

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2019 PROJECT SUPPORT II



Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers

Your Project Title: Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers Conference: Voice and Vision

Your Project Summary: This full day conference will provide attendees with workshops, luncheon and concert, as well as a panel discussion. The focus will be on sharing stories in ways that allow us to better see and understand each other.

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: Somewhat

Comment: To be sure, there is possible public benefit to be derived from the CABS program, however there is not an indication as to how this fee-based project will reach a public beyond those who pay for tickets. Yet there is case that can be made for documentation or wider audience engagement that could evidence and layer more kinds of community benefit.

Panelist 2

Score: Somewhat

Comment: This project somewhat meets the funding criteria. The applicant demonstrates a deep understanding of the community, and it's clear that they planned this project with the community in mind. I am curious who the storytellers and panelists will be for the event - there could be more specific details about who exactly will be involved with the project. The applicant is requesting \$5000, however the total project expenses are also \$5000, so I am wondering if that was a typo. I'm also curious how the organization will reach out to its intended audience. It seems as if there is a niche for storytellers, but what will their method be to spread the word about this conference so that 250 people register?

Panelist 3

Score: Yes

Comment: This project meets funding criteria. Although the organization's definition of community is small, the proposal indicates that programming is based on the expressed needs of the community they plan to serve. It is clear that the applicant is actively involved in its community and will effectively serve it. The project will contribute artistic vibrancy by engaging diverse artists from across the country. I am concerned that no other fundraising is mentioned for the project beyond this request. The goals of the project as they are described in the proposal are not clearly measurable and loosely defined. Overall, this festival has great potential to offer a unique opportunity for the region.

Panelist 4

Score: Somewhat

Comment: Public Benefit: Clear sense of community and who they serve. They demonstrate the value of this project to that community. Artistic & Cultural Vibrancy: They show a clear vision and how they will create a project fitting that vision. They plan to work with respected

professionals as well as amateurs, showing vibrancy and diversity. Organizational Capacity: The entire project is \$5K and you've requested \$5K, showing you do not have capacity to do this. Be careful. I see further down you plan for another \$5K from volunteers, but this still is concerning. Where will that extra \$5K go? They seem to have many volunteers and strong community partners as well as a robust history.

Panelist 5

Score: Somewhat

Comment: This application somewhat meets the funding criteria. The Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers would provide a workshop conference which would benefit the public by teaching others about storytelling. It is being put together as a response to members from throughout their community who want to learn. The artistic and cultural vibrancy is strong. The very nature of this conference, which is all about sharing stories and learning from one another, inspires community to think creatively/differently. There are concerns about organizational capacity. The application could be greatly strengthened through a more detailed plan for implementation, stronger partnerships, and matching funds coming from other sources besides ticket revenue.

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