

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2021 PROJECT SUPPORT II



Blazing River Freedom Band

Your Project Title: Blazing River Freedom Band 2021 Concert Series

Your Project Summary: Blazing River Freedom Band (BRFB) will plan, prepare, promote, and perform three free concerts throughout 2021. Each concert will feature music by LGBT+ composers in an effort to expose our audience and members to new and broader ideas of who the queer community is and its intersectionality with classical and contemporary music.

Final Score: Yes. Overall, the panel felt that the applicant provided evidence throughout the application that the funding criteria were met.

CAC Grant Amount: \$1,050

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](#).



Christopher Audain
(Chicago, IL)



Leslie Holt
(Washington, DC)



Lisa Harper Chang
(Huntsville, AL)

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: Yes

Clearly there is community commitment to such a longstanding organization run by volunteers. I'm curious if and how the organization considers diversity within its leadership, band membership and audience in terms of not just LGBT+ community, but also other under represented groups in the community.

Panelist 2

Score: Yes

This applicant adequately meets the funding criteria. There is a clear focus on the LGBTQ+ community and ensuring more equitable representation through their musicians and composers. There is a clear public benefit as well with free concerts and an opportunity for musicians to perform, rehearse, and compose. The application mentions its openness to a variety of backgrounds, but it's not clear if there is an intentional equity focus in regards to race. It is also difficult to tell if there is a demand for these concerts from the community it general--has there been strong attendance in the past? Are there stretch attendance goals beyond 100? It is clear, however, that the org has the capacity to put on three concerts.

Panelist 3

Score: Yes

This application is missing some explicit statements about community partnerships, and I would like to see more evidence of meaningful relationships with your stakeholders and community members and partners. I appreciate that you are encouraging your membership to arrange and compose, which is a nice evolution in further supporting you stated mission

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

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