Your Investment.
Strengthening Community.

2014 Report to the Community
What is Cuyahoga Arts & Culture?

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture is the public funder for arts and culture in Cuyahoga County. We make grants from a voter-approved tax to support arts and culture. We support tens of thousands of programs and events each year that enhance education, enrich quality of life and support the local economy.

Our work strengthens the community by investing in arts and culture, and since 2008, we’ve:

- Invested more than $125 million,
- Funded more than 300 organizations and
- Awarded more than 1,200 grants.
Thank you for recognizing the arts and culture sector as one of our community’s key assets and for choosing to strengthen that asset with public funding. Your investment is making a difference throughout Cuyahoga County by supporting opportunities for creative expression, education and economic development. This makes our community an even more desirable place to live, work and play.

In this report, you will find inspiring examples of CAC-funded arts and culture organizations doing remarkable work to strengthen our community. These organizations provide new educational opportunities for students of all ages, improve the overall quality of life in Cuyahoga County and make our community more competitive at attracting and keeping talented minds.

Stewardship of public funds is a responsibility that we take very seriously. We continually review and assess our grantmaking processes to ensure that they are fair, consistent, objective and transparent. On your behalf, Cuyahoga Arts & Culture has put public dollars to work to support thousands of enriching arts and culture experiences in every corner of the county. Since 2008, we have awarded more than 1,200 grants and invested more than $125 million in support of artists and organizations of all sizes.

At CAC, we believe that our community is a better place because of our investment in the arts and culture sector. We are proud to serve you and thankful for the incredible dedication of our Board members: Matthew Charboneau, Joseph P. Gibbons, Steven Minter and Eliza Wing. Together we are making Cuyahoga County an exceptional place to call home.

Dear County Residents,

Sari Feldman
President,
Board of Trustees

Karen Gahl-Mills
Executive Director

2014 BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Matthew Charboneau
Sari Feldman
Joseph P. Gibbons
Steven Minter
Eliza Wing

2014 STAFF
Karen Gahl-Mills
executive director
Meg Harris
director of administration
Jesse Hernandez
manager-general operating support
Stacey Hoffman
manager-project support
Jill Paulsen
deputy director
Jennifer Schlosser
manager-communications
Jake Sinatra
manager-special projects
Enhancing Education

Funding from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture supports education and learning opportunities for students of all ages. From field trips to museums to programs for students in schools to distance learning at senior centers and residences, CAC funding helps to infuse Cuyahoga County with programs that offer education for everyone.

CAC-funded organizations served 1.4 million children in 2013 and offered:

- 21,411 classes and workshops
- 18,881 field trips for students
- 678 internships and apprenticeships

And 418,833 residents attended classes and workshops.
Spotlight On: Youth Education

Through Cleveland Public Theatre’s **Student Theatre Enrichment Program**, which is funded in part by Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, Cleveland teens experience an arts-based job training program every summer. Students participate in a powerful, eight-week intensive that focuses on excellence in performance, play creation, writing and production. Students earn money while learning and practicing valuable job skills. Under the guidance of artistic mentors, teens develop an original play and perform it in public parks throughout the City of Cleveland.

**STEP is 20 years strong, resulting in:**
- **800** local teens engaged
- **20** original productions created
- **150** performances in Cleveland
- **18,700** audience members

“Receiving funding from CAC allows Cleveland Public Theatre to be more resilient and offer programs like STEP which changes the lives of local teens each summer.”

– Raymond Bobgan, Executive Director, Cleveland Public Theatre
Enriching Quality of Life

Each year, Cuyahoga Arts & Culture funds tens of thousands of events and programs that take place in communities throughout Cuyahoga County, which provide a wide array of activities for everyone to experience. These offerings enrich our quality of life, bringing people together to celebrate the things that make Cuyahoga County a unique place to live.

CAC-funded arts and culture organizations served 5,939,681 residents and visitors in 2013

Nearly 50% of admissions were FREE

More than 22,000 volunteers donated their time to help bring arts and culture to even greater audiences

Spotlight On: Festivals

**Waterloo Arts Fest** is one of Cleveland’s many community arts festivals, attracting up to 10,000 visitors each June. A community-driven event, the free Waterloo Arts Fest offers visitors performing and visual arts, hands-on artmaking, interactive family fun and an artist marketplace. Waterloo Arts Fest activates Cleveland’s Collinwood neighborhood, providing a unique showcase for artists and this vibrant, historic neighborhood.
“Funding from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture allows Valley Art Center to support and retain our staff, which helps us build and improve the programs and events we offer the community.”

– Mary Ann Breisch, Executive Director, Valley Art Center

Valley Art Center’s Art by the Falls is a two-day, juried fine arts and contemporary crafts festival, now in its 32nd year, held in Chagrin Falls each June. 15,000 visitors from around the region return yearly to view and purchase the work of 120 artists from around the country including painting, drawing, photography, sculpture, textiles, jewelry, weaving and ceramics.

