

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS 2020 PROJECT SUPPORT II



Cleveland Blues Society, Inc.

Your Project Title: Cleveland Blues Society Events Project: Monthly Jam Series & Live Music at the Cuyahoga County Fair

Your Project Summary: Cleveland Blues Society hosts monthly jams at a different Cuyahoga County venue approximately once a month (10 - 12 times per year), have a booth with live music all week long in August at the Cuyahoga County Fair. This helps us meet our mission to promote awareness and appreciation for the Blues and grow membership. It also provide our membership opportunities to hear local and national blues artists and host special events to foster fellowship.

Final Score: No. Overall, the panel felt that the applicant provided insufficient evidence throughout the application that the funding criteria were met.

CAC Grant Amount: \$0

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](#).



Maxine Gaiber
(Philadelphia, PA)



**Kirkston Tyrone
Spann**
(Chicago, IL)



Rishard Allen
(Indianapolis, IN)

Below you will find the panel's scores and any feedback 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: No

In regards to public benefit, I did not feel there were enough open and public programs in fully accessible venues to fully justify funding the program with public dollars. While it is understandable that blues music has its homebase in restaurants and bars. I would encourage the organization to consider finding more neutral venues to expose the public to this art form.

Panelist 2

Score: No

Applicant re-stated the community served response in the public benefit question; this response does not provide sufficient evidence for public benefit. Although the applicant briefly mentions the County Fair, the request appears to only address Jams. The audience, or community, for Jams, I Imagine, is much different than the fair, and I wish the community served response would've focused on that community.

Panelist 3

Score: Somewhat

The Blues Society offers an ambitious array of programs each year to an impressive number of people and the organization as a whole meets the CAC's funding criteria. While your programs are always free, which is commendable, I have some concerns that the majority of the jam sessions, for which you are requesting public funding, are in restaurant/bar settings where participants would feel obliged to purchase food or drinks. Since the CAC emphasizes equity and inclusion, you might consider adding/substituting venues like public parks where there are truly no "hidden" costs that might discourage participants with limited incomes from attending.

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

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