the criteria are met.

**No:** No, evidence is not provided throughout the application that the funding criteria are met. Responses are unclear and/or do not address this funding criterion. The support materials may not be relevant and may not provide additional understanding of how the criteria are met.

## Final Score and Funding Recommendations

An application that demonstrates that it met each of CAC’s three Funding Criteria will be 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 determines that an applicant has not provided evidence that Funding Criteria were met, the organization will not receive funding.

## Meet the Panelist – 2018 Project Support II

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*



**Sean Benolken** (New York, NY)

Sean Benolken serves as a project manager and analyst at Webb Management Services in New York. In this role, he works alongside nonprofits, universities, and municipalities as they develop sustainable methods of investing in the arts. Prior to consulting, Sean served as program coordinator with the Lotus Education and Arts Foundation, where he worked with numerous community and school district partners to coordinate residencies with international artists. Sean attended Indiana University’s School of Public and Environmental Affairs, studying nonprofit management and arts administration.



**Michelle Currica** (Philadelphia, PA)

At the age of six, Michelle Currica emigrated from Georgetown, Guyana to Memphis, Tennessee. Since then she has called a few special places home Atlanta, Tsuno-cho (Japan) and now Philadelphia. Michelle serves the City’s arts and culture sector as the program manager for the Philadelphia Cultural Fund, a non-profit grantmaker providing general operating funds and program support to over 300 arts and culture organizations. She is an avid student of Aikido and in 2015 was an United States Aikido Federation scholarship recipient. In her free time, Michelle volunteers with Philadelphia nonprofits pursuing solutions to issues near and dear to her heart.



**Chanel DaSilva** (New York, NY)

Chanel DaSilva fell in love with dance at the age of three. Alongside her partner Nigel Campbell, Chanel is the co-founder and co-director of MOVE(NYC), a NYC based arts organization that provides tuition free rigorous dance training to talented and motivated NYC teenagers. From 2008 – 2014 Chanel was a member of Trey McIntyre Project where she was a muse for many of Mr. McIntyre’s works. She is currently a member of Lar Lubovitch Dance Company and serves on the dance faculty of her alma mater, LaGuardia High School. She studied at The Bernice Johnson Cultural Arts Center, Creative Outlet Dance Theater of Brooklyn, LaGuardia High School for the Performing Arts, The Ailey School and Springboard Danse Montreal. She received a BFA in Dance from The Juilliard School, under the direction of Lawrence Rhodes. Chanel is a 2004 YoungArts Awardee, a 2004 Presidential Scholar in the Arts and also a 2011 Princess Grace Dance Awardee.



**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. Ernest serves as a support mechanism for arts organizations and individuals who apply for grant and fellowship funding through the Arts Council. Ernest coordinates the Any Given Child Indianapolis program that is creating a long-range arts education plan for students in grades K-8 in Indianapolis Public Schools. Previously, he served for over ten years at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. Ernest received his bachelor’s of art degree in arts management and master’s degree in communications from Eastern Michigan University.



**Laurel Fisher (Nashville, TN)**

Laurel Fisher serves as grants manager for the Metro Nashville Arts Commission where she manages the Metro Arts Grants Program as well as the Davidson County Arts Build Communities grant program. Her role includes community engagement, educating current and potential grantees, contracting, compliance monitoring, and program development. She has performed with the Asheville Lyric Opera, Nashville Opera, Nashville Caroling Company and Music City Baroque Chamber Ensemble. Ms. Fisher has held administrative and development positions at a variety of nonprofit institutions including Catholic Charities of Tennessee, Belmont University, W.O. Smith Music School and The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee. Laurel completed the Nashville Emerging Leaders program in 2014 and was a finalist in YP Nashville’s 2014 Nashville Emerging Leader Awards. She is a member of civic and professional groups including the Center for Nonprofit Management, Nashville Social Enterprise Alliance, Grantmakers in the Arts, and Americans for the Arts. Laurel holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in vocal performance and completed a master’s of education in nonprofit leadership from Belmont University.



