

# PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

## 2019 PROJECT SUPPORT II



### NAMI Greater Cleveland

**Your Project Title:** Arts-Based Support Groups for Individuals with Mental Illness

**Your Project Summary:** NAMI Greater Cleveland provides 5 year-round arts-based support groups that support individuals with mental illness to achieve recovery using music, journaling, poetry, and expressive painting/drawing groups. Groups meet once or twice a month and empower participants to build relationships, express their feelings, combat stigma, and connect with their individual needs. NAMI GC also presents an annual arts event for children and adolescents in public housing. All groups and events are free.

**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)



**Brittnie 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 demonstrates clear public benefit, specifically serving those with mental illnesses and their families/support systems. The activities are very much rooted in art therapy and doesn't quite demonstrate how it is accessible to the larger community. I would like to see more detail on how this project engages the public. However, the activities provided free of charge and breadth of artistic expression demonstrate engagement of diverse arts and cultural professionals qualified to facilitate the activities. The activities will build meaningful relationships with its participants. The partnerships are smart and relevant to the community being served. The budget is clear.

### Panelist 2

**Score:** Yes

**Comment:** This project meets the funding criteria. The organization demonstrates a history of success working with and responding to the target community. The artistic and cultural vibrancy is well outlined in the multiple channels of participation. I like that a participant has choices when working toward the same positive health outcome. The goals and evaluation process are notably focused and strong.

### Panelist 3

**Score:** Yes

**Comment:** The central focus in supporting communities with mental illness over 18+ is very evident even supplying information on the geographic location of where the engaged community is traveling from. There is a clear break down of how the community can choose to engage with the program via diverse outlets and opportunities. In moments where NAMI needs support to appropriately execute program themes they have community based partnerships with specialized experience. It would be great to see the number of people are engaged outside of the ones that are already in the NAMI network.

### Panelist 4

**Score:** Yes

**Comment:** This project meets the funding requirements. By offering five different arts-based support groups, this applicant attempts to cater to a diverse set of interests to maximize participation. With the free support groups being open to the public, this program gives support

to those who might not otherwise have the resources. By encouraging the support group to take control of the programming, the program emphasizes self-care and positive relationship building. The experienced staff members show that the organization is filled with individuals who are dedicated to the project goals.

## Panelist 5

**Score:** Yes

**Comment:** Yes, the project meets funding criteria. NAMI outlined in great detail the project's courses, summaries, and qualified instructors. The approach to organizing the classes was thoughtful and diverse, from traditional art to creative writing to performance. NAMI also outlined specific goals and how to measure those goals, which will allow them to assess program success and areas for improvement. Their programs are open to the public and seem as though they would do a great benefit for anyone involved.

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

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