

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS 2019 PROJECT SUPPORT II



Restore Cleveland Hope, Inc.

Your Project Title: Underground Railroad Project

Your Project Summary: The Underground Railroad (UGRR) Project has three components: 1) Research of primary records to document people, places, things and events connected to the antislavery movement in Ohio, with special attention to Cleveland, to compile "material;" 2) Development of material into artistic presentations and activities in formats: a) short dramas, b) Beloved Community Dialogues, c) Freedom Skits, d) Young Leaders Telling Old Stories: 3) Presentations and activities throughout Greater Cleveland

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: This project somewhat meets the funding criteria. RCH's community is too broad and needs development. The proposal does not provide convincing evidence that they are using knowledge of its community to drive its work. Instead, it feels as though they are promoting their own interests more than responding to community needs. On the other hand, they have built meaningful relationships with residents and community partners and are inviting the public with free programming. It's rather fuzzy how the goal of writing a book relates to the project's 3 components, which seem presentation and performance based. The project will inspire the audience to think critically about historical issues of slavery.

Panelist 2

Score: Yes

Comment: The applicant meets the funding criteria. Public benefit is reflected through the applicant's presentation of meaningful and important discussions about the anti-slavery movement, which society needs to know about. The free programming and presentations at multiple venues to diverse audiences throughout the city, make these programs easily accessible, which further reflects public benefit. Cultural and artistic vibrancy is reflected through the collaboration of multiple art mediums which presents creative, fresh and innovative programming, as well as offering participants an opportunity to reflect and discuss important topics. Engaging students as part of the research team provides a rewarding opportunity for younger generations.

Panelist 3

Score: Yes

Comment: The project meets the funding criteria. This a great example of artistic and cultural vibrancy. The applicant clearly understands their community's rich history with the underground railroad, and is using this to drive its work through interactive education. My favorite part of the planned project is the utilization of high school students to conduct summer research. This is an amazing opportunity to foster important research and writing skills, but will, I believe, inspire these young adults to think differently. The information provided is well articulated, the plan is well developed, clear, and organized.

Panelist 4

Score: Somewhat

Comment: The applicant meets some of the funding criteria. The project itself seeks to highlight the regional antislavery movement by engaging student researchers and bringing this information to light through developing a free series of artistic presentations and a children's book that can convey this research. My primary concern on this application is organizational capacity. Though an external supervisor will be hired to supervise young researchers, I'm confused that the goal of the program is to write a children's book.

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

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