

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2021 PROJECT SUPPORT II



Cleveland Shakespeare Festival

Your Project Title: Summer performances of Shakespeare

Your Project Summary: We will present, free of charge, two Shakespeare or Shakespeare-inspired performances, either in outdoor venues (assuming progress against the COVID virus) or online (as we did this year).

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](#).



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

This application meets funding criteria. There is clear public benefit by presenting theater free of charge and various locations throughout the city. There could be better focus on equity and defining community served and demographics. Surveys were mentioned, but no data collected is presented in the application. To address cultural vibrancy, the applicant can be more intentional in your language beyond "non-traditional casting," i.e. "casting with diversity to reflect the demographics and diversity of our Cleveland audience." Take care not to use hyperbole or superlatives "we provide the most accessible performances" as it distracts from other positive aspects of the application. Strong partnerships/collaborations help org capacity

Panelist 2

Score: Somewhat

Appreciate your mission and commitment to providing these productions for free. This implies that you are successfully reaching community members who usually can't afford to see theater. I'd like to know how you attract these diverse audiences. Does the location of each performance speak to this in ways that you could highlight? Are there responses in your audience surveys that show you are meeting this part of your mission? I very much appreciate how Covid has affected your budget. Still, I would like more specifics. I'm curious how much revenue from audience donations and corporate sponsorships you have received in the past and how you will approach that funding gap if you can't rely on the live performances again.

Panelist 3

Score: Somewhat

Rather than remarking upon the "intelligence to appreciate and recognize..." of your potential audience, it might serve you better to remark upon the strength and universality of the works and performances to reach broader audiences. The application would benefit from a stronger goal, something beyond increasing audience--getting to the heart of why you believe these works should be performed in community settings. What do you mean by "non-traditional casting"? Good community partnerships. And I appreciate your candor regarding funding concerns/challenges. Could have used the narrative section to describe community settings of performances and relevance for Cuyahoga community specifically.

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

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Cleveland Shakespeare Festival - Continued

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