

# PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

## 2019 PROJECT SUPPORT II



### Big Creek Connects

**Your Project Title:** Big Creek Watershed Awareness and Stream Monitoring Program

**Your Project Summary:** Big Creek Connects will lead Cleveland Public Library patrons on educational tours from their branch library to Big Creek to monitor the stream's physical, chemical and biological characteristics. Along the way, patrons will learn about historic and existing land uses and their environmental, social and economic impacts to Big Creek, the Cuyahoga River, and Lake Erie.

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

**CAC Grant Amount:** \$1,900

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](#).



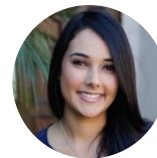
Kristine Harman  
(Athens, OH)



Alena Leonatti  
(Carpinteria, CA)



Shin Yu Pai  
(Seattle, WA)



Christianne Rojo  
(Santa Barbara, CA)

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:** The applicant meets the funding criteria. The hands-on approach of this program is a creative approach to inspire participants to be good stewards of the environment. The collaboration between multiple entities creates a platform of diversity and transparency between residents and water officials. The various facets of the program, from the classroom to the outdoor settings support cultural vibrancy, allowing participants to let their scientific curiosities flow. However, the applicant writes that participants will, "learn how to interact with...stakeholders." This language is worrisome as it lacks equity and respect, assuming that participants don't know how to interact with officials, which is presumptuous, disrespectful and false.

### Panelist 2

**Score:** Yes

**Comment:** This project meets the funding criteria. The organization offers a multitude of public benefits, including partnering with local library branches, Metroparks and a watershed stewardship center. It caters to its community through hands-on stream monitoring, an excellent way to engage/inspire youth and get them involved in environmental/scientific pursuits. There is so much value in this program because this type of field sampling is often available at a college-level rather than accessible to youth. The organization's capacity to run its program well is evident, with achievable goals and professionally experienced staff. The participants will be challenged to think differently about their local watershed, which artistic/cultural vibrancy.

### Panelist 3

**Score:** Yes

**Comment:** This project meets the funding criteria. The organization clearly identifies the target community and is a wonderful example of how environmental education can mentor youth and foster meaningful relationships with them. The project proposal is well organized and the plan well articulated. The organization has already partnered with local libraries to promote, mentor, and inspire the community to become involved. The budget is appropriate and well documented for the proposed project, and BCC has a clear plan to match funds. I really appreciate the outreach to young students interested in natural resource, the free experience will be highly enriching for those who attend, as demonstrated in the supplemental material.

### Panelist 4

**Score:** Yes

**Comment:** Yes, the applicant provides clear evidence that funding criteria are fully met. The proposed program is free to the public and engages the support of several partners, including local libraries that also lend their capacity to this small nonprofit-org. As a culturally vibrant program, this proposal seeks to raise awareness about the watershed and the role of the public in its stewardship.

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

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