

# PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

## 2019 PROJECT SUPPORT II



### Merrick House

**Your Project Title:** Tremont Arts & Cultural Festival

**Your Project Summary:** The Tremont Arts & Cultural Festival is a multiracial & multicultural festival featuring fine art, sculpture, & original jewelry, children's activities & programs, food booths, and musicians & performers. 2019 is the Festival's 21st year in Lincoln Park in Cleveland's Tremont neighborhood. The Festival is presented by Merrick House, a Settlement House & neighborhood center in the Tremont neighborhood, along with partners Tremont West Development Corp & Cleveland City Councilman Kerry McCormack.

**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](#).



Kristine Harman  
(Athens, OH)



Alena Leonatti  
(Carpinteria, CA)



Shin Yu Pai  
(Seattle, WA)



Christianne Rojo  
(Santa Barbara, CA)

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:** The applicant somewhat meets the funding criteria. Public benefit is demonstrated with an understanding of their community's demographics; openness to the public; free admission and youth programming; and special programming addressing minority and underrepresented artists. However, knowing specifically which organizations Merrick House will partner with seems like important information that was not addressed. The stated goal, which should cater to its community, feels somewhat nebulous as does the respective way to measure progress - these could be better clarified. Regarding artistic and cultural vibrancy, the 2019 African Diaspora feature for the festival does incorporate reflection and fresh programming.

### Panelist 2

**Score:** Yes

**Comment:** The applicant meets the funding criteria. The collaboration between artists and community members, as well as an array of arts and culture-based performances, provide fresh and diverse programming, thus reflecting cultural and artistic vibrancy. The applicant's efforts to focus on showcasing minority and underrepresented artists exhibits a celebration of cultural diversity, which reflects public benefit. The applicant explains that the festival provides a space for neighbors from different cultures to interact and build meaningful relationships, further proving the evidence of public benefit.

### Panelist 3

**Score:** Yes

**Comment:** This project meets the funding criteria. The project will build a meaningful relationship with residents and community partners. This fun festival brings together a diversity of cultural artists and local businesses, in a free and accessible event, as demonstrated in their supplemental material. The budget is realistic and the applicant was entirely transparent about how the money would be utilized and where matching funds would come from. I do not doubt the applicant's ability to achieve the project goals, but I do wish there was a more concrete measurement criteria established.

### Panelist 4

**Score:** Somewhat

**Comment:** The applicant somewhat meets the funding criteria. They are primarily a social service organization allocating a small fraction of their budget to cultural programming and will produce a large multi-cultural community-based festival that is free to all and attracts multigenerational, multiracial audiences. The proposal reflects some innovation from past-year festivals in its new focus on underrepresented artists from the Latinx community. The applicant has several working committees and curators who will support the successful execution of this event and has a clear plan to raise matching funds from other funders including corporate and earned revenue.

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

**Luis Gomez**

program manager

[lgomez@cacgrants.org](mailto:lgomez@cacgrants.org)

216.515.8303 x106

**Heather Johnson-Banks**

program manager

[hjohnsonbanks@cacgrants.org](mailto:hjohnsonbanks@cacgrants.org)

216.515.8303 x108

**Dan McLaughlin**

program manager

[dmclaughlin@cacgrants.org](mailto:dmclaughlin@cacgrants.org)

216.515.8303 x101