

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2019 PROJECT SUPPORT II



Stellar Acrobatic Dance Academy

Your Project Title: Educating Little Dancers to Serve Our Diverse Communities

Your Project Summary: Ms. Amy Zhang, Director of Stellar, a world-renowned Chinese acrobat, collaborates with a local ballet teacher and integrates acrobatics, ballet, and Chinese classical dance into her choreography. Many little kids living in downtown Cleveland are interested in this type of program but cannot afford it because of their parents' low wage. This project is aimed to help these disadvantaged kids participating in such excellent extracurricular activities and serve our diverse communities.

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: Yes

Comment: Yes, this application meets the funding criteria. SADA demonstrates that they know their community through identifying a gap in the local community backed by interest/demand. They are using their niche expertise to respond. The program is free and open especially to any disadvantaged child interested in Chinese culture, which speaks to the inclusive nature being at the core of what they do. The organization states explicit goals and provides good metrics to track progress. They have a proven ability to retain a cadre of highly qualified professionals. This choreographic alloy of ballet, acrobatics, and Chinese classical dance is certainly original programming. This project will certainly make students think and express themselves differently, more globally, and creatively.

Panelist 2

Score: Yes

Comment: The applicant meets the funding criteria. The program is free, which makes it easily accessible. The applicant's efforts to reach students from low-income households and diverse communities exhibits the celebration of relational community building and engagement. All this reflects public benefit. The presentation of multi-cultural dances along with the collaboration of different forms of dance reflects artistic and cultural vibrancy.

Panelist 3

Score: Somewhat

Comment: The project somewhat meets funding criteria. I question the applicant's understanding of the community based on the slightly demoralizing and excessively used language used to describe it. However, I do believe the applicant is reaching a community where kids may not have as many opportunities to participate in a unique cultural dancing style. There is a public benefit in providing a dance resource to inspire the students creatively and foster self confidence. I do appreciate that the program is free and accessible to their constituents and the organization makes a strong commitment to remain that way.

Panelist 4

Score: Somewhat

Comment: This applicant meets some of the funding criteria. The public benefit of this program encompasses bringing communities together to see or participate in Chinese dance classes with

Stellar Acrobatic Dance Academy - Continued

a focus on Chinese acrobatics. The community engagement aspect of this proposal does not seem very meaningful, but the art form put forward in this application represents a traditional/classical genre that is little known in this region. The applicant demonstrates a clear plan for raising matching funds, the majority of which have already been confirmed.

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

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