

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2019 PROJECT SUPPORT II



#### Cuyahoga County Public Library Foundation

**Your Project Title:** William N. Skirball Writers Center Stage 2019 Events

**Your Project Summary:** Cuyahoga County Public Library (CCPL) Foundation presents the William N. Skirball Writers Center Stage series with its academic partner, Case Western Reserve University (CWRU). The highly acclaimed series brings six world renowned authors and journalists annually to Cuyahoga County. The series will celebrate its 15th season in 2018-2019.

**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](#).



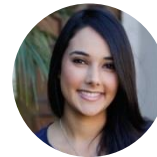
Kristine Harman  
(Athens, OH)



Alena Leonatti  
(Carpinteria, CA)



Shin Yu Pai  
(Seattle, WA)



Christianne Rojo  
(Santa Barbara, CA)

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 proposal meets all of the funding criteria. The Foundation is a reputable producer of high quality literary programming featuring national talent. They wish to focus on diversifying audiences through engaging local college students. They are aware of the niche nature of their audience and curate low-risk programming to engage that core audience of middle-aged women. I would personally encourage curating diverse authors from underrepresented backgrounds that could engage college students studying contemporary literature by up and coming authors or certain genres of ethnic literature. Bestselling authors include: Tommy Orange, Therese Mailhot, Kristin Valdez, Sherwin Bitsui, Joan Kane, Terrance Hayes.

### Panelist 2

**Score:** Yes

**Comment:** The project meets the funding criteria. The CCPLF recognizes that there is a need to increase their audience's diversity, and attracting more students will certainly enable them to do so and more effectively carry out their mission. The public benefits gained by the community are significant simply because all students are granted equal opportunity to this series. Artistic and cultural vibrancy is attained by bringing accomplished authors/journalists to the community, which certainly stands to inspire and challenge its literary community. CCPLF devised a reasonable plan to attract students and a solution to cover costs for student tickets so that more students are likely to participate. Sponsors are also already in place to support this series.

### Panelist 3

**Score:** Yes

**Comment:** This project meets the funding criteria. Overall, the project proposal is well defined, well articulated, and demonstrates the organization's ability to effectively implement the proposed project. The goal is achievable and I like how the aim is to increase student participation. However, I question if this goal will be met based on the current information. Almost the entirety of the requested funds are going towards purchasing student tickets and a small portion going towards the actual promotional material that would increase participation. Nonetheless, for the students who are able to attend this event, I have no doubt will be deeply inspired and enriched by the experience.

### Panelist 4

**Score:** Somewhat

**Comment:** The applicant somewhat meets funding criteria. While the content of the series promotes artistic and cultural vibrancy, public benefit is questionable as it is unclear if the events are easily accessible to people of various socioeconomic and educational backgrounds in the Greater Cleveland area. The applicant states intentions of diversifying their audience, yet only offers 50 free tickets to a campus of over 11,000 students. In an effort to support public benefit by working with all members of their community, the applicant should also consider offering free admission and reaching out to community members who may not have the financial means to afford a ticket, as well as to those who are not currently enrolled in the university, but are also interested and excited about reading and literary events. The limited access to affordable or free tickets makes public benefit questionable because it reflects a lack of knowledge and understanding about the community, which the applicant explained they are trying to engage.

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

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