

# PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

## 2019 PROJECT SUPPORT II



### India Festival USA

**Your Project Title:** Celebrating Culture & Diversity thru Dance & Music

**Your Project Summary:** One-day of togetherness diversity festival - visitors are encouraged to participate in a thematic display of the rich culture and diversity of two of the greatest nations on earth - India and USA. Festival promises an immersive environment that salutes history, embraces globalization and celebrates communities & diversity thru art (dance & music).

**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](#).



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 in its goal of making Indian cultural tradition more visible to residents regionally. The links and text provided also indicate that the festival works to provide a platform for a diverse range of other cultural traditions as well. The goal of increasing attendance as well as seeking city and state acknowledge of the community the festival represents is also noted. One final comment, the websites do a great job of documenting current events, it would be an added benefit and perhaps support the goal of increasing attendance, if the organization documented each year of the festival along with that year's participants and themes. That cumulative visual information could yield multiple benefits.

## Panelist 2

**Score:** Somewhat

**Comment:** The project somewhat meets the funding criteria. The community is not well defined. With a more specific community, the applicant would be able to make more focused decisions when it comes to planning. The event itself is not well-described. Yes, I can see that the community will benefit by being immersed in a new culture, but how exactly will that occur? More detail would be beneficial. Are there volunteers already committed to the project? How many volunteers are needed to make it successful? I'd like to see a breakdown of the budget as well.

## Panelist 3

**Score:** Yes

**Comment:** This project meets all funding criteria. The project will contribute public benefit by presenting art in an accessible space. The engagement of public figures will serve as a form of arts advocacy for the region. The fusion of cultures described in the proposal and demonstrated in supplemental materials will make strong contributions to the cultural vibrancy of the community. The proposal demonstrates deep respect for the Indian cultural traditions it seeks to advance, in addition to willingness and openness to engaging performers from outside the tradition. The proposal indicates strong organizational capacity to execute the event.

## Panelist 4

**Score:** Somewhat

**Comment:** Public Benefit: I see they are trying to reach a broad community, but a bit more clarity about who has attended in the past would be helpful. Strong benefit in sharing of cultural. Artistic & Cultural Vibrancy: While they have some strong professional artistic partners, and their work with groups from Latino and other cultures show an effort to think creatively, we do need a bit more specificity about how the day happens. You speak a lot about who likes you- give us more project details/what happens. Organizational Capacity: Partnerships and outreach show strong work towards achieving the project. Need more details about volunteers and staff to show ability to achieve goal. How much is the talent entry fee? Some more numbers would be very helpful.

## Panelist 5

**Score:** Somewhat

**Comment:** This application somewhat meets the funding criteria. Public Benefit: India Festival USA has a very broad definition of community that serves the area at large; but they have demonstrated through the application a strong effort to build relationships with community partners. Artistic and Cultural Vibrancy: This organization is sharing the cultural heritages of multiple communities and “embracing diversity and inclusion” through their programming. Organizational Capacity: The application lacks essential detail surrounding budget and fundraising plans.

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

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