



Report to the Community





STRENGTHENING  
COMMUNITY

CLEVELAND PRINT ROOM



INLET DANCE THEATRE



GREAT LAKES THEATER



INGENUITY

Residents of all ages turn to Cuyahoga County's outstanding arts and culture organizations for inspiration. Experiences and events of all shapes and sizes spark creativity, build cultural bridges, offer comfort in difficult times, strive for justice, and encourage the next generation of artists to amplify their voices.

Through our vibrant arts community, we celebrate what connects us and exchange ideas to unite us. In 2019, nearly **7 million arts and culture experiences** were made possible with taxpayer support from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture.

On the following pages, you will learn the stories of some of the **277 CAC-funded organizations**, both large and small, that invigorated and unified our community last year.

WE  
CELEBRATE  
WHAT  
CONNECTS  
US

To date, **CAC has invested \$195 million** into Cuyahoga County's arts and cultural community. Now more than ever, we are grateful for the work of CAC-funded organizations to make to make our county an inspiring place to live, work and visit—and even more grateful to resident support that strengthens the arts and cultural fabric of our community.

Front cover: Top left: Center for Arts-Inspired Learning - Photo by CAL Staff; Top right: Inlet Dance Theatre - Photo by Lauren Stonestreet; Bottom left: Cleveland Institute of Art - Photo by Robert Muller; Bottom right: Dobama Theatre Kids Fest - Photo by Steve Wagner Photography; Inside Cover: Left: Cleveland Print Room - Photo by Jef Janis; Top center: Inlet Dance Theatre - Photo by Roger Mastroianni; Top right: Great Lakes Theater - Photo by Roger Mastroianni; Bottom right: Ingenuity - Photo Courtesy of Ingenuity.





# INSPIRING

## the next generation of filmmakers

Over a period of nine days in September 2019, 70 films screened across Northeast Ohio as part of the **Greater Cleveland Urban Film Festival (GCUFF)**. Hundreds of film enthusiasts gathered to watch films featuring well-known artists, emerging actors, directors, and producers working to break into the industry. Now entering its ninth year, the festival's mission is to "promote and celebrate African-American cinema."

Donna Dabbs, executive director at GCUFF, says that festival has grown substantially since it began, thanks in part to taxpayer support through Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. When the festival began in 2012, it had a budget of just \$20,000—compared to its \$200,000 budget today. GCUFF has received \$79,516 from CAC over the past six years.

"Taxpayer support has been a critical element that has allowed us to continue and grow each year," Donna said. "We started with an idea for the festival to showcase film, celebrate underrepresented artists and connect our community to a unique experience that would make a positive impact. We are inspired and encouraged to continue each year by the response we receive from our participants, the connections that are cultivated, and the growth in attendees."



Photos Courtesy of GCUFF



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**DONNA DABBS**

Executive Director

Greater Cleveland Urban Film Festival

CAC Grant Recipient Since 2015



## CENTERING RACIAL EQUITY

At Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, strengthening our community means investing public funds in ways that make Cuyahoga County more just and racially equitable.

### Our Value of Equity

We recognize that our society is challenged to overcome a complex web of inequities, and we believe that CAC is responsible for operating with an awareness of legacies of privilege and power that have effects on opportunity, access and resources. This awareness informs all of our policies and practices, including funding criteria, program development, hiring, and resident engagement.

### Racial Equity Institute Training

To date, with support from CAC, 320 people representing 104 grant recipient organizations have participated in workshops by the Racial Equity Institute (REI). These workshops focus on historical, institutional, and systemic racism while challenging deeply-held assumptions and revealing the devastating impacts of racial inequality on our nation's most marginalized populations.

### Moving from Awareness to Action

CAC provides resources and trainings at the request of our grant recipients to help put racial equity principles into action. In 2019, CAC provided quarterly workshops by Equius Group and a two-day session by RaceForward, informed by the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), joining hundreds of public agencies across the country in working towards racial equity and justice.

By centering racial equity in our work, we steward taxpayer dollars in a way that reflects and serves the racial and cultural diversity of Cuyahoga County.

Learn more at [cacgrants.org/equity](https://cacgrants.org/equity)



# PARTNERING

to make theater arts more accessible

With 6 resident companies, more than 1,000 annual performances and 1.19 million annual visitors, **Playhouse Square** is the premier destination for Northeast Ohio theater, music and dance enthusiasts.

Through its education and outreach programming, it is also a valued partner for arts and culture organizations that seek to expand their reach and introduce new works.

