

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2019 PROJECT SUPPORT II



UpStage Players

Your Project Title: UpStage Players' 2019 Full-Scale Musical Production of Lion King - 25th Annual Performance!

Your Project Summary: UpStage will produce its 25th annual full-scale musical production of Lion King in March 2019 with children leading the on-stage performance. Open auditions offer inclusiveness as all children receive roles. The all-volunteer staff teach blocking, lines, choreography, improvisation, problem solving, reading comprehension, leadership, and peer mentoring. On opening night, the director releases the effort to the children, who lead the professional production in its entirety.

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](#).



Sarah Benvenuti
(New York, NY)



Tracie Hall
(Chicago, IL)



Leesa Jing
(Indianapolis, IN)



Carly Jones
(Raleigh, NC)



Kevin O'Hora
(New York, NY)

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 only somewhat demonstrates public benefit. Though it references important and long-running programming this project does not speak to acute need or historical barriers to arts access within its direct service community or planned audience. The supplied project budget also does not indicate that funds will be used to fund inputs or outputs that will extend public benefit or expand opportunities and amenities to the youth participants. That information would help create greater urgency around a future proposal.

Panelist 2

Score: Yes

Comment: The project meets the funding criteria. The public benefit from this project is evident, not only affecting children, but the friends, family, and community as well. The community partnerships in place in order to make this project successful are purposeful, with resources from the Public Library, school system, and other local groups. The community service aspect of the project inspires and challenges participants and community members to help others, while at the same time educating children and their families about the arts through theatre. The project budget and goal are well thought out.

Panelist 3

Score: Yes

Comment: This project meets all funding criteria. The proposal demonstrates the organization's deep commitment to providing theatrical experiences for youth, with an emphasis on accessibility, inclusivity and education. Participating in a Broadway-style musical will inspire artistic vibrancy in participants. The organization's implementation plan is very clear and the volunteer staff is highly qualified to execute the project. The financial narrative demonstrates the organization's capability to raise matching funds, including several other grant awards received. I appreciate the organization's commitment to accessibility as evidenced by the low fee for participation, something that is uncommon in children's theater programs.

Panelist 4

Score: Yes

Comment: Public Benefit: Clear community and open structure to make it accessible to any kids in the area. No-cut policy shows real effort to benefit all children interested. Artistic & Cultural

UpStage Players - Continued

Vibrancy: No-cut policy shows vibrancy since you'll have collaborative creative experience for all. Professionals lead the process for all, and the production has all the vibrant trappings of a musical, giving a really full experience. Organizational Capacity: Strong partnership with the library and others. Clear plan to complete project. Strong team and leadership. Show clear match for the grant, and plan to spend.

Panelist 5

Score: Yes

Comment: Yes, this application meets the funding criteria. Public Benefit: The Upstage Players serve youth in Cleveland who are interested in theatre and have a theme of inclusivity by casting all children who audition. Through engaging community partners, and even alumni, this organization is building meaningful relationships with residents and community partners. Artistic and Cultural Vibrancy: The choice of "The Lion King" is perfect to challenge students to think creatively/differently. Organizational Capacity: The rich history of this organization and the structured growth plan is impressive.

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

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