



Panel Guide

2020 Project Support II (PS II) Grant Program Panel Review
September 2019

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 received training on CAC's funding criteria) score applications and provide detailed comments.

Applicants

AfricaHouse International
America Asian Pacific Islander Organization
Art Song Festival
Arts in Strongsville
Arts Renaissance Tremont
ATNSC: CENTER FOR HEALING & CREATIVE LEADERSHIP
Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities Case Western Reserve University
Bay Village Community Band
Beachwood Arts Council
Beachwood Historical Society
Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging
Berea Arts Fest
Bethlehem Community Health
Big Creek Connects
Blazing River Arts Group
Bodwin Theatre Company
BorderLight Festival of International Theatre
Cleveland Inc
Brooklyn Heights Service Clubs
Bureau of Drug Abuse Cleveland Treatment Center
Burning River Baroque
Burten, Bell, Carr Development Inc.
Campus District Inc.
Catholic Charities Corporation
Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District
Celebrate the Arts Performance Academy Inc.
Cesar's Forum
Choral Arts Society of Cleveland
City Ballet of Cleveland
Cleveland Blues Society Inc.
Cleveland Chamber Choir
Cleveland Chamber Collective
Cleveland Chamber Symphony
Cleveland Clinic
Cleveland Composers Guild
Cleveland Kids' Book Bank
Cleveland Leadership Center
Cleveland Philharmonic Orchestra
Cleveland Rape Crisis Center
Cleveland Rocks: Past, Present and Future
Cleveland TOPS Swingband
Cleveland Uncommon Sound Project
Cleveland Women's Orchestra
CollectivExpress
Connecting for Kids of Westlake, OH
Coventry Village Special Improvement District
Cudell Improvement Inc.
Cuyahoga River Community Planning
DANCEVERT
Dancing Classrooms Northeast Ohio
Earth and Air: String Orchestra
Edward E. Parker Museum of Art
Eliza Bryant Village
ENCORE Chamber Music Institute
Environmental Health Watch
Errin Ministries
Esperanza Inc.
Euclid Beach Park Now
Famicos Foundation
Far West Center
FOCUS ON EDUCATION
Folknet
Food Strong
Friends of Euclid Creek Watershed
Friends of the East Cleveland Public Library
From Me 2 U Inc.
Front Steps Housing and Services
FutureHeights Inc.
Gardening in the district non profit
Good Company: A Vocal Ensemble
Graffiti HeArt
Harvard Community Services Center

Applicants - continued

Henry Johnson Center
Hispanic Alliance
Hispanic Police Officers' Association
Historic Gateway Neighborhood Corporation
Hummingbird Project
iN Education Inc.
India Festival USA
International Community Council-Worldwide
Intercultural Network
International Women's Air & Space Museum
Italian Cultural Garden Foundation
Jewish Family Service Association of Cleveland Ohio
Joseph's Home
Joyful Noise Neighborhood Music School
Lake City Fuse
Lake Erie Native American Council
Lake View Cemetery Foundation
LakewoodAlive Inc.
Larchmere PorchFest
LatinUs Theater Experience Company INC
LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland
Little Italy 2000 Redevelopment Corporation
Little Lumpy's Center for Educational Initiatives:
Literacy Learning & Technology
LYLESART
Malachi Center
Mental Health Services for Homeless Persons Inc
Merrick House
MorrisonDance
Mt. Pleasant NOW Development Corporation
Naach Di Cleveland
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
Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope
Northeast Ohio Hispanic Center for Economic
Development
Notes for Notes Inc
Ohio City Incorporated
Organization of Chinese Americans Greater
Cleveland