Six resident companies call the theaters under the big chandelier home: Cleveland Ballet, Cleveland Play House, Cleveland State University Department of Theatre and Dance, DANCECleveland, Great Lakes Theater and Tri-C JazzFest. Next year, Playhouse Square will welcome The Cleveland International Film Festival (CIFF) as its seventh resident company. Resident companies receive use of practice space, discounted rent and administrative and marketing assistance from Playhouse Square to enable them to focus on growing their reach and mission-based work.

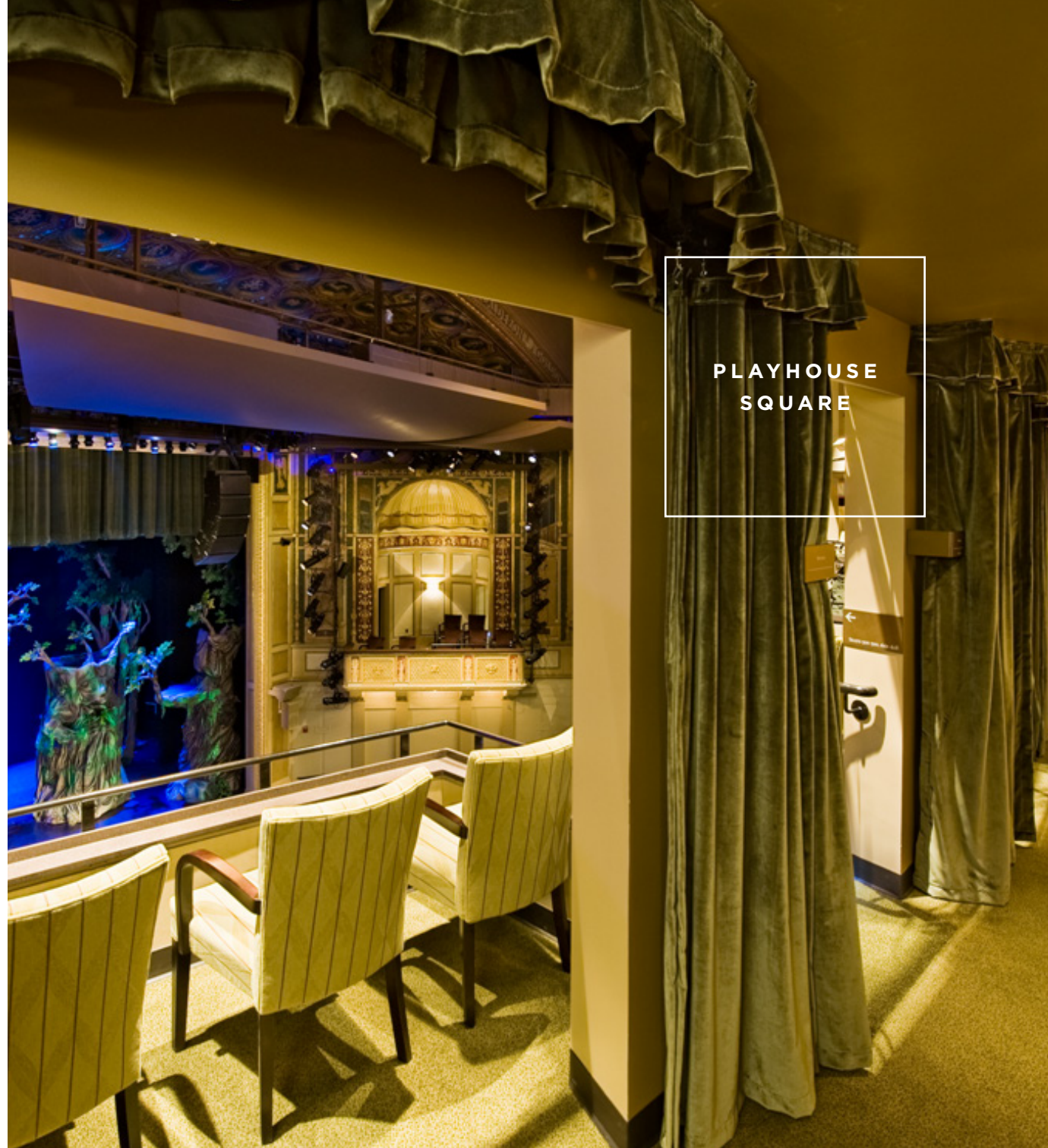
Playhouse Square, through its Launch program, also offers local nonprofit arts organizations and artist rehearsal space and production assistance

to take their art forms to the next level. Inlet Dance Theatre launched its first national tour through this program.

Playhouse Square is also committed to providing arts learning opportunities for the community. Last year, its community engagement and education programs reached 250,000 people. Four sustainable musical theater programs were launched in Cleveland elementary schools, bringing the total to 16 over the past four years.

