

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2019 PROJECT SUPPORT II



Dyngus Day Cleveland

Your Project Title: Dyngus Day Cleveland 2019

Your Project Summary: Dyngus Day Cleveland is always held the day after Easter as an annual festival celebrating Polish and Eastern European heritage. Many come to celebrate Dyngus Day in the western neighborhoods of Cleveland. The headquarters of the festival in the Gordon Square Arts Neighborhood boasts an outdoor stage with live music all day, ethnic Polish food and drinks. The Dyngus Day parade and the Miss Dyngus Day competition are events that should not be missed!

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](#).



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: No

Comment: This proposal does not clearly meet the funding criteria. In terms of public benefit - they claim to stimulate the local economy and report positive audience feedback but there is a component of community engagement that is lacking. The program celebrates European heritage and tradition, but not in a way that challenges and inspires its community. Funds will be spent on logistical needs; there is no clear plan for raising matching funds - activities are cited, but not specific goals.

Panelist 2

Score: Somewhat

Comment: The funding criteria is somewhat met by this project. As described in the application, DDC's understanding of the community drives its work. It promotes better cultural understanding of Eastern European peoples through this cultural festival, which is also a free event, both undeniably valuable public benefits. Although some specifics were bypassed in terms of how the project will be carried out, they offer a general outline & their case history proves they are capable of successfully executing the event. The project goal was unspecific regarding how much they intend to grow. The ways they wish to create a greener, cleaner event were not explicitly stated either. However, the overall public benefit to be gained offsets the unmapped details.

Panelist 3

Score: Yes

Comment: This project meets the funding criteria. The applicant clearly understands the community that they serve. The influence and cultural vibrancy of celebrating the costumes, food, and entertainment from the eastern European Immigrants is essential to the program. This festival is a great way for those who immigrated over to share their unique lives and for the residents to learn about and be inspired by a different culture. The proposal is organized, and the fact that this event has out grown its current space, demonstrates their ability to implement the project successfully. I do wish the application was a bit more specific when it came to the funding request and matching fund responses. However, I do understand the need, a larger venue comes with a larger price tag.

Panelist 4

Score: Somewhat

Comment: The applicant somewhat meets the funding criteria. The festival celebrates a certain cultural holiday and reflects aspects of public benefit through its free programming, thus making it easily accessible, inviting and engaging to its particular cultural community. The language of the applicant is troublesome, causing confusion as to the artistic and educational elements of this event and how this festival will promote and celebrate cultural diversity, while engaging community members of other cultural backgrounds. For example the applicant writes: "...bringing the very best cultural festival to the people," "...you do not get this feeling at other festivals," "...people get to see parts of the city that they never see before." Statements like this are troubling and presumptuous as they lack equity and respect for other cultures and cultural festivals in Cleveland. To exhibit true public benefit there needs to be proof that all people of all cultural backgrounds are invited, respected and meaningfully engaged. The applicant missed the opportunity to explain how this important aspect of public benefit will be accomplished because a majority of their application was filled with boastful language, which lacked equity.

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

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