

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2019 PROJECT SUPPORT II



Cleveland Chamber Symphony

Your Project Title: NESonicFest 6 - A Northeast Ohio New Music Festival

Your Project Summary: The Grammy Award-winning Cleveland Chamber Symphony (CCS) will host our sixth annual NEOSonicFest – a Northeast Ohio New Music Festival, March 26 – April 7 2019, featuring performances from various local new music groups at a variety of venues in the Cleveland area.

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: No

Comment: The evidence that could speak concretely to the real public benefit of this project is missing from this proposal. When asked to articulate what the goal of the project is, increasing attendance is the only outcome listed. There is no statement of real public or artistic demand, nor is there indication that the types of musicians that would be brought together would address any persistent gap or produce an important new learning or present a body of work that could not be presented at any other such festival. While data that could address each of the questions may be available, there is not enough in the narrative or the supporting links or website to adequately speak to this.

Panelist 2

Score: Somewhat

Comment: The project somewhat meets the funding criteria. The organization is clearly aware of their different communities; however, it's unclear how each of the three communities will specifically benefit from the project. For example, how will those who are involved with the sciences be effected by this project, and how are you working with them? The project goal is clear, however the success indicator could be stronger. The project budget is \$43,000, and the requested amount is \$5000. I'm interested in learning what the remaining \$38000 will be used for; the budget could use more detail.

Panelist 3

Score: Yes

Comment: This project meets all funding criteria. The proposal makes a compelling case for how it will benefit the public through accessible concerts and contribute to the artistic vibrancy of the region by advancing music of local composers. The organization possesses strong financial capacity to complete the project as described: they have already received matching funding and have several pending requests. I appreciate the proposal's realistic approach to the three facets of its public audience, but wish it was more consistent in detailing how activities will be targeted to each constituency. Goal measurement should be more accurate than an attendance headcount.

Panelist 4

Score: Yes

Comment: Public Benefit: Clear sense of community and how this benefits each segment. Many partners are invested, showing the community acknowledges the benefits. Artistic & Cultural Vibrancy: featuring many great local groups, showing strong vibrancy. Many respected professionals are involved. Organizational Capacity: Is this festival all they do? The project budget = total org budget. Great partnerships show strong capacity. I do wish they'd show a plan to reach the goal of 700 audience members. What is the marketing plan to reach this? I see a clear plan for the event, though, and appreciate the extra note about current status and planned performers. Could definitely use more specific numbers in the budget.

Panelist 5

Score: Somewhat

Comment: This application somewhat meets the funding criteria. Public Benefit: The Cleveland Chamber Symphony's NEOSonicFest provides high-quality classical music in traditional and nontraditional settings; however, I would have liked details surrounding intentionality of the actual content in the programming for the various communities they have outlined. Artistic and Cultural Vibrancy: They have engaged a diverse team of arts and cultural partners. Organizational Capacity: They have secured matching grants which strengthens the application; however, I am most concerned by the fact that their overall organizational budget are equivalent to project costs; which seems more like general operating support, not project support.

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

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