



Panel Guide

2019 Project Support II (PS II) Grant Program Panel Review
October 2018

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

Achievement Centers for Children
African American Museum
America Asian Pacific Islander Organization
Arts in Strongsville
Arts Renaissance Tremont
Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities Case
Western Reserve University
Bay Village Community Band
Beachwood Arts Council
Beachwood Historical Society
Bedford Historical Society
Bellaire Puritas Development Corporation
Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging
Big Creek Connects
Blazing River Arts Group
Blue Streak Ensemble
BorderLight Festival of International Theatre
Cleveland Inc
Brecksville Center for the Arts
Broadview Heights Spotlights
Brooklyn Heights Service Clubs
Burning River Baroque
Burten Bell Carr Development Inc.
Campus District Inc.
Carolyn L. Farrell Foundation for Brain Health
Catholic Charities Corporation
Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District
Celebrate the arts performance academy Inc.
Cesear's Forum
Choral Arts Society of Cleveland
Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers
Cleveland Blues Society Inc.
Cleveland Chamber Choir
Cleveland Chamber Collective
Cleveland Chamber Symphony
Cleveland City Dance
Cleveland Clinic
Cleveland Composers Guild
Cleveland Hearing & Speech Center
Cleveland Leadership Center
Cleveland Rape Crisis Center
Cleveland Rocks: Past Present and Future
Cleveland TOPS Swingband
Cleveland West Art League Inc.
Cleveland Women's Orchestra
CollectivExpress
Connecting for Kids of Westlake OH
Coventry Village Special Improvement District
Cuyahoga County Public Library Foundation
Cuyahoga River Community Planning
DANCEVERT
Dancing Classrooms Northeast Ohio
Deutscher Musik Verein Inc.
Djapo Cultural Arts Institute
Donauschwaben German-American Cultural Center
Dyngus Day Cleveland
Edward E. Parker Museum of Art
Eliza Bryant Village
Errin Ministries
Euclid Beach Park Now
Far West Center
FOCUS ON EDUCATION
Folknet
Fred and Laura Ruth Bidwell Foundation
Fresh Camp
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
Green Triangle Project

Harvard Community Services Center
Hispanic Alliance
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
Joyful Noise Neighborhood Music School
Julia De Burgos Cultural Arts Center
Kamm's Corners Development Corporation
Lake City Fuse
Lake Erie Native American Council
LakewoodAlive Inc.
Larchmere PorchFest
LatinUs Theater Experience Company INC
LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland
Little Italy 2000 Redevelopment Corporation
LYLESART
Malachi Center
Mental Health Services for Homeless Persons
Inc
Merrick House
MidTown Cleveland Inc.
MorrisonDance
Mt.Pleasant NOW Development Corporation
Naach Di Cleveland
NAMI Greater Cleveland
Negative Space Gallery
Negro League Baseball Legends Hall of Fame
Inc.
No Exit New Music Association
North Union Farmers Market
Notes for Notes Inc
OhioGuidestone
Old Brooklyn Community Development
Corporation
ONE WORLD SHOP
Open Tone Music
Organization of Chinese Americans Greater
Cleveland
P.A.L.S. for Healing
Parma Symphony Orchestra

Pink Tutu Outreach Company
Playwrights Local 4181
Polish Village Parma
Quire Cleveland
Reaching Heights Cleveland Heights-University
Heights Public School Foundation
Restore Cleveland Hope Inc.
Rid-All Foundation
RollinBuckkeyez Foundation
Sankofa Fine Art Plus
Schuhplattler und Trachtenverein Bavaria
Shaker Arts Council
Shaker Heights Development Corporation
Sixth City Sounds Inc.
Slovenian Museum and Archives
Soulcraft CLE
Stellar Acrobatic Dance Academy
Suburban Symphony Orchestra
Symphony West
The Cleveland Grays Armory Museum
The Cleveland Shakespeare Festival
The Cleveland Vegan Society
The Friends of the McGaffin Carillon in
University Circle Inc.
The Gathering Place
The Greater Expectations Intercontinental
Sacred Arts Society
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
Thea Bowman Center
Twelve Literary Arts Inc
Union Miles Development Corporation
UpStage Players
Wake Up And Live's Actors' Studio
West Shore Chorale
West Side Catholic Center
Western Reserve Fire Museum at Cleveland
Inc.
Western Reserve Land Conservancy
Westlake Chinese Culture Association
Westown Community Development
Corporation
Women In History
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 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 – 2019 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*



