



Audience Guide

2022-23 General Operating Support Panel Review

Thursday, September 30, 2021 at 1:30pm EST

Welcome!

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC) welcomes you to the 2022-23 General Operating Support panel review. The purpose of the General Operating Support (GOS) grant program is to strengthen the community by providing meaningful, multi-year core support grants to arts and cultural organizations based in and serving Cuyahoga County. During the panel review, arts and cultural experts from across the country (who are educated in CAC's funding criteria) discuss and score applications.

Interactive Panel Process

Applicants will have the opportunity to briefly respond to the panel after their review of each application and answer panelist questions in a short Q & A session. This format, which was introduced in 2017, comes in direct response to feedback from our past applicants, who expressed a desire to bring their work to life for the panelists outside of the limits of the application and clarify information about which panelists may have questions.

Note: Applicant participation is not required but is strongly recommended.

Order of Review

Starting at approximately 1:45pm, each review should take between 15-20 minutes.*

Cleveland Ballet
Cleveland Classical Guitar Society
Collective Arts Network
Doan Brook Watershed Partnership
Dunham Tavern Museum

**Start times and breaks will take place at the discretion of the panel chair, subject to change.*

Follow our Progress

Don't want to miss your review? Follow our progress on [Twitter](#) and listen to our [live stream](#) on September 30.



What to Expect: September 30

To ensure an impartial and transparent application review process, CAC convenes a panel of arts and cultural professionals from outside the region who discuss, evaluate, and score applications. 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 take every effort to ensure that the panel is diverse in all respects. All panelists receive an honorarium for their service.

All panelists read, review, and score every application that they are assigned to. In addition, each application is specifically assigned to a lead reader, who presents a detailed analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the application and support materials. The panel is managed by a nonvoting panel chair.

Observe Panel Review

Your application will be reviewed for no more than ten minutes, following this sequence of actions:

- The Panel Chair will introduce the organization.
- The Lead Reader will begin the discussion by presenting their assessment of the application, budget and support materials based on CAC's Funding Criteria.
- The other readers to continue the discussion by supporting, disputing, or adding comments about the application that were not presented by the Lead Reader.

Respond to the Panel

After the panel discusses your application, you will have a chance to respond and clarify points from the review.

- Each organization may designate up to two individuals to represent it. These individuals can be members of the staff or board.
- Representatives who plan to participate will join the Zoom meeting prior to the review and be invited to come off mute and turn their video on at the conclusion of the initial review.
- Comments can last up to 1-2 minutes.
- Representatives can use this time to clarify any points of confusion, reinforce important themes, or highlight an element of your application that you feel the panel missed. You may also share new information not previously included in your application.

Q&A Session: Prepare your Responses

Following your brief remarks, panelists will engage the representative in a brief Q&A session (3-4 minutes).

- Panelists have been encouraged to prepare these questions in advance based on your application and its support materials but may also have questions about your presentation in the moment.
- CAC staff will share preliminary panelist questions with you ahead of time.



Q&A Session: Prepare your Responses, continued

- Be prepared to answer questions about your application narratives, SMU | DataArts Funder Report, audit, organizational budget, and any other aspects of your work.
- CAC panel chairs will facilitate the Q & A to ensure a fair, respectful, and punctual process.

For questions or concerns around accessing the panel review Zoom meeting, please contact India Pierre-Ingram at ipierreingram@cacgrants.org.

At the conclusion, panelists will submit their final scores.

End of Day: Public Comment

After the panel chairs adjourn the discussion and scoring is complete, CAC will hold an optional session for public comment on the grant program and the panel review process.

Audience members are encouraged to participate in the public comment session by submitting comments using our online form at <http://bit.ly/CAC-comment>.



Scoring

Panelists score each application on a point scale from 0 to 100 based on the following funding criteria:

- **PUBLIC BENEFIT:** An organization’s ability to meaningfully and authentically engage its community to achieve its mission.
- **ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL VIBRANCY:** An organization’s ability to create quality, mission-driven work that inspires and challenges its community.
- **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY:** An organization’s ability to successfully manage resources to their best use now and for years to come.