**Brea Heidelberg\*\* (Philadelphia, PA)**

Brea M. Heidelberg is an arts management educator, consultant, and researcher focusing on the intersection of the arts and other fields of study. She sees arts administrators as intellectual translators and works to instill a respect for both theory and practice in her students and clients. She is a board member of the Association of Arts Administration Educators and currently serves as co-chair of Americans for the Arts’ Emerging Leaders Council. She is also on the editorial board of the American Journal of Arts Management. Dr. Heidelberg earned her PhD in arts administration, education and policy from The Ohio State University and her second master’s in human resource development from Villanova University. Her research interests include diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout the arts management ecosystem, professional development issues facing arts administrators, and arts policy.



**Ashe Helm-Hernández (Atlanta, GA)**

Ashe Helm-Hernández are a queer southern Black butch artist, cultural worker, organizer and youth advocate with roots in Louisville, KY. They have over 15 years of experience in Human Right to Education advocacy, leadership development, and youth mentoring in the South. Ashe co-founded and co-lead Tiger’s Eye Collective – a Queer Security: Cultural and Educational project. They’ve collaborated on a range of cultural, educational and political projects with AgitArte, Southerners On New Ground (SONG), the Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights, the #NOT1MORE deportation national campaign, and Project South: Institute for the Elimination of Poverty and Genocide, where they served as project coordinator and co-edited *Black Youth Power Rising, Project South 2015*. Ashe’s political artwork and cultural organizing led them to create a number of signature, direct action banners. With the Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights, Ashe piloted an adult education project to support their members to earn their GED towards their eligibility for DACA. Most recently, along with SONG, they curated and co-edited a special publication of *The Change Agent – Adult Education for Social Justice*.



**Ashley Hosseini (Bloomington, IN)**

Ashley Hosseini is the assistant director of the Arts Administration Program at the School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA), Indiana University-Bloomington. Her current work deals with program and project evaluation and management, academic advising, curriculum management, and engaging community arts partners. Prior to attending SPEA, Hosseini worked in various nonprofit and public agencies, from United Action for Youth (arts-focused nonprofit youth center in Iowa) to the French Ministry of Culture. Her interests include cultural policy, strategic planning, and multicultural arts initiatives. She graduated with her M.A. in arts administration from SPEA in 2016.



**Brittanie Knight (Philadelphia, PA)**

Brittanie Knight is an artist and administrator currently serving as the Philadelphia program associate for Community and National Initiatives at the John L. and James S. Knight Foundation and the marketing associate for 11th Hour Theatre Company in Philadelphia. Previously, Brittanie worked for the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance, an arts and culture advocacy and service organization with over 400 members. She has also worked at Indego, The City of Philadelphia's bike share program in events and community engagement, where she oversaw a Street Team and Indego's grassroots and social media outreach efforts. Brittanie is actively involved in the Philadelphia arts and culture scene, working with organizations such as the Asian Arts Initiative, Girls Rock Philly, the Painted Bride, Vision Driven Artists and more. Knight hosts a weekly podcast, "Black Girls Laughing," and remains active in all things mental health, community and millennials. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in theater and communications from Gannon University and a Master of Science in arts administration from Drexel University.



**Elisheba Johnson (Seattle, WA)**

Elisheba Johnson is a social practice artist and an arts administrator. She is a multi-media artist and poet and has dedicated her career in the arts to creating space for emerging and POC artists to create and showcase their work. Elisheba was the owner of Faire Gallery Café, a multi-use art space that held art exhibitions, music shows, poetry readings and creative gatherings. Since 2013 Elisheba has been at the Seattle Office of Arts of Culture where she is a liaison for the Seattle Arts Commission and works on capacity building initiatives including Seattle Arts Leadership Team (SALT), Public Art Boot Camp for emerging artists, and managing temporary art installation programs. Elisheba co-wrote and published "The Adventures of Emery Jones: Boy Science Wonder" with her father Charles Johnson and she is a founding member of COLLECT, a monthly curated art tour to inspire a new generation of art collectors. Elisheba is a member of the Americans for the Arts Emerging Leaders Network advisory council. She holds a BFA from Cornish College of the Arts.