Sarah Benvenuti (New York, NY) **

Sarah Benvenuti is the founder & lead consultant of Benvenuti Arts, serving the fundraising and management needs for small arts and culture organizations. Before founding Benvenuti Arts, Sarah served as the special events manager of Arena Stage in Washington, DC; managing director of Curious Theater Company in Denver, CO; and director of development and interim managing director of The Civilians in Brooklyn, NY. She has participated in the Arts Leadership Institute of the New York Arts and Business Council, Impact Denver of the Denver Metro Chamber, and was an inaugural Emerging Leaders of New York arts fellow. She is currently the chair of the Future Tenant Alumni Association, based out of Heinz College at Carnegie Mellon University. Sarah holds degrees in arts management from Carnegie Mellon University and music education from Mercyhurst University.



Kelsey Brown (Los Angeles, CA)

Kelsey Brown is the events and outreach manager at The Los Angeles Film School. Before joining The Los Angeles Film School, she worked as the student events coordinator at San Diego State University and as a researcher in the Digital Media Distribution department for NBC Universal. Kelsey is an experienced live event planner with a demonstrated history of working in the entertainment industry. Kelsey holds degrees in higher education leadership/student affairs from San Diego State University; TV/film production from California State University, Fullerton; and music business from Full Sail University.



Jevon Collins (Columbus, OH) **

Jevon Collins is the performing arts program director at The King Arts Complex in Columbus, Ohio. His work includes developing, organizing and facilitating all performing arts programming. Jevon currently serves on the board of directors for the National Performance Network/Visual Artist Network, board of governors for The Ohio State University's Black Alumni Society, and The Ohio State University's Town & Gown Committee. Jevon is a founding member of the Next Gen National Arts Network and the Columbus Artists Network. He has previously served as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts, the Ohio Arts Council and Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. At the age of 11, Jevon earned a scholarship to attend The Ohio State University via the Young Scholars Program. He earned a degree in human ecology from The Ohio State University, and served as a student assistant at the Wexner Center for the Arts.



Alice Anne Dolbin (Philadelphia, PA)

Alice Anne Dolbin is an accountant at the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to that she worked as an administrator for Impact100 and a grant manager at The Merchants Fund. She has also worked with Very Special Arts DC and St. John's Community Services, where she worked with adult artist apprentices who had developmental disabilities. The artistic curriculum she helped implement and develop was used to further the social skills, life skills, and entrepreneurial skills of these artist apprentices. Alice graduated from Penn State University with a degree in fine arts in painting and drawing and also holds a master's degree in arts administration.



Rosalyn Escobar (Los Angeles, CA)

Rosalyn Escobar is the grant manager for the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. She oversees a two-year grant program that currently provides 400 nonprofit arts organizations in Los Angeles with general operating support in order to strengthen the arts sector in the region. Prior to her work with the Arts Commission, Rosalyn worked with various art and community-based organizations throughout Los Angeles including the John Anson Ford Theatre, LA Commons, Venice Arts, Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance and Strategic Actions for a Just Economy. As an advocate and arts administrator, she has focused on learning skills in programming, community-led development and nonprofit management. Rosalyn is a first-generation daughter of immigrants from South and Central America. She holds a bachelor's degree in Latin American and Latinx studies from the University of California Santa Cruz and a master's degree in urban and regional planning from University of California Irvine.



Tracie Hall (Chicago, IL)

Tracie Hall is the director of the culture program at the Joyce Foundation. She previously served as deputy commissioner of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events for the city of Chicago. As deputy commissioner, she oversaw the visual arts, performing arts, music industry, and farmers market programs, as well as the Chicago Film Office. Tracie has also served as vice president of strategy and organizational development at Queens Library in New York City, community investment strategist at Boeing Company's Global Corporate Citizenship Division, and assistant dean at Dominican University's Graduate School of Library and Information Science. Deeply invested in the intersection of arts access, literacy, youth and economic development, she has advanced these efforts through initiatives throughout the country. She holds degrees from the University of California, Yale University and the University of Washington.