Last year, roughly \$1.2 million in taxpayer dollars helped make this outreach possible in the form of unrestricted general operating support from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture.

“Playhouse Square thrives on partnerships to optimize impact and address areas of need in the community,” said Gina Vernaci, President and CEO of Playhouse Square. “Arts and culture are central to Cleveland’s history and identity. Moving forward, we hope to lead and collaborate with other cultural institutions—large and small—in a way that strengthens our collective impact on the rich and diverse ecosystem of art forms in our community and the quality of life for residents of Cuyahoga County.”



Photos Courtesy of Playhouse Square



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**GINA VERNACI**  
President & CEO  
Playhouse Square  
CAC Grant Recipient Since 2008





# BUILDING

## bridges to celebrate creativity

Every week, Letitia Lopez looks forward to seeing a steady stream of ballet students rushing to the doors of the **Julia De Burgos Cultural Arts Center** to take dance class. She's equally inspired by the growth of confidence and poise she sees in the teenage girls who participate in Miss Latina Image to learn vital skills, such as public speaking and interviewing for jobs—or by the crowds who gather to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. As the executive director of the only Latino arts and culture center in Northeast Ohio, Letitia can see the impact of her organization's mission—to transform lives by preserving, educating, and promoting Latino heritage—in the faces of everyone Julia De Burgos serves.

Over the past six years, the center has received a total of \$166,465 from CAC to help strengthen ties and bring more awareness to Latino/x culture and heritage in Northeast Ohio.

“There's nothing more inspiring for us to see how excited the students are when they come into the building. It really tells me there's a need for what we do,” she said. “We see families whose kids learn to speak Spanish and integrate more of the culture into their lives. We see the impact in our community and outside our community. It's just a beautiful exchange.”



Photos Courtesy of Julia de Burgos



We see families whose kids learn to speak Spanish and integrate more of the culture into their lives. We see the impact in our community and outside our community. It's just a beautiful exchange.

### LETITIA LOPEZ

Executive Director

Julia De Burgos Cultural Arts Center

CAC Grant Recipient Since 2015



JULIA DE  
BURGOS  
CULTURAL  
ARTS  
CENTER

## SUPPORT FOR ARTISTS

Since 2009, CAC has invested more than \$5 million in programs that support hundreds of artists in Cuyahoga County. In 2019 and 2020, CAC is proud to fund nonprofits that provide a range of services to support the diverse needs of artists in our community.

**Center for Performance and Civic Practice**  
CPCP's Learning Lab

**Cleveland Arts Prize**  
Verge Fellowship

**Cleveland Public Theatre**  
Premiere Fellowship

**Hispanic Business Center**  
La Villa Hispana Artist Colectivo

**Julia de Burgos Cultural Arts Center**  
Unidos Por El Arte

**Karamu House**  
Room in the House Residency

**LAND studio**  
Studio to the Street Public Art Workshops

**SPACES**  
Urgent Art Fund

Learn more at [cacgrants.org/artists](https://cacgrants.org/artists)





# the year in review

## 2019 Financials

FIGURES REPRESENT UNAUDITED FINANCIALS FOR 2019

Revenues **\$13,200,656**

Expenses **\$13,933,628**

Arts & Cultural Grantmaking \$13,399,870  
General & Administrative \$533,758

Net Position **\$18,346,179**

Change in Net Position (\$732,035)  
Net Position Start of 2019 \$19,079,151

**2,756 grants**  
made to date

**420 nonprofits**  
funded to date

**\$195,112,288**  
total grants made to date

**7,424,851**  
Attendance at  
CAC-funded events



**51%**  
Free attendance at  
CAC-funded events



**160,000**  
viewed events on  
[ClevelandArtsEvents.com](http://ClevelandArtsEvents.com)



The fiscal year 2018 data used for this report was provided by SMU DataArts, a nonprofit organization that empowers the arts and cultural sector with high-quality data and resources in order to strengthen its vitality, performance and public impact. Any interpretation of this data is that of Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, not SMU DataArts. For more information, visit [culturaldata.org](http://culturaldata.org). Additional data provided by CAC grant recipients.



cuyahoga  
**arts & culture**  
strengthening community

Our mission is to inspire and strengthen the community by investing in arts & culture.



2019 CAC-SUPPORTED ARTS & CULTURAL EVENTS ACROSS CUYAHOGA COUNTY



Top left: Cleveland Public Theatre - Photo by Steve Wagner; Top right: Rainey Institute - Photo Courtesy of Rainey Institute; Bottom left: Ingenuity - Photo Courtesy of Ingenuity; Bottom right: Judson - Photo by Daren Stahl.

