

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2019 PROJECT SUPPORT II



#### West Shore Chorale

**Your Project Title:** Messiah: An Educational & Musical Experience

**Your Project Summary:** The West Shore Chorale (WSC), a 90 member chorus, & 20-30 young singers from 13 area high schools will rehearse & perform Parts 2 & 3 of Handel's Messiah. On April 28 of 2019, John Drotleff will direct the concert featuring a professional orchestra & soloists. The young people will join us through our yearly Choral Scholars Program that includes high schoolers in the preparation & performance of choral masterworks. There will also be a free & open lecture after the dress rehearsal.

**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](#).



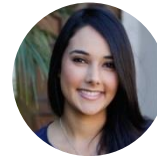
Kristine Harman  
(Athens, OH)



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:** Yes, this application meets the funding criteria. Although the programming is fee-based, the fees support musician compensation and waived membership dues for students and anyone unable to pay, making the case that WSC certainly makes the event accessible. The project certainly invites the youth members of the community with open arms and the intent to reach out to schools lacking community choruses indicates the organization is attentive and responsive to community needs. The applicant gives an articulate, well-considered goal and way to measure progress. Though WSC has no paid staff, recruiting and retaining volunteers appears to be a strong suit. Involving youth in classical choral music will inspire different ways of thinking.

### Panelist 2

**Score:** Yes

**Comment:** The applicant meets the funding criteria. The applicant's efforts to engage students, particularly in providing chorale opportunities in an area of the city where, as the applicant writes, there is little student-chorale opportunity; proves public benefit. The collaboration with guest artists, various high schools and concerts, shows artistic and cultural vibrancy.

### Panelist 3

**Score:** Yes

**Comment:** This project meets the funding criteria. The applicants clearly engage a diverse group of artistic professionals, ages high school to 85 years old, to complete project goals. I particularly appreciate the scholarship program, which sponsors 35 students and funds an educational lecture series to mentor these young aspiring performers. The public benefit of sponsoring these students to work with seasoned professionals will foster meaningful relationships through mentorship. The application is also organized and the funding request is well defined with specific matching fund sources, which shows the organization's ability to implement and meet project goals.

### Panelist 4

**Score:** Yes

**Comment:** This application meets the funding criteria. The proposal seeks to fund a public performance and purposely keeps its ticket prices low and/or free to be more accessible. The artistic vibrancy of this application centers on working with young singers to build their

*West Shore Chorale - Continued*

musicianship and experience for performing choral music. As part of the performance, a talk will also be given that puts the cultural history of the repertoire in context to deepen an understanding of the work. While the org does not have any paid staff, volunteers keep the organization operating and have so for many decades.

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

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