

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2021 PROJECT SUPPORT II



Joyful Noise Neighborhood Music School

Your Project Title: Joyful Noise Neighborhood Music School

Your Project Summary: Providing free individual lessons, both in person and virtual, for children ages 2- 18 years old.

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](#).



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. The public benefit is clear by offering free individual music lessons to youth 2-18, providing an engaging arts experience that also engages musician volunteer teachers throughout Cleveland. The mission is strong, however it may help to put more focus on the positive aspects of talent development and benefit of music education than its aim to prevent involvement in gangs, drugs, crime, etc. Not all low-income youth are at risk for these, some simply want to take music lessons yet can't afford them.

Panelist 2

Score: Yes

The mission is strong and it looks like a great program, but I'd like to see your answer about public benefit more fleshed out beyond repeating your mission statement. There's a over-focus on deficits that you are trying to address. What are some of the benefits to students and the community, such as the trusting relationships between the teacher and student? Are there individual narratives and/or data that could illustrate this? I'd also like to know more about the concerts as they seem like an important vehicle for students to take pride in what they do. Your budget seems very small to support two staff members and supplies. More specifics all around would strengthen the application.

Panelist 3

Score: Yes

I would like to see more evidence in your public benefit responses of integration of feedback from different stakeholders in your program (students, teachers, families). And more detail in the budget would have been nice. That said, I think you have a strong project and suspect that you can make an even stronger case for public benefit if you think beyond the access to music lessons themselves, particularly when you are having youth build respectful, mutual learning relationships with adults in their community. Would love to see how you represent that from your experience and your perspective.

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

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