

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2019 PROJECT SUPPORT II



BorderLight Festival of International Theatre Cleveland Inc

Your Project Title: BorderLight: Casting Cleveland as an International Theatre Destination

Your Project Summary: BorderLight is seeking support to bring international theatre talent to Cleveland, where they will engage members of the local community in creating and enjoying art and building vital cross-cultural ties. Much of the work will be developed over the course of several Cleveland-hosted residencies in spring 2019, culminating in a 4-day festival scheduled for July.

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: \$4,000

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](#).



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: Yes

Comment: There stands to be strong public benefit from this new Theater and Fringe festival that will bring together a diverse array of arts organizations. Though there is not much information provided on what actual ticket prices may be, there is a stated commitment to accessible price points. The deeper community relationships that stand to be developed and the utilization of current and to-be -discovered assets stand out as outcomes of this prospective investment that stands to benefit all of Cleveland and the region.

Panelist 2

Score: Somewhat

Comment: The project somewhat meets the funding criteria. The applicant does not demonstrate a clear understanding of their specific community; however, it is clearly demonstrated how the project will impact them. Bringing world class artists to Ohio and placing them in residencies along with their performances will inspire and challenge community members to think creatively and differently. The organization's operational budget is \$235,340; however, the project budget is \$800,000. I'm wondering how the project will be sustainable if its budget is 4 times greater than the annual expenses for the organization. The applicant states that they have planned for these expenses, but more detail would help clarify the budget and organizational capacity.

Panelist 3

Score: Yes

Comment: This project strongly meets all funding criteria. The proposal demonstrates high potential to establish cultural vibrancy by bringing in international artists and creating performance opportunities alongside them. The organization's capacity to execute the project is very high, evidenced by its proven fundraising prowess and recent growth. This festival has the potential to have a long-term positive impact on the region. I have reservations that this project will not engage a significant audience beyond the arts community. However, because the application demonstrates a deep commitment to establishing programs that create opportunities of such high value for local artists, I believe it meets funding criteria.

Panelist 4

Score: Somewhat

Comment: Public Benefit: Your definition of community is very generic. Who specifically are you serving? Perhaps get data from partner theaters on their audiences? The incredible amount of free programming shows broad benefit. Artistic & Cultural Vibrancy: Clear examples of this. The diverse group of artists and groups, the professional leadership. Would love to know if you have commitments yet as these are impressive groups you are recruiting. Organizational Capacity: Project expenses are HUGE compared to annual budget. You haven't shown the capacity to reach this kind of budget before. I wish you had detailed out how you are raising and spending \$800K because otherwise, you have not proven your capacity to manage a project of that fiscal size, though partnerships in the city do help.

Panelist 5

Score: Yes

Comment: Yes, this application meets the funding criteria. This proposal has an overwhelming amount of public benefit for Cleveland including an international showcase of visiting theatre artists which utilizes already existing theatre spaces of Cleveland; a residency program that collaborates with existing local theatre partners; and a fringe festival for the entire community. Borderlight promotes the creation of new work and collaborations between international cultures which fully demonstrates all aspects of artistic/cultural vibrancy. This organization has a detailed business/fundraising plan which includes many partnerships from the community. I have complete faith in their organizational capacity to produce this program.

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

Luis Gomez

program manager

lgomez@cacgrants.org

216.515.8303 x106

Heather Johnson-Banks

program manager

hjohnsonbanks@cacgrants.org

216.515.8303 x108

Dan McLaughlin

program manager

dmclaughlin@cacgrants.org

216.515.8303 x101