

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2019 PROJECT SUPPORT II



Playwrights Local 4181

Your Project Title: Documentary Play Production: "Live Bodies for Sale" by Christopher Johnston

Your Project Summary: Playwrights Local seeks funding for the world premiere production of "Live Bodies for Sale," a new play by the established Cleveland-based author Christopher Johnston. This documentary-style work captures the human trafficking crisis in present-day Ohio, presenting monologues and scenes derived from interviews with real-life survivors, advocates, law enforcement officers, and legal experts. The production will be directed by Terrence Spivey, Cleveland Scene magazine's "Best Director" for 2017.

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](#).



Kelsey Brown
(Los Angeles, CA)



Tré Hardin
(Nashville, TN)



Brittne 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: The applicant demonstrates it meets the funding criteria. The community narrative could be even more specific and fleshed out. They identified their community as patrons, however there was opportunity to also describe the artistic community they serve as a theatre producing the work of local living playwrights. It also could talk about the indirect community it may serve through the subject matter and content of the plays. The project is artistic and culturally vibrant and appears to engage a diverse group of artists and creatives. More detail on expenses could be provided. The strategy for securing matching funds is clear. Support materials demonstrate past successes and are evident of the organization's ability to carry out the project.

Panelist 2

Score: Somewhat

Comment: This project somewhat meets the funding criteria. The organization demonstrates an understanding of the community it serves, but the narrative reads that this project is more self-serving to the organization than to the public benefit. However, the content of the production is socially-engaged, artistically and culturally vibrant, and responsive to community need. There is a demonstrated history of success working with community partners to provide outreach and awareness around the production, but the proposal leans too much on the past. Provide more specific ideas next time. While this is fee-based, consider how to make this more publicly accessible (beyond a 'request for free admission').

Panelist 3

Score: Somewhat

Comment: This application somewhat meets the funding criteria. There seems to be an identifiable need to deliver these narratives (human trafficking) in this specific area, but there is no identification of community partnerships to engage with this sensitive topic and information. How are you are engaging those within the community to tell the stories of others? How will you tell these sensitive stories in a way that is informative and respectful if there are no established partnerships? I think overall, there is an opportunity to greatly benefit the general public and those within human trafficking work and advocacy but it is not demonstrated in the application.

Panelist 4

Score: Yes

Comment: This project meets the funding requirements. By introducing a new play, the program offers a fresh look into the human trafficking crisis. With real life stories and a well recognized local director, the play has an opportunity to inspire others to support advocacy to end human trafficking. The application shows that the organization understands their community's demographics and is intentionally serving everyone. While programs are not always free, the organization has never turned down a request for free admission, which compliments their ability to make their programming accessible to all. The staff and collaborators have great experience around the work.

Panelist 5

Score: Yes

Comment: Yes, the project meets funding criteria. The subject of the performance reflects contemporary issues that should be addressed by the community, and I was pleased to see that the organization is planning to do post-show discussions with their audiences. I was even more excited to see that most of the events are free (and of course open to the public) and that no request for free admissions has ever been turned down – this is a great benefit to any residents who may want to learn more about this serious issue but would not be able to afford an entrance fee. Their goals are purposeful and detailed, and they have an organized way to evaluate and measure their success.

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

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