## 2020 GRANT RECIPIENTS

AfricaHouse International  
 America Asian Pacific Islander Organization  
 America SCORES Cleveland  
 American Hungarian Friends of Scouting  
 Apollo's Fire  
 Aradhana Committee  
 Art House  
 Art Song Festival  
 Art Therapy Studio  
 Artists Archives of the Western Reserve  
 Arts Cleveland  
 Arts in Strongsville  
 Arts Renaissance Tremont  
 ATNSC: Center for Healing & Creative Leadership  
 Baldwin Wallace University  
 Baseball Heritage Museum  
 Bay Village Community Band  
 BAYarts  
 Beachwood Arts Council  
 Beachwood Historical Society  
 Beck Center for the Arts  
 Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging  
 Berea Arts Fest  
 Bethlehem Community Health  
 Big Creek Connects  
 Blazing River Freedom Band  
 Bodwin Theatre Company  
 BorderLight Festival of International Theatre Cleveland  
 Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland  
 Brite Cleveland  
 Broadway School of Music and the Arts  
 Brooklyn Heights Service Clubs  
 Burning River Baroque  
 Burten, Bell, Carr, Development  
 Campus District Inc.  
 Carolyn L. Farrell Foundation  
 Case Western Reserve University

Catholic Charities Corporation  
 Cavani String Quartet  
 Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District  
 Celebrate the Arts Performance Academy  
 Center for Arts-Inspired Learning  
 Cesear's Forum  
 Chagrin Arts  
 Chagrin Documentary Film Festival  
 Chagrin Valley Little Theatre  
 ChamberFest Cleveland  
 Children's Museum of Cleveland  
 Choral Arts Society of Cleveland  
 CityMusic Cleveland  
 Cleveland Ballet  
 Cleveland Botanical Garden  
 Cleveland Chamber Choir  
 Cleveland Chamber Collective  
 Cleveland Chamber Music Society  
 Cleveland Chamber Symphony  
 Cleveland Classical Guitar Society  
 Cleveland Clinic  
 Cleveland Composers Guild  
 Cleveland Contemporary Chinese Culture Association  
 Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation  
 Cleveland Grays Armory Museum  
 Cleveland Institute of Art  
 Cleveland Institute of Music  
 Cleveland International Film Festival  
 Cleveland International Piano Competition  
 Cleveland Jazz Orchestra  
 Cleveland Kids' Book Bank  
 Cleveland Leadership Center  
 Cleveland Museum of Art  
 Cleveland Museum of Natural History  
 Cleveland Philharmonic Orchestra  
 Cleveland Play House  
 Cleveland POPS Orchestra  
 Cleveland Print Room  
 Cleveland Public Theatre  
 Cleveland Rape Crisis Center  
 Cleveland Restoration Society  
 Cleveland Rocks: Past Present and Future  
 Cleveland School of the Arts Board of Trustees  
 Cleveland Seed Bank  
 Cleveland Shakespeare Festival  
 Cleveland TOPS Swingband

Cleveland Treatment Center  
 Cleveland Uncommon Sound Project  
 Cleveland Women's Orchestra  
 CollectivExpress  
 Connecting for Kids  
 Contemporary Youth Orchestra  
 convergence-continuum  
 Coventry Village Special Improvement District  
 Cudell Improvement  
 Cuyahoga River Community Planning  
 DANCECleveland  
 DANCEVERT  
 Dancing Classrooms  
 Northeast Ohio  
 Dancing Wheels  
 Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization  
 Doan Brook Watershed Partnership  
 Dobama Theatre  
 Downtown Cleveland Alliance  
 Duffy Liturgical Dance  
 Ensemble  
 Dunham Tavern Museum  
 Earth and Air: String Orchestra  
 Edward E. Parker Museum of Art  
 Eliza Bryant Village  
 ENCORE Chamber Music Institute  
 Ensemble Theatre  
 Environmental Health Watch  
 Errin Ministries  
 Esperanza  
 Euclid Beach Park Now  
 Famicos Foundation  
 Far West Center  
 FOCUS ON EDUCATION  
 Folknet  
 Foluke Cultural Arts Center  
 Food Strong  
 Friends of Euclid Creek Watershed  
 Friends of the East Cleveland Public Library  
 From Me 2 U  
 FrontLine Service  
 Front Steps Housing and Services  
 FutureHeights  
 Gardening in the District  
 Good Company: A Vocal Ensemble  
 Graffiti HeArt  
 Great Lakes Science Center  
 Great Lakes Theater  
 Greater Cleveland  
 Neighborhood Centers Association

