

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2019 PROJECT SUPPORT II



Cleveland West Art League, Inc.

Your Project Title: 78th Street Studios Feature Exhibition Series

Your Project Summary: Cleveland West Art League (CWAL) mounts a series of bi-monthly art exhibitions in our gallery located at 78th Street Studios in Cleveland, Ohio. Our member artists have an equal opportunity to submit their artwork for consideration for display. Additionally, we have three un-juried exhibitions which are open to our entire membership every year. These exhibitions provide a venue for the public at large to engage in dialogue with artists and their artwork.

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](#).



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: Somewhat

Comment: The project somewhat meets the funding criteria. It is vital to have art spaces for emerging arts professionals, and the public benefit to the artist members was more clear than other aspects of this application, though they offered no information on their members. I also wanted more information on how they cultivate and build trust for a diverse audience. Their Facebook page suggests they pull a fairly homogenous audience. I also craved more information on the niche they fill in the Cleveland art scene. They have management issues. The budget narrative was too vague, and this feels more like general operating support than a project grant. Their website has expired, which is not a good sign.

Panelist 2

Score: Somewhat

Comment: The project somewhat meets the criteria. While they passionately serve their membership with their gallery and are open to have any and all who want to attend their exhibitions monthly do so, I would love to know more about exactly how they plan to increase their capacity for the 2019 year. It would be particularly interesting to know what specific events will be held, how they plan to increase their membership (what are the members' benefits, the marketing strategy past the drive and universities), and more about the professional development programming for artists. The project dates also seem very wide. While it's not my purpose to identify their constituency, it seems like expanding to widely can result in less intense programming.

Panelist 3

Score: Yes

Comment: The project meets the funding criteria. The applicant shows public benefit by providing opportunities for local artist to display their artwork for the public to view. Organizational capacity is visible do to a strong board of directors that will lead the project and create quality events. The support materials suggest a diverse audience participates in the vibrant arts scene.

Panelist 4

Score: Yes

Comment: This project fulfills the funding criteria. The organization has an ongoing public benefit by presenting the works of Cleveland based artists. The applicant also has a clear method of planning as a team to set project goals, measure progress and evolve. They use their knowledge of its community to drive its work which is evidence of artistic and cultural vibrancy.

Panelist 5

Score: Somewhat

Comment: The project somewhat meets the funding criteria. The program shows some evidence of public benefit but the application lacked concrete details. Who are the artists that they are working with? How do they conduct outreach? How will they achieve the increase in public participation that they describe as a goal? Based on the application and support materials, I didn't get a good understanding of who their community is and though they say that their community is diverse, I don't see that in the samples.

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