

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2019 PROJECT SUPPORT II



Fred and Laura Ruth Bidwell Foundation

Your Project Title: Entropy: A Look at Decay Photo Exhibition

Your Project Summary: Entropy will be an exhibition of primarily photo-based work at Transformer Station which will share the work of artists who are considering the subject of decay. In many ways this show will continue ideas posited in Transformer Stations' group show of 2016 entitled *Unfixed*. *Unfixed* questioned the illusion that the photographic image is a permanent record and celebrated work of artists who used the fleeting nature of photographic materials and processes as a means of expression.

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](#).



Rosalyn Escobar
(Los Angeles, CA)



Trey Hartt
(Richmond, VA)



Ashe Helm-Hernández
(Atlanta, GA)



Alice Anne Dolbin
(Philadelphia, PA)



Brett Swinney
(Chicago, IL)

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: Somewhat

Comment: Transformer Station somewhat meets the funding criteria. I believe that high-quality arts experiences in underrepresented communities is vital, but there seems to be a big disconnect with their community by the way the application is written. I found that they had the most trouble explaining who their community was beyond people who like or have an appreciation for contemporary art. Their artistic vibrancy is strong but was overshadowed by the vagueness in how they talked about why and how this exhibition had a public benefit for their community. I had to conduct my own research to understand what the "underrepresented West Side" meant.

Panelist 2

Score: Yes

Comment:

This project does meet the funding criteria. The strong partnership with the Cleveland Museum of Art and the intimate nature of the exhibitions sounds like it could broaden the appreciation of art to those who may initially be intimidated to submerge themselves into a larger museum setting which demonstrates great public benefit. They have strong organizational capacity and seem to have clearly identified ways to broaden their constituency further. The subject of decay in photography seems artistically challenging and coupling the exhibition with artist talks is a great way to elaborate on a difficult topic.

Panelist 3

Score: Somewhat

Comment: The project somewhat meets the funding criteria. The application conveyed a weak public benefit. I would have liked to see a how the organization plans to work with community members for this project, since the project mentions bringing museum-quality works to a historically underrepresented part of Cleveland, from an institution with private works, it is not clear if these works of art will reflect the community that it is intended to host an exhibition in. The budget needs more clarification. The organization seems to have the capacity to undertake the project.

Panelist 4

Score: No

Comment: This project does not meet the funding criteria. While the final product will be open to the public, there does not seem to be many other engagements with the public, whether members of a community or even the participating artist. This resulted in weak evidence of public benefit. There could be a third component that could solve that problem if it was more inclusive to the greater surrounding communities, both creative and socio-economic.

Panelist 5

Score: Somewhat

Comment: This project somewhat meets the funding criteria. Public benefit was weak due to the lack of information on how they would work with their community. It is clear that the project and theme have high artistic standard. However, it was hard to see how the exhibit will reflect the diversity that they hope to see in their audience. How will the staff engage audiences' members that may not already be connected with the gallery? Is that a goal?

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

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