

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2019 PROJECT SUPPORT II



Cleveland TOPS Swingband

Your Project Title: Keeping Seniors Swinging

Your Project Summary: Keeping Seniors Swinging is a project of the Cleveland TOPS Swingband to provide live, classic Big Band music for seniors in venues including hospice facilities, nursing homes, senior centers, community centers, public parks and schools. This two part project will focus on bringing live concerts to low-income senior facilities in Cuyahoga County, and will seek to engage local youth with concerts and interactive sessions in community centers and schools.

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](#).



Rosalyn Escobar
(Los Angeles, CA)



Trey Hartt
(Richmond, VA)



Ashe Helm-Hernández
(Atlanta, GA)



Alice Anne Dolbin
(Philadelphia, PA)



Brett Swinney
(Chicago, IL)

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: The project does meet the funding criteria. Public benefit is evident through their strong commitment to the senior community across the county. They have a strong understanding of the role music plays in a senior citizen's life. It is clear that they are providing a service that no one else, or very few, are offering. The artistic vibrancy is strong thanks to the qualifications of the musicians. It's good to see some intergenerational outreach. Is it intentional that they are 75 years old, on average? The organizational management could use support due to their financial snapshot. I would have liked to see more information on other demographics of the senior community.

Panelist 2

Score: Yes

Comment: This project meets the funding criteria. I believe this organization has immense public benefit. Their constituency, seniors tend to have less opportunity for self-actualization exercises and tend to experience a lot of neglect and abuse. This project seems like an exuberant way to engage seniors with what they already know and love. It provides them with a foundation to continue what they love and use it as a way to communicate and develop networks. All in all, the program demonstrates deep cultural vibrancy and public benefit within their community. Taking the events to the homes shows the true accessible nature of their programming and strong organizational capacity.

Panelist 3

Score: Yes

Comment: This project provides evidence of fully meeting the funding criteria. The applicant shows evidence of public benefit by presenting professional senior musicians to a senior demographic that includes those struggling with memory impairment issues, which helps aid in musical memories. I believe that the applicant support materials serve as a good example of positive interaction with the community and retired music professionals. Offering concerts free of charge allows lower income facilities and community members to participate.

Panelist 4

Score: Yes

Comment: This project meets the funding criteria. The function of the group has a community engagement component. The project understands, respects, works with, and responds to its community of seniors citizens by providing free music programming. Which is clear evidence of public benefit. They have clear plans to implement the project and achieve stated project goals.

Panelist 5

Score: Yes

Comment: The program is responsive to the needs of seniors which ensures that the organization is meeting a public benefit. Would be helpful to see a list of venues that they are hoping to partner with for the live concerts and performances. It is clear that the programming is inclusive. I would also like to know how they select and reach out to the musicians they work with. The artistic samples do a great job of showing the engagement and joy from the audiences and participants.

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