**Christie McKinney (Washington, DC)**

Christie McKinney has the heart of an artist and a brain for organizational efficiency. As Associate Director Member Services at Chorus America, Christie enjoys working with leaders in the choral music field across North America. Christie is the board president of the Essence of Joy Alumni Singers, where she works on the front lines of chorus management. Christie has a background in arts education, having taught middle school and high school choral music and theater. Christie has long been active in national service organizations, holding invited positions on the America Choral Director's Association state board and Eastern Division planning committee. She received the Outstanding Young Conductor Award in 2010 from ACDA's Pennsylvania chapter. Christie holds a bachelor's degree in music education from The Pennsylvania State University and a master's in arts management from American University.



**Miah Michaelson\*\* (Indianapolis, IN)**

Miah Michaelson is deputy director of the Indiana Arts Commission where she oversees day-to-day operations of the agency including contracts and grants administration, budget and financial management, research, assessment and strategic planning. Previously Michaelson served as assistant economic development director for the arts for the City of Bloomington. In that role, she directed all aspects of programs and services offered by the Bloomington Entertainment and Arts District (BEAD) a state-designated cultural district, and directed all city efforts related to arts and economic development and public art. Miah has also served as executive director of the Bloomington Area Arts Council and held executive positions at the Children's Hands-On Museum, the Kentucky Festival of the Arts and Theater Tuscaloosa all in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. She has also served as an arts administration adjunct faculty member at Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs and has served as an independent consultant to Indiana communities seeking direction on cultural planning.



**Francisco Ollervides (Caledonia, OH)**

Francisco (Paco) Ollervides works with nonprofit watershed and stewardship organizations in the Great Lakes Basin as the leadership development manager at River Network. His work focuses on networking, organizational development and providing capacity building tools and resources to watershed organizations. For 15 years he has helped groups protect, restore and advocate on behalf of their watersheds. Paco was born in Mexico City, but has lived in Ohio for the past 9 years. Prior to joining River Network, Paco worked for multiple national and international nonprofit environmental groups and has extensive experience working with grassroots organizing, marine ecosystems, animal behavior, bioacoustics, and wetlands. He studied Biochemical Engineering with a focus on Marine Resource Management and obtained his master's in science and doctorate in philosophy from Texas A&M University in the Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences Department.



**Michelle Polgar (Austin, TX)**

Michelle Polgar is an educator, artist, manager and arts advocate with more than 20 years of experience in the professional theater and arts education arenas. She is an award-winning theater director and producer and coordinates the theater management specialization area for the St. Edward's University Department of Performing Arts in Austin, Texas. A graduate of Leadership Austin, Michelle currently serves as Mayor Steve Adler's appointee and Vice Chair of the Austin Arts Commission.



**Dameun Strange\*\* (St. Paul, MN)**

Dameun Strange is the executive director of the Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association, a Minnesota based non-profit arts organization that connects individuals, businesses, and artists, and strives to promote social and economic growth for its vibrant community of diverse creators. As an activist and community organizer, Dameun envisions a world where creative institutions and people are valued as equal partners in designing strong, equitable communities. Through an integrated engagement with the arts, he aims to highlight threads of intersectionality and move communities toward wellness, finding commonalities and building bridges that bring people together. Dameun has been a Ron McKinley Philanthropy Fellow, and a member of the Bush Foundation's Community Innovation Team. He has worked previously for such organizations as Macalester College, ACORN, MN UNITED for All Families, Grassroots Solutions, and Neighborhood Organizing. He has served on the board of the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, Compas, Headwaters Foundation for Justice, and Walker|West.