Parma Heights Historical Society
Photo Haus
Polish Village Parma
Quire Cleveland
Reaching Heights Cleveland Heights-University
Heights Public School Foundation
Refresh Collective
Restore Cleveland Hope Inc.
RollinBuckeyeZ Foundation
Sankofa Fine Art Plus
Schuhplattler und Trachtenverein Bavaria
Shaker Arts Council
Slovenian Museum and Archives
SOS: Strengthening Our Students
Suburban Symphony Orchestra
Symphony West
Tender Hearts Crusades Inc.
The Cleveland Grays Armory Museum
The Cleveland Shakespeare Festival
The Cleveland Vegan Society
The Harvard Square Center
The Movement Project Inc
The Near West Side Multi Service Corporation
The Parma Area Fine Arts Council Inc
The Refugee Response
The Roberto Ocasio Foundation
Thea Bowman Center
Union Miles Development Corporation
UpStage Players
Ursuline College
Wake Up and Lives Actors Studio
West Creek Conservancy
West Shore Chorale
West Side Catholic Center
Western Reserve Chorale
Western Reserve Fire Museum at Cleveland Inc.
Western Reserve Land Conservancy
Westlake Chinese Culture Association
Westlake-Westshore Arts Council
Westtown Community Development Corporation
Windsong: Cleveland's Feminist Chorus
Women in History
Woodland Cemetery Foundation

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 review and score applications independently and provide written feedback on each one. 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.

Panelists have access to eligible grant applications and support materials for approximately four weeks in order to allow sufficient time for their evaluation. During this time, **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 timely, objective responses to any questions panelists might have about an application.

Scoring

Panelists score each application based on the funding criteria, with **an emphasis on public benefit**. The three funding criteria are:

Public Benefit

CAC defines public benefit as an organization's ability to meaningfully engage its community through its project.

Artistic and Cultural Vibrancy

CAC defines artistic and cultural vibrancy as an organization's ability to create a quality project that inspires and challenges its community.

Organizational Capacity

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture defines organizational capacity as an organization's ability to successfully plan for and manage its project.

Scoring Descriptions

Panelists use 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

Applications that demonstrate that it meets 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 the funding criteria were met, the organization will not receive funding.

Meet the Panelists – 2020 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*



Shalina S. Ali (Milwaukee, Wisconsin)

Shalina S. Ali was born and raised in Milwaukee and is a mother, artist and entrepreneur. Her commitment to helping others and promoting self-care drives her career and serves as a constant motivation on her mission. Co-executive director of TRUE Skool, Inc. Shalina co-created the Circulate Creative Entrepreneur Market and developed the “Art of Coping” and “TRUE Knowledge” curriculums. She was awarded Creative Alliance’s “Creative Problem-Solving Excellence” award for The Art of Coping’s proactive address to suicide and depression. Shalina is a member of The Central City Circle of Change and pursues her passions as a poet and freelance photographer. Shalina specializes in program and staff development, curriculum building, and for over 15 years has worked with organizations such as the YMCA, Latino Community Center, Violence Free Zone and the First Time Juvenile Offenders Program.



Rishard Allen (Indianapolis, Indiana)

Rishard Allen is the grant services and education partnerships coordinator at the Arts Council of Indianapolis, assisting with the administration of arts education initiatives and grant programs for individual artists and arts organizations. His administrative practice supports the artistic work of people from marginalized communities, acknowledging their contributions as worthy of being commissioned, exhibited, performed, published, studied, and funded. Prior to working at the Arts Council, he was the program director at Arts for Learning Indiana and was an emerging field leader with WolfBrown, providing assistance for a nationwide evaluation of The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Art’s Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child initiative. Rishard also serves on the Arts & Culture Leaders of Color Steering Committee for Americans for the Arts. Allen received his BS in arts management from Indiana University Bloomington.



Glenn Ayars (Dallas, Texas)

Glenn Ayars is a graduate of Southern Methodist University and the University of Southern California where he received a Bachelor's and Master's of music in performance, respectively. Along with his studies and profession in music, Glenn has experience working in higher education at Southern Methodist University in student affairs, residence life, and student housing. In the nonprofit sector, Glenn has worked with the Boston Ballet Summer Dance Program and the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra. Glenn currently works with the City of Dallas in the Office of Cultural Affairs as the cultural programs manager and helps to support Dallas-based arts and culture organizations and individual artists through various funding programs.



