

# PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

## 2019 PROJECT SUPPORT II



### Far West Center

**Your Project Title:** Open Art Studio - Supporting Recovery from Mental Illness.

**Your Project Summary:** Weekly Open Art Studio sessions help mental health clients struggling with isolation, poor communication skills, and low self-image. The Open Art Studio is a welcoming, “nonclinical” setting for self-guided art experiences supporting recovery. Clients not only learn creative art methods, but also discover their talents, strengths and abilities. By creating their own art, client learn to enjoy, imagine, relax, trust, hope, relate and understand key ingredients of a mentally healthy lifestyle.

**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](#).



**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:** This application provides ample evidence it meets the funding criteria. It demonstrates artistic and cultural vibrancy and expertise in the ability to facilitate the program. It responds directly to community by providing arts therapy to its constituency. The programs are outlined and clearly defined and the public opportunity to engage with the work provide additional public benefit through empathy building and advocacy. The support materials enhance the application by sharing additional narratives about clients benefiting from this work.

### Panelist 2

**Score:** Yes

**Comment:** This project meets the funding criteria. The organization provides artistic and culturally vibrant activities that respond to the community it serves. The activities demonstrate an understanding of the challenges the target community faces and equips them with well thought-out creative solutions. The goal and evaluation process are especially strong. The myriad of community partnerships further enhance public access and benefit.

### Panelist 3

**Score:** Yes

**Comment:** The application demonstrated public benefit through the creation of the program as a result of the community asking for support and programmatic opportunities around arts and art as a tool for therapy. I appreciate the details regarding sustainability and funding to support the program. The inclusion of anecdotal evidence (quotes and feelings from your constituents) showcases an availability to hear and engage your community.

### Panelist 4

**Score:** Yes

**Comment:** This project meets the funding requirements. By providing an open art studio for people recovering from mental illness, this project not only benefits those who are suffering themselves, but also improves their impact on family and community in the end. The use of testimonials in the application provide evidence of cultural vibrancy and inspiration. By measuring the success of the program using three domains, the program demonstrates a capacity to not only manage the program, but to tell the story of its results.

## Panelist 5

**Score:** Yes

**Comment:** Yes, the project meets funding criteria. Public benefit – Proposal was clear and purposeful with illustrating how art studio helps its clients, and how art therapy specifically helps low income, underserved persons. Displaying the art will also connect the public to the students, and bringing in the art professionals of the community will connect them to the residents. Artistic/cultural vibrancy – Accomplished through the creations of their clients and the detailed way that the proposal outlines the staff coordinating these projects and how the art will be displayed. Organizational Capacity – Highly detailed in the goals set forth through the project and the purposeful ways in which the organization will measure the success of these goals.

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

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