Panelists will use the following scoring framework to score each application on the funding criteria:

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points): Weak: 1 – 23 Fair: 24 – 33 Good: 34 – 38 Strong: 39 – 42 Exceptional: 43 – 45	ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points): Weak: 1 – 18 Fair: 19 – 25 Good: 26 – 29 Strong: 30 – 32 Exceptional: 33 – 35	ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points): Weak: 1 – 10 Fair: 11 – 14 Good: 15 – 16 Strong: 17 – 18 Exceptional: 19 – 20
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Scoring Descriptions

Exceptional: The applicant has provided overwhelming evidence throughout the application that demonstrates that this funding criterion is fully met. Responses are clear and directly address this funding criterion. The support materials are clear, highly relevant and lead to a deeper understanding of how the criterion is met.

Strong: The applicant has provided clear evidence throughout the application that demonstrates that this funding criterion is met. Responses are clear and address this funding criterion. The support materials are clear, highly relevant and lead to a deeper understanding of how the criterion is met.

Good: The applicant has provided sufficient evidence throughout the application that demonstrates that this funding criterion is met. Responses are generally clear but do not consistently address this funding criterion. The support materials are relevant but provide only some understanding of how the criterion is met.

Fair: The applicant has provided limited evidence throughout the application that demonstrates that this funding criterion is met. Responses may not be clear and may not address this funding criterion. The support materials may not be relevant and may not provide additional understanding of how the criterion is met.



Scoring Descriptions, continued

Weak: The applicant has provided insufficient evidence throughout the application that demonstrates that this funding criterion is 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 criterion is met.

Final Score and Funding Recommendations

Scores are calculated by combining and averaging the score of all three panelists. Applications that receive a score of 75 or higher are recommended for funding. CAC will calculate final scores and notify all applicants via email the week of October 18. Grant amounts will be confirmed at CAC's Board of Trustees meeting on Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 4 pm.

Meet the Panelists

Sally Dix (she/her/hers)
Des Moines, IA



Sally Dix is the executive director for Bravo Greater Des Moines, a nonprofit organization that provides funding and support for arts, culture and heritage organizations in central Iowa. Bravo's revenue comes primarily from 17 local government partners who contribute a portion of their hotel/motel tax. Over the past 10 years, Bravo has granted more than \$25 million to more than 90 arts organizations in central Iowa. Prior to joining Bravo, Sally served for nearly 10 years as the vice president of communications for the Science Center of Iowa. As part of the leadership team, she led the planning, opening and launch of the new \$62 million 110,000 square-foot facility. She has also served as the first executive director of the Iowa Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Sally has an undergraduate degree from

Northwestern University and a master's degree from Johns Hopkins, both in environmental science and policy. She also received her MBA from the University of Iowa.

LaShawnda Crowe Storm (she/her/they)
Indianapolis, IN



LaShawnda Crowe Storm is a mixed media and community-based artist, activist, community builder and occasionally an urban farmer. Whether making artwork or sowing seeds, she uses her creative power as a vehicle for dialogue around topics such as racial and gender violence, social change and justice. At the core of her practice is a desire to create community; any community in which the process of making art creates a space for difficult discussions with an eye towards community healing. She has received numerous awards for art and community activism. She received an M.F.A. from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago.



Marcia Festen (she/her/hers)
Chicago, IL



Marcia Festen is the founding director of the Arts Work Fund for Organizational Development. Arts Work Fund was launched in January 2007 to ensure there were dedicated resources to help strengthen small arts and cultural organizations in Chicago and Cook County. Before starting her consulting practice in 1999, Marcia was a Senior Program Officer at the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Marcia is the former board chair of 3Arts and believes in the importance of putting money directly in the hands of artists. She currently sits on the board of an anonymous foundation that supports women and girls in the arts and sciences. She is also a painter with an active studio practice.

Jamaine Smith (he/him/his)
Philadelphia, PA



Hailing from Bushwick, Brooklyn (pre-gentrified), Jamaine Smith is an artist, administrator, and “ruffler of feathers”. He is a firm believer in the innate dignity, creative genius, and worth of every person and is committed to dismantling systems of oppression that fight against that. Jamaine has been immersed in the robust arts and culture sector of Philadelphia, PA for the past 9 years and enjoys walking alongside and assisting others on their paths of self-discovery/rediscovery and helping organizations pivot for the better. Jamaine is currently the Senior Manager of Mission Nurture & Community Life at Project HOME in Philadelphia, PA. He holds an BS in Social Work (Nyack College), MA in Urban Studies (Eastern University), and MBA (Philadelphia University).