LaShawnda Crowe Storm (Indianapolis, Indiana)

LaShawnda Crowe Storm is an artist, activist, community builder and occasionally an urban farmer. In her spare time, she is the community engagement director for Spirit & Place, an initiative of the Polis Center at Indiana University-Purdue University, which utilizes the arts, humanities and religion as a catalyst for civic engagement, critical community dialogue, collaboration and experimentation. Crowe Storm uses her creative power as a vehicle for dialogue, social change and community healing. As the community builder and organizer for the Northwest Area Quality of Life Plan, she worked with residents to translate their vision of community self-determination into an action plan with more than 100 community-led efforts including community safety and peacebuilding to youth development. Crowe Storm has an M.F.A. from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a B.A. in communications and English Literature from the University of Michigan.



Sherman Fleming (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

Sherman Fleming studied performance at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond and Hartford Art School, Connecticut. Additionally, his practice spans drawing, painting, sculpture, video, photography and installation. His research has been the exploration of siting the black body in conditions that are challenging and which act as a metaphor for the trauma Black communities endure. Drawing upon elements of conventional movement and personal experience, Fleming's careerlong investigation of performance actions seeks to craft an aesthetics of resilience.



Maxine Gaiber (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

Maxine Gaiber is the interim executive director of Carpenters Company at Carpenters' Hall. Previously, she served as executive director of the Gershman Y, executive director of the Delaware Center for Contemporary Arts (now Delaware Contemporary), director of education and public programs at the San Diego Museum of Art, director of education at the Orange County Museum of Art in California, and associate director of education at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. She was the founding board president of the Delaware Arts Alliance, has served on the board of Delaware's Forum for Executive Women, and is currently on the board of the Museum Council of Greater Philadelphia. She has an MA in art history and museology from the University of Minnesota and has completed the Getty Leadership Institute program for museum executives.



Lisa Harper Chang (St. Louis, Missouri) **

Lisa Harper Chang is the assistant director of religious education for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington and co-founder of Art Relevance, LLC, a firm dedicated to supporting arts-based work that strengthens and builds more inclusive communities. She is also concurrently working toward licensure in clinical social work practice. Lisa has served as the education programs manager for the St. Louis Regional Arts Commission and the community projects director at The Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts, a co-appointment with the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis. Lisa received her master of social work degree from the George Warren Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis, and a bachelor of arts in computational and applied mathematics from Rice University in Houston, Texas.



Lawrence M. Jackson (Tuscaloosa, Alabama)

Lawrence M. Jackson, MFA, is the associate chair and associate professor of dance at the University of Alabama where he teaches jazz, modern/contemporary, choreography, and dance history and pedagogy. Jackson has choreographed over 75 original works for the concert stage. Most recently, Lawrence choreographed an off-Broadway production, *Separate and Equal*, which premiered at Theater 59E59 in September 2018. Jackson has recently served as a guest artist/choreographer/master teacher at the California State University Northridge, University of Nevada Las Vegas, University of Florida, University of Wyoming, and many more. Jackson serves as the Executive Director for The American Dance Company Experience (TADCE). As a scholar, Jackson has published in many scholarly journals in the field of Black Dance. Lawrence is a member of the Alabama Dance Council Board, University of Alabama Faculty Senate, and International Association of Blacks in Dance.



Carly P. Jones (Raleigh, North Carolina) **

Carly P. Jones is an arts administrator with a background in community programming, arts advocacy and nonprofit work. She is the music director for the North Carolina Arts Council. Previously, she served as director of communications and development for Arts Together. She has also worked with the N.C. Association of Music Educators, the African American Cultural Festival of Raleigh & Wake County, and Justice Theatre Project. She has participated in the nationally recognized Arts Learning Community for Universal Access and in the Kennedy Center’s Leadership Exchange in Arts & Disability (LEAD) Conference. A singer her entire life, she has performed professionally both opera and musical theater and is an active recitalist. She holds a bachelor of music in vocal performance and a bachelor of arts in black music history from Miami University in Ohio.