Tré Hardin (Nashville, TN)

Tré Hardin is the public art and placemaking coordinator at Metro Nashville Arts Commission. Tré manages public art projects from inception to completion and supports the agency, the public art team, and community members with city-wide public art development. Metro Arts' primary public art & placemaking focus is activating public spaces while working with art and culture makers to hone their skills and practices within a place-based context. As a native of Nashville, Tré seeks to contribute in an authentic way to the swiftly growing city by supporting local artists and working to ensure that all Nashvillians have access to the arts. Tré received his bachelor's of business administration degree from Howard University.



Kristine Harman (Athens, OH)

Kristine Harman is a wildlife conservationist and an expert in wildlife management and natural resources. She has served in a number of wildlife management, natural resources and conservation roles across the country, including: wildlife technician for the U.S. Forest Service; conservation technician at the Tahoe Resource Conservation District; and a field research technician for both Purdue University and the University of California, Los Angeles. She is currently a graduate student at Ohio University studying ecology and evolutionary biology. Kristine holds a degree in environmental science policy and management from the University of California, Berkeley.



Trey Hartt (Richmond, VA) **

Trey Hartt currently consults with non-profits on program design, implementation and management. Trey has experience in the traditional development role as well as arts advocacy, grassroots organizing, and using art as a tool for social change. Currently, he serves on the board of directors Alternate ROOTS, a regional organization that supports the creation and presentation of original art to eliminate oppression. He also served on the board of The Conciliation Project. Trey received his BFA in theatre performance at Virginia Commonwealth University, and he began work towards a MFA in theatre pedagogy before focusing on creating theatre.



Ashe Helm-Hernández (Atlanta, GA) **

Ashe Helm-Hernández are a queer southern Black butch with roots in Louisville, KY. They are the Southeastern Regional Organizer, for Gender & Sexualities Alliance Network (GSA Network). Their background includes teaching adult education, youth advocacy and development, and community organizing. Ashe most recently co-founded Tiger's Eye Collective: Queer Security Cultural and Educational project. They have over 15 years of experience in Human Right to Education advocacy, leadership development, and youth mentoring as a cultural worker and artist.



Leesa Jing (Indianapolis, IN) Leesa Jing most recently served as the grant services and education partnerships coordinator at the Arts Council of Indianapolis. In her role at the Arts Council, she served as support for arts organizations and individuals who applied for grant and fellowship funding. She has worked with a number of other Indianapolis arts & cultural organizations, including the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Arts for Learning, Asante Children's Theatre and

Art With a Heart. Leesa is a graduate of Butler University, where she studied arts administration and mathematics, played violin in the Butler Symphony Orchestra, and was a member of the Butler University dance team.



Carly Jones (Raleigh, NC)

Carly Jones is the music director for the North Carolina Arts Council, where she serves as a resource to musicians and oversees the grant-funded artist fellowships and music organizations across the state of North Carolina. Her previous experience includes serving as the director of communications and development at Arts Together, a non-profit multi-arts school, N.C. Association of Music Educators, the African American Cultural Festival of Raleigh & Wake County, and Justice Theatre Project. She is also active with the nationally recognized group, Arts Learning Community for Universal Access. Carly is a classically trained vocalist and arts administrator, with a diverse background in community programming. She holds a bachelor's of music in vocal performance with a theatre concentration and a bachelor of arts in black music history, with a minor in arts management, from Miami University.



Brittne Knight (Philadelphia, PA) **

Brittne Knight currently serves as the Philadelphia program associate for the Knight Foundation and as the marketing associate for 11th Hour Theatre Company. Previously, she managed events and community engagement at Indego, The City of Philadelphia's bike share program and worked for the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance. Originally from Erie, PA, Brittne is a content and community creative and 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. Brittne holds a bachelor of arts degree in theater and communications from Gannon University and a master of science degree in arts administration from Drexel University.



