

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2019 PROJECT SUPPORT II



Italian Cultural Garden Foundation

Your Project Title: Opera in the Italian Garden

Your Project Summary: An annual, family friendly concert of Italian Opera (The Cleveland Opera) and Ballet (Cleveland Ballet) offered free for the public in the Italian Renaissance Cultural Garden in Glenville. Now in its 10th year, the concert has broken attendance records every year since it began in 2008, reviving a dormant, urban space and giving the public an opportunity to experience two of Italy's greatest cultural arts, opera and ballet.

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](#).



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: Yes

Comment: The Italian Cultural Garden Foundation meets the funding criteria. The applicant spoke with specificity about being in the Glenville neighborhood and their partnerships with the local government. Even so, I still craved more information about Glenville residents and who actually shows up to the concerts. They should be mindful of not presenting work that is primarily for those outside the neighborhood since they talk so highly of presenting work for the neighborhood. I need more evidence of an authentic relationship with residents. The artistic vibrancy is high, but I wonder how the performances are chosen with and for the audience and Glenville residents. The organizational capacity is strong.

Panelist 2

Score: Yes

Comment: I believe Italian Cultural Garden meets all the criteria. This programming comes as a great public benefit; Opera, traditionally considered very high-brow can be far removed from most of the public. Having a free, outdoor event to introduce opera to the masses is a wonderful way to engage the public with a traditionally illuminating art form. The artistic vision of regenerating something that was historically a treasure for the area in a new light is culturally vibrant. Finally, the ability to generate and organize the in-kind services and volunteers needed to produce the show shows good organizational capacity.

Panelist 3

Score: Yes

Comment: The project meets all funding criteria. The project has been successful for over a decade and attendance has grown each year as community members flock to the event, which shows organizational capacity and excellent public benefit. The applicant presents a strong proposal, with matching grant funds secured. The project will offer opera and ballet in a urban area with a free concert. Support materials are outstanding and reflect the projects final performance.

Panelist 4

Score: No

Comment: This project does not meet the funding criteria. The project is vague and doesn't seem to talk about any details about how it will engage the public. Public benefit is weak due to

that the applicant doesn't seem to understand and respect their community. There are better ways to refer to your audience other than 'urban individuals' and in using that language very casually decreases the overall public benefit while not providing opportunities for the community to think creatively and/or differently.

Panelist 5

Score: Yes

Comment: This project meets the funding criteria. It is clear that the project is of public benefit to the residents of Glenville. The applicant has been providing this program for many years and details how they accomplish their goals. I would like to know how feedback from audience members is gathered and analyzed to improve the programming each year.

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

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