The Roberto Ocasio Foundation

Your Project Title: The 2020 Roberto Ocasio Latin Jazz Camp & Concert

Your Project Summary: A serious/intense resident music camp (6 days) for instrumental music students from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds (grades 8-12, all instruments) to learn and apply the fundamentals of Latin-American rhythms and music and their relationship to jazz and all music. A FREE Camp finale concert at Cleveland Museum of Art, performed by students, faculty, and renowned guest artists enlightens & entertains a diverse 500+ audience primarily from greater Cleveland & Cuyahoga County.

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.

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: Somewhat

While the overall concept of the program is solid and meets the funding criteria for CAC. I would have liked to known how the organization assists young people who aren't able to pay for the camp. I would also like for them to recognize barriers young people might encounter in trying to participate in this camp.

Panelist 2

Score: Yes

The Jazz Camp meets CAC funding criteria. The support materials were carefully selected and help bring the program to life. The goal of strengthening evaluation is admirable. I question the short duration of the program and assume that financial restrictions are what keeps the program from expanding beyond one week. It might have been useful to discuss this.

Panelist 3

Score: Yes

The proposal meets CAC's funding criteria. The camp appears to be a one-of-a-kind experience for young musicians, and the concert appears to be a celebratory community gathering. Interestingly, the optional question in the narrative does much more to describe the public benefit than the response to Q3. With scholarship options available for students with "qualified music skills", it would have been nice to have some narrative about the audition process. Is the process blind? Are students admitted and then requesting scholarship monies, or is this income information requested at the beginning? The sequence of events certainly makes a difference.

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

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