Greater Cleveland Urban Film Foundation  
 GroundWorks DanceTheater  
 Harvard Community Services Center  
 Hasani Management  
 Heights Arts  
 Heights Youth Theatre  
 Henry Johnson Center  
 Hispanic Business Center  
 Hispanic Police Officers' Association  
 Historic Gateway  
 Neighborhood Corporation  
 Hospice of the Western Reserve  
 ICA - Art Conservation  
 ideastream  
 iN Education  
 India Festival USA  
 Ingenuity  
 Inlet Dance Theatre  
 International Community Council  
 International Women's Air & Space Museum  
 Italian Cultural Garden Foundation  
 Jennings Center for Older Adults  
 Jewish Family Service  
 Association of Cleveland Ohio  
 Jewish Federation of Cleveland  
 Jones Road Family  
 Development Corporation  
 Joseph's Home  
 Joyful Noise Neighborhood Music School  
 Judson Services  
 Julia De Burgos Cultural Arts Center  
 Karamu House  
 Kulture Kids  
 Lake City Fuse  
 Lake Erie Ink  
 Lake Erie Native American Council  
 Lake Erie Nature & Science Center  
 Lake View Cemetery Foundation  
 LakewoodAlive  
 Lakewood Historical Society  
 LAND studio  
 Larchmere PorchFest  
 LatinUs Theater Company  
 Les Délices  
 Lexington-Bell Community Center  
 LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland  
 Literary Cleveland  
 Little Italy Redevelopment Corporation

Little Lumpy's Center for Educational Initiatives  
 LYLESART  
 Maelstrom Collaborative Arts  
 Malachi Center  
 Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage  
 Mandel Jewish Community Center  
 May Dugan Center  
 Mercury Theatre Company  
 Merrick House  
 MidTown Cleveland  
 Morgan Conservatory  
 MorrisonDance  
 Mt. Pleasant NOW  
 Development Corporation  
 Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland  
 Music and Art at Trinity Cathedral  
 Musical Upcoming Stars in the Classics  
 NAMI Greater Cleveland  
 Nature Center at Shaker Lakes  
 Near West Theatre  
 Negative Space Gallery  
 New Avenues to Independence  
 NewBridge Cleveland  
 No Exit  
 North Coast Men's Chorus  
 North Union Farmers Market  
 Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope  
 Notes for Notes  
 Ohio City Incorporated  
 Open Doors Academy  
 Organization of Chinese Americans Greater Cleveland  
 P.A.L.S. for Healing  
 Parma Area Fine Arts Council  
 Parma Heights Historical Society  
 Playhouse Square  
 Playwrights Local  
 Polish Village Parma  
 Praxis: Integrated Fiber Workshop  
 Progressive Arts Alliance  
 Quire Cleveland  
 Rainey Institute  
 Reaching Heights  
 Refresh Collective  
 Restore Cleveland Hope  
 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum  
 RollinBuckeye Foundation  
 Roots of American Music  
 Sankofa Fine Art Plus  
 Schuhplattler und Trachtenverein Bavaria  
 Shaker Arts Council  
 Shaker Historical Society

Shore Cultural Centre  
 Slavic Village Development  
 Slovenian Museum and Archives  
 SOS: Strengthening Our Students  
 SPACES  
 Mandel Jewish Community Orchestra  
 Symphony West  
 Talespinner Children's Theatre  
 Tender Hearts Crusades  
 The Brecksville Theatre  
 The Cassidy Theatre  
 The City Club of Cleveland  
 The Cleveland Opera  
 The Cleveland Orchestra  
 The Harvard Square Center  
 The Movement Project  
 The Music Settlement  
 The Musical Theater Project  
 The Refugee Response  
 The Roberto Ocasio Foundation  
 The Sculpture Center  
 The Singing Angels  
 Thea Bowman Center  
 Transformer Station  
 Tremont West Development Corporation  
 Ukrainian Museum-Archives  
 Union Miles Development Corporation  
 University Circle Inc.  
 University Hospitals  
 UpStage Players  
 Ursuline College  
 Valley Art Center  
 Verb Ballets  
 Wake Up And Live's Actors Studio  
 Waterloo Arts  
 West Creek Conservancy  
 West Shore Chorale  
 West Side Catholic Center  
 West Side Community House  
 Western Reserve Chorale  
 Western Reserve Fire Museum  
 Western Reserve Historical Society  
 Western Reserve Land Conservancy  
 Westlake Chinese Culture Association  
 Westlake-Westshore Arts Council  
 Westown Community Development Corporation  
 Windsong, Cleveland's Feminist Chorus  
 Women In History  
 Woodland Cemetery Foundation  
 Zygoté Press



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