Alena Leonatti (Santa Barbara, California) **

Alena Leonatti is a groundskeeper for the City of Santa Barbara’s parks, where she does much more than just lawn and shrub care. Her experience has led her to assist in native plant and pollinator research on California’s Channel Islands, collect seed, identify plants and horticulture. In any role, her driving force is connecting communities with their open spaces, because greenspaces are intersections where people of all ages, races, genders, and religions can collectively celebrate the arts, sports, and local ecology.



Martin Leyva (San Marcos, California)

Martin Leyva has a strong passion for social justice and human rights issues and is constantly addressing systematic issues of oppression. Leyva is a member of California Association of Alcohol & Drug Educators as a Certified Drug and Alcohol Treatment Counselor. In 2008, he founded the Santa Barbara City College Transitions Program, which offers therapeutic and educational opportunities to those affected by the criminal justice system. He is also the co-founder of the Transitions Collective at CSUSM, Palomar and Mira Costa College. He has led training on Best Practices for Working with Formerly Incarcerated Individuals, Emotional Intelligence, and Spiritual Self Care & Healing. He holds a bachelor’s degree in liberal arts/psychology from Antioch University a master of arts in sociological practice from Cal State San Marcos.



Autumn Saxton-Ross (Washington, District of Columbia)

Autumn Saxton-Ross, PhD, is currently the mid-Atlantic regional director for NatureBridge, a national residential environmental education nonprofit, overseeing programs at Prince William Forest National Park in Virginia. She started her career as an elementary school Health and PE teacher in DCPS, and has since worked as the program director for place-based initiatives at the National Collaborative for Health Equity, encouraging the use of policy and environmental change as a solution to health inequities, the DC Department of Health, promoting the natural connection between parks, recreation and health. With degrees in sociology, health education, and exercise science, her life’s work is

improving the health of communities through engagement, activity, education, exposure and opportunity, truly believing that a healthy life is lived better outdoors.

Katie Skayhan (Boulder, Colorado) **



Katie Skayhan is community engagement and social innovation coordinator at the CU Boulder College of Music. She has experience in strategic planning, grants management, strategic communications, project management and fundraising and has worked alongside public and private sector professionals as well as artists and creatives to develop innovative strategies that weave arts and culture into the fabric of community. Skayhan works with the Boulder community and beyond to advance the social impact of the College of Music and steward its commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion and access. Skayhan proudly hails from Portland, Oregon, and is a graduate of Indiana University’s School of Public and Environmental Affairs. She holds two master's degrees in public affairs and arts administration and a bachelor of music in vocal performance from Oberlin Conservatory.

Kirkston Tyrone Spann (Chicago, Illinois)



Kirkston Tyrone Spann’s professional experience includes over 22 years in the nonprofit and higher education fields. He currently serves as the president for the Transformative Nonprofit Solutions Consultant company. Mr. Spann worked for the Foundations of East Chicago for 18 years managing their scholarship and grant programs. He also served as a consultant for Lake Area United Way and as the program director for the Gary Alumni Pathway for Students organization. Additionally, he worked as the 21st Century Scholar coordinator and associate director of admissions for Ivy Tech’s Lake County Campus. He attended Florida A & M University in Tallassee, Florida where he received a bachelor’s of science degree in architectural studies. Mr. Spann continued his education at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana where he received an MBA in real estate finance.

McKenzi Swinehart (Columbus, Ohio)



McKenzi Swinehart is grants and services manager at the Greater Columbus Arts Council. McKenzie is responsible for implementing and overseeing grants programs, resource development and community engagement. She leads the project support grant process and program evaluation, manages the grant submission platform and team technology needs, oversees the fellowship and award portfolio and researches industry trends for strategic implementation in the department. Prior to joining the Arts Council in 2017, McKenzie served as the director of programs and development at Reno Little Theater, where she designed and executed the overall fund development plan, engaged with donors and sponsors, and oversaw the educational outreach and accessibility programs. McKenzie has a bachelor of arts in theater and political science from the University of Nevada, Reno and currently serves on the Nevada Arts Council Jackpot Grant Panel.