Cleveland Asian Festival celebrates, educates and promotes all Asian cultures during a festival held in Cleveland’s Asia Town neighborhood each May. In 2014, more than 38,000 residents attended the two-day festival, which offered local and national performing artists, authentic Asian cuisine and wares, family activities and more.
Supporting Our Economy

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture funding helps build stronger, more resilient arts and culture organizations that, in turn, make an impact on the local economy. Visitors from the county, region, around the country, and around the world, enjoy our world-class arts and culture. And, companies based in Northeast Ohio cite Cuyahoga County’s vibrant arts and culture offerings as key to attracting and retaining talented employees.

CAC-funded organizations impacted Cuyahoga County’s economy through $342,955,828 in direct expenditures, including $149,616,298 in salaries in 2013.

These organizations support nearly 9,000 jobs.

Since 2009, 122 local artists have received support from CAC through Community Partnership for Arts and Culture’s Creative Workforce Fellowship program.
Spotlight On: Economic Development

In addition to being the largest performing arts center in the country outside of New York, Playhouse Square focuses on making its neighborhood an important anchor for the City of Cleveland and downtown area. The district has become a dining destination, with 16 restaurants, the Wyndham Hotel and other local businesses, and recently added residential living (with a 100% lease rate and waiting list).

• Employs more than 430 workers
• Attracts more than one million guests to 1,000+ performances and events each year
• Generates an estimated $60 million in economic impact in Northeast Ohio

“The support we receive from the residents of Cuyahoga County through Cuyahoga Arts & Culture helps us to fulfill our nonprofit mission and directly affects our ability to positively impact the local economy.”

– Art J. Falco, President and CEO, Playhouse Square
Cuyahoga County: a Hub of Creative Activity

Funding from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture helps create vibrant and energetic neighborhoods and helps establish Cuyahoga County as a hub of creative activity. CAC funds tens of thousands of programs and events each year, providing arts and culture for everyone to experience.

Through its partnership with the Cleveland Foundation’s Neighborhood Connections, Cuyahoga Arts & Culture is helping residents in Cleveland and East Cleveland make a difference in their neighborhoods through arts and culture. This program funds grassroots, resident-led projects that provide educational opportunities for children, beautify vacant spaces, and bring neighbors together. CAC and Neighborhood Connections have brought more than 100 projects to life in 30 Cuyahoga County neighborhoods.
Spotlight On: Creativity

**AHA! Cleveland** was a multi-day festival of lights presented by LAND studio in downtown Cleveland spaces in August 2014. More than 8,000 residents attended three public events funded by CAC featuring four large-scale art installations. The event, which residents helped choose through a pilot CAC grant program, reached over 450,000 people via social media channels.

Each year since 2007, support from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture has helped to present The Cleveland Orchestra’s **Star-Spangled Spectacular**. This Cleveland tradition provides an opportunity for thousands of residents to experience a free outdoor Cleveland Orchestra performance.
Cuyahoga Arts & Culture’s Commitment to Stewardship and Transparency

CUYAHOGA ARTS & CULTURE:

- Spends public funds in line with its values: accountability, impartiality, transparency and partnership.

- Consistently receives the highest rating from the Ohio Auditor of State, with no audit findings or comments. In addition to receiving a clean audit report each year since its inception, CAC was awarded the highest audit rating and the Auditor of State Award for fiscal year 2013; see CAC’s 2013 audit at cacgrants.org.

- Ensures that grant recipients demonstrate how their organization or program will benefit the community, and ensures that grant dollars are accounted for in regular progress reports.

- Consistently improves grantmaking processes and procedures to ensure that they are fair, consistent, objective and conducted in public.
The following chart summarizes CAC’s financial statements from 2012 to 2014.

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The fiscal year 2013 data used for this report were provided by the Cultural Data Project (“CDP”), a collaborative project created to strengthen arts and culture by documenting and disseminating information on the arts and culture sector. Any interpretation of the data is the view of Cuyahoga Arts & Culture and does not reflect the views of the Cultural Data Project. For more information on the Cultural Data Project, visit www.culturaldata.org.

Additional data were provided by grant recipients to Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, including: Cleveland Public Theatre (p. 3), Waterloo Arts Fest (p. 4), Valley Art Center (p. 5), Cleveland Asian Festival (p. 5), Playhouse Square (p. 7), LAND studio (p. 9).

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Photos courtesy of: Jared Akerstrom (Progressive Arts Alliance), Meg Harris (Cleveland Asian Festival), Roger Mastroianni (Playhouse Square and The Cleveland Orchestra), Robert Muller Photography (Brite Winter Festival), Ricky Rhodes (Morgan Art of Papermaking), Rosen-Jones Photography Studio (Karen Gahl-Mills), Steve Wagner (Cleveland Public Theatre), Wetzler Studios (Beck Center for the Arts).

Produced April 2015
In 2014, Cuyahoga Arts & Culture funded 196 organizations based in Cuyahoga County. Those organizations offered programs in nearly every community in the county – helping to ensure that all residents have access to arts and culture close to home. In 2014, these organizations offered activities in more than 2,500 unique locations in Cuyahoga County – including schools, libraries, senior centers, theaters, parks, hospitals and neighborhood streets.
2015 Cultural Partners

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture is funding 195 organizations based in Cuyahoga County in 2015.
Cuyahoga Arts & Culture’s mission is to inspire and strengthen the community by investing in arts and culture.