Alena Leonatti (Carpinteria, CA)

Alena Leonatti serves with the City of Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation Department. Before joining the City of Santa Barbara, she worked as a conservation technician for the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, the Bureau of Land Management and for S&S Seeds, a distributor of local, native seeds wildland plant species. Her scope of work includes seed collecting, plant identification, and water sampling. Alena also has a passion for textiles and design. An experienced seamstress, she has mastered a number of designs and patterns. Alena holds a degree in environmental science with a concentration in sustainable agriculture from Warren Wilson College.



Kevin O'Hora (New York, NY)

Kevin O'Hora is the institutional giving manager at OPERA America, a national service organization dedicated to supporting the creation, presentation and enjoyment of opera. Before joining OPERA America, Kevin held positions with The Glimmerglass Festival, New York Musical Festival, and Pittsburgh CLO. He has produced theater and opera productions in Pittsburgh and London, including the international premiere of *ID, Please* at the Tete-a-Tete Opera Festival. Kevin holds degrees in arts management and voice performance from Carnegie Mellon University.



Shin Yu Pai (Seattle, WA) **

Shin Yu Pai is the deputy head of the Obscura Society for Atlas Obscura. She has previously served as Philanthropy Northwest's special initiatives manager, where she managed the Catalyst Fellowship and the Momentum Fellowship programs. She has also served and as the managing director of the Hendrix-Murphy Foundation, a funder devoted to language and literary arts. She has worked in the nonprofit, museum, arts and higher education sectors and as a writer for newspapers and ethnic media publications. Shin Yu is the author of several award-winning books of poetry, was the poet laureate for the city of Redmond, and in 2014 was nominated for a Stranger Genius Award. She holds a master's degree in museology from the University of Washington and an MFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago.



Christianne Rojo (Santa Barbara, CA) Christianne Rojo is a neighborhood and outreach services program leader for the City of Santa Barbara. In this position she facilitates outreach programs, coordinates food distribution programs and oversees the city's community gardens program. Christianne previously coordinated youth programming for St. Raphael Church in Goleta, CA. In 2016 Christianne launched a docu-web storytelling series entitled *Encounter*, an effort to combine her passions for community development, youth engagement and theology.

Christianne holds a degree in broadcast and digital journalism, with a minor in law and public policy, from The University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism.



Katie Skayhan (Boulder, CO)

Katie serves as the community engagement and social innovation coordinator at University of Colorado Boulder College of Music. Her experience is in strategic planning, grants management, strategic communications, project management and fundraising. She 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. Katie is an alumna of Oberlin Conservatory and Conservatory and holds a bachelor's of music in vocal performance. She holds two master's degrees in public affairs and arts administration from Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs.



Brett Swinney (Chicago, IL)

Brett Swinney is a curator, organizer, producer, videographer, photographer, web developer, podcast producer and musician. He is the co-founder of the Art Leaders of Color Network and AnySquared Projects and serves as the production director for Links Hall, project manager for Cream Co. Art Collective and volunteer coordinator for the Hyde Park Jazz Festival. As the first public programming of the ALCN, Brett co-produced the P.O.W.E.R. Project at Comfort Station and P.E.E.P. at Reunion Chicago. He was a 2016 Hatch Curatorial Resident at Chicago Artist Coalition. Brett has received awards from the Propeller Fund, SAIC Enrichment Fund, and Awesome Foundation. Brett received his master's degree in arts administration & policy from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2014, and a bachelor's degree in photography from Columbia College Chicago in 2004.



Deidre Thomas (Houston, TX)

Deidre Thomas is the grants and capacity building coordinator for the Houston Arts Alliance. She provides oversight and guidance for all HAA programming, works to integrate arts, culture and creativity into city activities, and works with her colleagues in the implementation of grants and capacity building programs. Her experiences in the field have shaped her community-minded approach to developing cultural programs and solutions to benefit Houstonians, and helping arts, culture, and non-arts sectors serve as effective allies for one another. Deidre completed her undergraduate degree in sociology with a minor in African American studies and certificate in nonprofit management at the University of Houston.