

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2019 PROJECT SUPPORT II



Blazing River Arts Group

Your Project Title: 2019 Alphabet Concert Series

Your Project Summary: Blazing River Freedom Band will be presenting a series of 5 concerts, where each title uses a different letter of the alphabet for the theme.

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$2,130

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](#).



Sarah Benvenuti
(New York, NY)



Tracie Hall
(Chicago, IL)



Leesa Jing
(Indianapolis, IN)



Carly Jones
(Raleigh, NC)



Kevin O'Hora
(New York, NY)

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: No

Comment: While an important organization, the projected reach of 100 attendees is unclear and limited. Also, there is some indication that the organization is struggling to reach a broader public. That link to the public either should be demonstrated before a request is made, or be the subject of the request. The organization may also benefit from building up more narrative and images depicting its current and active membership. Again--there seems to be more pre-work needed on this proposal before the real public benefit can be determined.

Panelist 2

Score: Somewhat

Comment: This project somewhat meets the funding criteria. The applicant has a very deep understanding of the musicians they serve, which makes up half their community. However, they do not demonstrate as deep of an understanding when it comes to the other part of their community: their audience members. Since the project goal focuses on the audience, the applicant needs to have a deeper understanding of their audience, rather than their musicians. I am also interested in whether or not the community played in role in how the concert programs were selected. The applicant has a clear plan of how to implement the project, and the budget is clear.

Panelist 3

Score: Somewhat

Comment: This project somewhat meets the funding criteria. The organization is qualified to serve its community, but this proposal does not demonstrate if programming was developed with the needs of a community in mind. I believe that the educational focus of the group will provide benefit to those who participate. Although the financial narrative is not extremely detailed, it gives sufficient evidence that the organization has a realistic understanding of project costs. I believe they have the capacity to successfully execute the events described based on past experience. Overall, the project will successfully engage the LGBTQ+ community and their allies in activities that will promote arts and culture in the region.

Panelist 4

Score: Yes

Comment: Public Benefit: You're expecting a very small audience. Or is the 100 band members? You have a clear sense of your public, but I can't tell if you consider members or audiences as who you are benefiting. Organizational Capacity: Seem to have a clear plan for implementation but not one for reaching your goal of 50 attendees at each concert beyond buying ads and flyer. Need more specificity. Budget is realistic and shows a clear plan for achievement. Cultural Vibrancy: Open and inclusive environment shows vibrancy, as well as keeping audience engaged and excited.

Panelist 5

Score: Somewhat

Comment: This application somewhat meets the funding criteria. Public Benefit: The Blazing River Arts Group provides free and accessible performances to the community at large. It also provides a safe space for musicians who identify as LGBTQA. Artistic and Cultural Vibrancy: Unfortunately, there are not many details shared about the actual repertoire performed or themes of programming. It is noted that the specific programming is not chosen until closer to the concerts; however, it would have helped to include work samples from earlier seasons to demonstrate the intentional programming this group can do. Organizational Capacity: The application reflects their capacity to complete an organized and successful project.

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

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