

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2019 PROJECT SUPPORT II



Cleveland Hearing & Speech Center

Your Project Title: Deaf Theatre Adaptation of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory"

Your Project Summary: The proposed project is to produce a Deaf Theatre adaptation of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory." This production will be presented simultaneously in American Sign Language and spoken English and has many elements of theatre storytelling including speaking characters who narrate over a soundtrack, while the Deaf acting ensemble performs in easily understood mime and gestures.

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$5,000

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: This proposal clearly shows public benefit. In addition to creating inclusive theater for hearing impaired audiences--a community that is persistently underserved, it will also provide a platform for showcasing hearing impaired theater artists. The foundation of the supporting organizational partnerships seems strong and this project seems set to deepen that. I am interested however in what efforts can be taken to make sure that hearing impaired theater professionals beyond the stage--in other aspects of production--might be engaged and can benefit from this work.

Panelist 2

Score: Yes

Comment: This project fully meets the funding criteria. The applicant has a deep understanding of its community and what makes a theatre experience enjoyable for them. It's evident that every decision that goes into the planning of this project is made with the deaf community in mind. There is a strong partnership between the applicant and Near West Theatre, with leaders for the project coming from both groups. Deaf Theatre adaptations aren't as common as they should be, so this production will definitely challenge audience members. The project plan and budget are both laid out in full detail - it's clear a lot of thought has been put into the project.

Panelist 3

Score: Yes

Comment: This project meets all funding criteria and will provide innumerable benefits to the Deaf Community. This project will not only contribute to the cultural vibrancy of Cuyahoga County, but also has the potential to serve as a model for theaters across the nation. The concept for this project challenges the restrictions that have typically been placed upon deaf actors in a way that is responsive to their needs and empowers them to more deeply engage in art. The project will challenge the audience and the theater community to think beyond conventions that have been placed upon deaf actors. The proposal is extremely detailed and presents a compelling case for the organization's capacity to execute the project to an extremely high standard.

Panelist 4

Score: Somewhat

Comment: Public Benefit: Very clear community and how a production specifically crafted with deaf audiences in mind will have benefit for ALL audiences. Artistic & Cultural Vibrancy: Strong partnerships with organizations who can help achieve this, as well as showing exciting new artistic projects and choices. Are the actors going to be amateur or professional? Organizational Capacity: Who is SignStage? Is that part of this organization? I am not sure if CHSC has produced a play before, so knowing more about SignStage would help. I worry that you are relying only on ticket income to match any funding from CAC. You need other fiscal support. CHSC is a large organization- how much of its budget going towards this?

Panelist 5

Score: Yes

Comment: Yes, this application absolutely meets the funding criteria. Public Benefit: It is very clear that the Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center understands the needs of the deaf community and is building meaningful relationships with community partners such as the beautiful relationship with Near West Theatre. Artistic and Cultural Vibrancy: Using theatre as a tool to teach about the challenges that the deaf community faces through a production of "Charlie & The Chocolate Factory"; while giving Deaf actors a seat at the table by casting a mixed cast of Hearing and Deaf actors - that is extremely powerful and unique. Organizational Capacity: The fundraising plan is a little weak; other financial sponsors would strengthen this proposal.

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