

# PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

## 2019 PROJECT SUPPORT II



### Front Steps Housing and Services

**Your Project Title:** Chronically Homeless with a Persistent Mental Illness Express Themselves Through Art

**Your Project Summary:** Over the past 30+ years we have worked with thousands of individuals who have survived homelessness. In that time, we have found that our residents have been traumatized by living on the streets and suffering with a mental illness. They also lack a safe and appropriate means of expression to relieve themselves of this burden. Art Therapy has been a significant outlet for residents to constructively and creatively give voice to their feelings and emotions in an individual and social context.

**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)



**Brittne 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 meets the funding criteria. The community served and public benefit were very clear and compelling. This endeavor is important and they are highlighting issues in a way that shows respect and care for the community they serve. The proposal demonstrates they have the competency to complete the project. The budget was clear and straight-forward. The project has strong potential to inspire and encourage its community to think differently and creatively.

### Panelist 2

**Score:** Yes

**Comment:** This project meets the funding criteria. The organization works with the community to uplift voices of a marginalized community. The project incorporates a diversity of voices that leads to great public benefit and artistic and cultural vibrancy. With a history of proven success, the organization responds to the community it serves and tailors the programs to their needs and interests. The alignment between the programming and methodology to restore dignity and self-esteem is particularly compelling.

### Panelist 3

**Score:** Somewhat

**Comment:** This application somewhat meets the funding criteria. The applicant has a set precedent of 30+ years in programming that benefits the homeless community via art therapy. I do not question the ability to impact their identified community with support and activities. But it is unclear who their audience is beyond just "the homeless community" and what the programming will be that with "reinforcement self esteem" and other identified benefits. There is value in the programming and the emphasis on engagement will benefit both the audience and public narrative around homelessness

### Panelist 4

**Score:** Yes

**Comment:** This project meets the funding requirements. By understanding the effects of homelessness, this application proves that it can have a meaningful impact on its community. Using that understanding, the application demonstrates specific goals to address quality of life, distress and empowerment within their community. The project is also publicly funded and lead

by Gretchen Miller who has more than 20 years of experience in art therapy, which provides the confidence of a high quality program with public support

## Panelist 5

**Score:** Yes

**Comment:** Yes, the project meets funding criteria. The applicant has a deep understanding of the struggles and needs of this community and is purposeful in its plan for using art therapy to assist in treating these individuals. Very qualified professionals at the helm of this project, and the public art show in the fall connects the surrounding community to the residents of the program. Details about the qualifications of the art therapist running the program are clear, though I would like to see more about how the art show in the fall works to better illustrate connecting the surrounding community to the shelter as a whole, thereby dispelling myths about homelessness even further.

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

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