Cleveland Chamber Symphony

Your Project Title: NEOSonicFest VIII – 8th Annual Northeast Ohio New Music Festival

Your Project Summary: Professional composers are paired with talented musicians aged 6-18 from the Music Settlement, the Cleveland School of the Arts, the Cleveland Institute of Music, and area schools to write pieces specifically for the students, coaching them with their teachers before the new works are premiered in live performance and on internet-streamed video. Young composers are selected to work with professional musicians who offer advice and premiere the pieces.

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.

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.
Wonderful mentoring model. How does the organization approach reaching traditionally under represented groups in the schools and among the composers?

Yes, the applicant meets the funding criteria. The arts education component makes a clear case for public benefit, but providing an opportunity for young composers to be mentored by professionals. There is also a public concert for the work, a small stipend for the composers (this could see an increase), and further professional development opportunities. It is unclear if the project focuses on racial and gender equity, as women and people of color are less represented in music composition.

Good opportunity for young artists to work with established composers and experience music as a living artform. And paying all of your participants is a nice sign of respect.

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

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