Your Project Title: Open House at the Gatehouse 2020

Your Project Summary: With the rebuilding of Woodland Cemetery gatehouse that is being completed in the winter of 2019/2020 which was originally built in 1870, we want to tell some of the life stories of its residents which we learn of more and more stories every year. It is to bring public awareness to the history of Woodland Cemetery and the countless contributions they have made to not only our local history but national history as well.

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.

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

Given the history of the Woodland Cemetery, I am curious how this this related to art or how this really engaging the creativity of the community. I feel that this project is important, but how does this recruit folks to utilize what you all are offering? It's true that oral history is important, but who is facilitating the history being taught?

Panelist 2

Score: Somewhat

Reclaiming untold history is so important. I love that you are using storytelling to bring the Woodland to life and supporting the parks. Overall, I was really curious whose stories were being told. The application materials emphasize the connection to African American history. As such, who will be listed on the banners? Other questions: How much has already been raised to support the match? What other strategies may support work - ticket raffle, grants for humanities, landmark or history? A simple survey or canvassing of the area to understand what the community learns from this event would be helpful in moving the work forward and reveal other reasons people are not interested in the visiting the cemetery.

Panelist 3

Score: No

I was concerned by the language used in the narrative about there being a “myth” in the black community about the “whiteness” of the space’s history. That kind of assumption usually exists for a reason, so it reads as a disrespectful frustration with the target community. I suggest that you solidify programmatic partnerships, not just “outreach” partners to spread the word about your event. For example, I would suggest that you build a relationship with a youth and adult leadership team (with emphasis on racial and ethnic diversity) within one of the churches highlighted. I think this would increase the opportunity for public benefit and deepen the commitment to artistic and cultural vibrancy.

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

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