

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2021 PROJECT SUPPORT II



StandUP! For Change

Your Project Title: L.I.F.T. - Lessons Intended For Transformation

Your Project Summary: LIFT is a didactic program that employs a unique combination of resiliency workshops with art enriched experience to enhance youth development. The program is designed to provide an exploration of personal attitudes and attributes that are crucial to successful life management; as well, the expression of those processes through various art forms. LIFT is designed to educate, edify, and empower youth participants especially during traumatic pandemics, such as, poverty and, more recently, COVID19.

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 looks like an excellent program. The mission statement on the application (versus your website) feels a bit outdated, for example using the term "impoverished communities" and "impoverished youth." Language on your website about your mission and vision seems more respectful and appropriate for the kind of empowerment you are looking to facilitate: "under-resourced communities," and "mitigating the effects of poverty for marginalized families." The focus on one neighborhood is a great asset. Love the themes of the workshops, but I'd like to see more details about the actual activities. I didn't see an art making activity in each month. The videos gave a sense of the spirit of the program but not specifics.

Panelist 2

Score: Yes

This application strongly meets funding criteria. It focuses on alleviating traumatic experiences such as poverty and COVID-19 through art, which is a clear public benefit. The program is provided free of charge, which makes it accessible. There are only 25 participants, so it would be helpful to know how they are selected. The application could also include demographics of participants. A particular strength of the application is the respect shown to the young participants, allowing them to express any opinions of the project.

Panelist 3

Score: Yes

The applicant would benefit from using more inclusive and respectful language. "Scholars are allowed to voice..."--would prefer "Scholars are encouraged/supported, etc..." I like that you list the activities and could use a little more description for each listed engagement. Does L.I.F.T. "create" "good" citizens or is it more accurate to say you support/help the youth fulfill their inherent potential that can be blocked by circumstance, structural oppression, etc...? I don't think you intend this, but sometimes your word choice implies a lack of respect for the youth rather than a celebration of and belief in their potential. Good community partnerships. Also is access to Zoom/wifi connection considered by the applicant as a possible barrier? I would recommend proofreading the application but it didn't impact my score.

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

Heather Johnson-Banks
senior program manager
hjohnsonbanks@cacgrants.org

Luis Gomez
program manager
lgomez@cacgrants.org

India Pierre-Ingram
senior associate
ipierreingram@cacgrants.org

216.306.0108

216.306.0114

216.306.0110