

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2019 PROJECT SUPPORT II



MidTown Cleveland, Inc.

Your Project Title: The MidTown Mixtape

Your Project Summary: MidTown Mixtape is an effort by MidTown Cleveland, Inc. to integrate community engagement, musical history, and place programming to inform and shape the neighborhood. This includes the Leo's Listening Party, a music series that fosters social cohesion among residents and neighbors over the shared culture and history in Leo's Casino, a famous, racially integrated Motown club on Euclid Ave. Residents are engaged in this series as thought partners in our collective effort to build community.

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](#).



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: Yes

Comment: Yes, this application meets the funding criteria. MTC identifies the 90% African American, low-moderate income community lacks recreational activities right off the bat; the proposed project seeks to fill this void with arts and culture. The free event builds meaningful relationships among residents and community partners. As stated in the proposal, the event is a step toward addressing community engagement as well as economic, urban, and community development in order to make a dent in complex systemic poverty and race issues. MidTown Cleveland has a solid, grounded, and attainable goal, which already looks to the horizon, anticipating the event's audience to expand. Regarding artistic and cultural vibrancy, the project certainly inspires the community to think creatively.

Panelist 2

Score: Yes

Comment: The applicant meets the funding criteria. This project celebrates the culture of the community through a collaboration of different art mediums, while working with residents to ensure their concerns and feedback regarding neighborhood changes are heard and efforts are made to find solutions as a community. This reflects both strong public benefit as well as strong artistic and cultural vibrancy. This project is an innovative way to celebrate music, culture and memories, while engaging the community.

Panelist 3

Score: Yes

Comment: This project meets the funding criteria. The applicant did a phenomenal job of clearly depicting the depth of community involvement. The applicant has a thorough knowledge of the community they serve and uses not only their knowledge of the the people but also the historical musical culture of this area to drive their work. I really appreciate how this project goes beyond simply uniting everyone under the umbrella of a musical culture, but also provides space for community involvement in urban planning. I was impressed by the project goals and appreciated how they specifically addressed the overall mission of the organization.

Panelist 4

Score: Yes

Comment: This proposal meets all of the funding criteria. The public benefit for this event series is focused around providing free access to the community. Artistic and cultural vibrancy is reflected in celebrating black arts and the programmatic focus on Motown history and Cleveland's connection to that legacy via the former home of Leo's Casino. The structure of the series also encourages dialogue and seeks to collect oral histories to cultivate meaningful community engagement. A clear plan is in place for raising funds from other foundations and the application comes from a nonprofit CDC with professional staffing.

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

Luis Gomez
program manager
lgomez@cacgrants.org
216.515.8303 x106

Heather Johnson-Banks
program manager
hjohnsonbanks@cacgrants.org
216.515.8303 x108

Dan McLaughlin
program manager
dmclaughlin@cacgrants.org
216.515.8303 x101