

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2019 PROJECT SUPPORT II



The Cleveland Vegan Society

Your Project Title: Cleveland VegFest 2019

Your Project Summary: The Cleveland VegFest is an all-day community event which includes speakers, food presenters, live music, a vegan food court, a cruelty-free market place, children's activities & film presentations.

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](#).



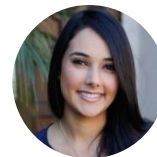
Kristine Harman
(Athens, OH)



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: This application meets the funding criteria. Public benefit is exhibited by partnering with sundry community partners-food vendors, local businesses, green investors, county agencies, nonprofits, etc. There is also an interest in keeping VegFest admission free. They are aware of who their community is and recognize that because veganism has somewhat of a cult following, they serve and draw vegans within Cleveland and the larger geographic region. Exponential growth and enthusiasm over the years definitely demonstrates that CVS understands and aptly caters to its unique circle. Organizational capacity is accomplished through befitting goals with plans to achieve them and monitor progress. Financials are general yet sufficient. Regarding artistic and cultural vibrancy, VegFest will continue stirring new ways to think.

Panelist 2

Score: Yes

Comment: The applicant meets the funding criteria. The applicant's efforts to include more diverse speakers from communities of color reflects the importance of cultural diversity, thus showing cultural and artistic vibrancy. Artistic and cultural vibrancy is also reflected through the various talks discussing different topics and mix of activities, which provide fresh programming. The applicant offering free entrance and engaging various cultural communities makes the event easily accessible, thus exhibiting public benefit.

Panelist 3

Score: Yes

Comment: This project meets the funding criteria. The project is a vibrant and rapidly growing event, as shown throughout the application. This rapid growth demonstrates the community's interest in such a festival, as well as, the applicant's ability to implement the project and exceed project goals. I particularly liked how the applicant responded to specific feedback provided by the participants and adapted accordingly. There is strong public benefit, as the applicant specifically an opportunity to gather and share ideas within a healthy living framework.

Panelist 4

Score: Somewhat

Comment: This application somewhat meets the funding criteria. This large-scale vegan-focused festival will feature film and speakers, and makes admission accessible to the public in the form of a suggested voluntary donation. The festival also offers free childcare in an attempt to increase diversity at the festival. The focus of the program on veganism makes it hard to argue for artistic/cultural vibrancy, particularly when the details of the creative programming are left very generalized and the applicant cites wanting to secure a "higher level of professional musicians" than in previous years. The organization does have a clear plan and precedent for raising matching funds.

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