

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2019 PROJECT SUPPORT II



Djapo Cultural Arts Institute

Your Project Title: The 10th Annual African Dance & Drum Festival featuring a Juneteenth Concert.

Your Project Summary: The 10th Annual African Dance & Drum Festival is a 3-day festival featuring a culminating concert with participants residing in Cuyahoga County. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Djapo will present traditional African dance, drumming, language and culture workshops. The Saturday evening concert will culminate with professional artists from various parts of Africa, South America and the U.S. alongside participants from the weekly community classes held in Cuyahoga County from September through May.

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 demonstrates public benefit through its intended audience size as well as the convergence of different dance traditions (African continental and diasporic, as well as South American). There is evidence online that the festival does play a critical role in the region as there does not appear to be a similar offering at the same scale in the region.

Panelist 2

Score: Yes

Comment: The project meets the funding criteria. The applicant demonstrates an understanding of their targeted community and plans to engage with them in a meaningful, beneficial way. Workshops and discussion groups give the community multiple opportunities for reflection, and the planning is evidently well thought out through the detailed project goal and project budget.

Panelist 3

Score: Yes

Comment: This project meets all funding criteria. The project demonstrates strong potential for artistic vibrancy through engagement of a diverse constituency in community workshops. However, the proposal is not clear in describing its ability to generate public benefit, and instead mentioned two unsupported points related to publicity and job creation which I found to be confusing. Regardless, the proposal demonstrates clear respect and understanding for the community it is attempting to serve. I have no reason to doubt the organization's capacity to execute the project based on their detailed budget, though more information on other fundraising initiatives would have strengthened the proposal. Overall, this project will be enormous asset.

Panelist 4

Score: Yes

Comment: Public Benefit: Great knowledge of their community. Their specific mission and goals are a strong fit. Artistic & Cultural Vibrancy: They work with a diverse group of professionals with a focused goal and artistic vision that is unique amongst the applications. The performers are already included here, which is great. Organizational Capacity: Strong volunteer capacity and history of success. They have already listed performers and staffing, showing clear planning.

Thank you for such a detailed budget- I clearly see how you will reach your match goal and spend the funds.

Panelist 5

Score: Yes

Comment: Yes, this application meets the funding criteria. Public Benefit: DJAPO's African Dance and Drum Festival provides public benefit through demonstrating that it understands, respects, works with, and responds to its community through a public festival that invites the entire community to learn about and celebrate African and African American culture. Artistic and Cultural Vibrancy: By educating through the arts about culture, this organization is inspiring its community to think creatively and/or differently. I love the multi-disciplinary aspect to the festival; encompassing all perspectives of African and African American culture. Organizational Capacity: The growth goals are clearly stated and achievable.

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

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