

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2019 PROJECT SUPPORT II



Achievement Centers for Children

Your Project Title: Autism School Music Therapy Program

Your Project Summary: The Autism School Music Therapy Program offers the opportunity to further develop socialization, communication, motor, cognitive and musical skills in a fun and developmentally appropriate format to our students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. The Autism School teachers partner with Music Therapy Enrichment Center, Inc. (MTEC) to provide clinical and evidence-based music interventions to accomplish individualized goals.

Final Score: Yes. Overall, the panel felt that the applicant provided evidence throughout the application that the funding criteria were met.

CAC Grant Amount: \$5,000

To ensure an impartial and transparent application review process, CAC convened an online panel of arts and cultural professionals from outside the region who evaluated and scored eligible applications.

Panelists scored each application based on the Funding Criteria—Public Benefit, Artistic and Cultural Vibrancy and Organizational Capacity—with an emphasis on Public Benefit. For more details regarding the panel process and full panelist bios, please review the [Panel Guide](#).



Rosalyn Escobar
(Los Angeles, CA)



Trey Hartt
(Richmond, VA)



Ashe Helm-Hernández
(Atlanta, GA)



Alice Anne Dolbin
(Philadelphia, PA)



Brett Swinney
(Chicago, IL)

Below you will find each panelist's score and comment on your application in response to the question: **With an emphasis on public benefit, does the applicant demonstrate evidence that it meets CAC's three funding criteria?**

Note: Panelist scores and comments are presented in no particular order.

Panelist 1

Score: Yes

Comment: This project meets the funding criteria. They demonstrate public benefit by serving a specific population as well as serving the entire region. They are easily able to identify their community well; however, I would have liked to know where in Cuyahoga County their participants reside. They showcase strong artistic and cultural vibrancy by having a clear understanding of what it takes to run a program for youth with autism. As well as working with licensed therapists and experienced professionals. I would have liked to know more about the individual teachers working in the classroom. Their budget is strong, though small compared to their overall budget. I craved more information on outcomes related to the specific program. Support materials were not useful.

Panelist 2

Score: Yes

Comment: This project meets the funding criteria. They demonstrate public benefit by focusing on a child's abilities instead of their disabilities, and their willingness to adjust class times from 15-20 minutes to longer if needed. They showcase artistic and cultural vibrancy by pointing out their dedication and sensitivity to both the individuals' needs and goals, and whole class. This can result in simultaneously building the individual's skills while fostering inter-connectivity amongst those who have different abilities. Organizational capacity is demonstrated due to their flexible and evidence-based approach which allows them to pivot easily with their programming during the intake process, within the classroom, and over the 75 years of service.

Panelist 3

Score: Yes

Comment: This project meets the funding criteria. Organizational capacity is shown through the budget for the project which is clear. Applicant demonstrates public benefit through their partnerships which will allow students with disabilities to be taught by certified music therapy specialists. The project will also allow students with disabilities to further their goals and understanding life choices.

Panelist 4

Score: Yes

Comment: The project meets the criteria for funding due to how it engages the community and builds meaningful relationships. Though the number of participants is small I think in relation to the number of families with autistic children, this will provide an invaluable resource which will hopefully secure long-term funding.

Panelist 5

Score: Yes

Comment: This project meets the funding criteria. They demonstrate public benefit by providing services that are improving and enriching the lives of youth with Autism. They show artistic and cultural vibrancy by providing detailed information about how program is carried on and how they formulate it and customize it for each individual that participates which is thorough and well-thought out and an appropriate way to serve youth with Autism, whose abilities and skills will differ widely. Applicant could have provided a little more context on how the participants are referred or selected for the program. Also would like to have a little more information about the neighborhoods they work in.

Questions? Cuyahoga Arts & Culture is here to assist. Please contact:

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