

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2019 PROJECT SUPPORT II



Cuyahoga River Community Planning

Your Project Title: Cuyahoga River Year

Your Project Summary: River Year is an expansion of the annual River Day that will be held on May 18 along the Cuyahoga River and in tributary communities, where the public will help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the last fire on the river and participate in cleanups, restoration, and recreation programs in and along the river, streams, and lakefront. The special arts-focused activity for River Day will involve the collection and exhibition of existing graffiti art along the Cuyahoga ship channel.

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](#).



Kelsey Brown
(Los Angeles, CA)



Tré Hardin
(Nashville, TN)



Brittnie Knight
(Philadelphia, PA)



Katie Skayhan
(Boulder, CO)



Deidre Thomas
(Houston, TX)

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 applicant meets the funding criteria. The applicant's proposal is well thought out and presents a meaningful and engaging project that will enhance the work being done to restore the river in Cuyahoga County.

Panelist 2

Score: Somewhat

Comment: This project somewhat meets the funding criteria. The collaborations between community and environmental organizations are strong and this organization has a demonstrated history of success in providing artistically and culturally vibrant programs. I am concerned about how the art that already exists along the river is being collected. I agree that it is important to document and share the collection of works, but I would like to make sure that this is not exploiting the creations of artists not engaged in this process. While I know it might be nearly impossible to track down these artists, it would be good to give more voice to the anonymity. I believe that River Day provides great public benefit through participatory art-making.

Panelist 3

Score: Yes

Comment: Beyond cleaner water and public spaces being at the benefit of everyone whether they are local, or just passing by, there is clear emphasis on engaging local partners to the river for this river wide project. Based on their budget that have previously secured funding to support the clean up day. The implementation of this execution allows the org to use their capacity to manage a smaller group of people with the ability to increase impact.

Panelist 4

Score: Somewhat

Comment: This project somewhat meets the funding criteria. This application shows a strong interest in inspiring a group of people that they have not targeted before. By reaching beyond "water people," the project wants to bring the river to the greater community by using the arts. The use of the term "best art" can be worrying. By defining what art is the best, the organization could possibly discourage artists who are not recognized. Using that language can be counterproductive in encouraging the community to be involved in a creative life.

Panelist 5

Score: Yes

Comment: Yes, the project meets funding criteria. Committee clearly understands and respects the community that engages with the river and its watershed. It utilizes something like river graffiti that might be looked at as a nuisance and chooses to elevate it to art for the state as a whole, who may not have access to appreciate it. Thoroughly outlined their team and how they plan to inspire their community to think differently about street art along the river. Organizational Capacity – Have a detailed plan and goals for the events, would like to see them be more purposeful with their evaluations other than comment cards and online responses (perhaps utilizing social media, having guests create an art piece with their comments, etc)

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

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