



2027 Project Support Panel Guide September 2026

The purpose of the Project Support (PS) grant program is to promote public access and encourage the breadth of arts and cultural programming in our community by supporting Cuyahoga County-based projects. During the panel process, arts and cultural experts from across the country (who are educated in CAC's funding criteria) assess and score applications independently online. Scores and comments are shared with applicants and the public at the conclusion of the panel process.

Panel Review Process

To ensure an impartial and transparent application review process, CAC convenes a panel of arts and cultural professionals from outside the region who read, evaluate, and score applications. Panelists are chosen to represent a cross-section of professionals qualified to provide expert knowledge across arts or cultural disciplines, as well as for their management experience, professional knowledge of the sector, and prior panel experience. CAC staff make every effort to ensure that the panel is diverse in all respects. All panelists receive an honorarium for their service.

CAC staff monitors the online panel but does not score or provide opinions on applications. Staff manages all administrative and logistical actions necessary to conduct a successful panel review: provide panelists all documentation necessary to evaluate applications effectively; inform the panel in matters of CAC policy and procedures; provide timely, objective responses to any panelist questions.

Scoring

Panelists determine a score for each application based on the following funding criteria:

- **PUBLIC BENEFIT:** An organization's ability to meaningfully connect with its community through its project.
- **ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL VIBRANCY:** An organization's ability to create a relevant and engaging project.
- **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY:** An organization's ability to successfully plan for and manage its project.

Panelists use the following framework to score each application:

With an emphasis on Public Benefit, has the application demonstrated the funding criteria?

8-10 points: The applicant has provided strong evidence that the funding criteria are met.

5-7 points: The applicant has provided fair evidence that the funding criteria are met.

1-4 points: The applicant has provided weak evidence that the funding criteria are met.

Final Score and Funding Recommendations

The minimum score threshold for funding will be determined based on the amount of funds available and total request amounts. Applicants who demonstrate weak evidence that the funding criteria are met will not be recommended for funding. CAC will calculate final scores and notify all applicants via email. Grant amounts are pending board approval at CAC's Board of Trustees meeting on Wednesday, November 18, 2026, at 4:00 pm.

Questions? Contact a member of the [grantmaking team](#).

Applicants

10K Movement	Cleveland Neighborhood Progress
Academy For Dramatic Arts	Cleveland Philharmonic Orchestra
Achievement Centers for Children	Cleveland Rape Crisis Center
America Asian Pacific Islander Organization	Cleveland Repertory Orchestra
America SCORES Cleveland	Cleveland Shakespeare Festival
American Hungarian Friends of Scouting	Cleveland TOPS Swingband
American Lebanese Community Council	Cleveland Treatment Center
American Slovenian Polka Foundation	Cleveland Uncommon Sound Project
Arts Renaissance Tremont	Cleveland Winds
Association of African American Cultural Garden	Cleveland Women's Orchestra
Association of Asian Indian Women In Ohio	Cleveland Youth Wind Symphony
Babel Box Theater	Club Dominicano De Cleveland
Balance Point Studios	Colors+ Youth Center
Baldwin Wallace University	Community Cup Classic Foundation
Beachwood Arts Council	Community Life Collaborative
Bedford Historical Society	Connecting for Kids
Bellaire Puritas Development Corporation	Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad
BigHearted Blooms	Darl Center for the Arts
Brecksville Theatre	Deutscher Musik Verein
Broadview Brecksville Heights Community Chorus	DOC Studios
Brooklyn Heights Service Clubs	Downtown Cleveland Alliance
Building Bridges Murals	East Cleveland Farmers' Market Preservation Society
Building Heights	Edward E. Parker Museum of Art
Canalway Partners	Empowering Epilepsy
Catholic Charities Diocese of Cleveland	Environmental Health Watch
Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District	Esperanza
Center for Employment Opportunities	Euclid Symphony Orchestra
Cesear's Forum	Far West Center
City Club of Cleveland	Fashion Talks Foundation
Cleveland Arts Education Consortium	Federation of India Community Association
Cleveland Asian Festival Inc	Food Strong
Cleveland Clinic Foundation	Fostering Hope
Cleveland Comedy Festival	From Me 2 U, Inc
Cleveland Composers Guild	Fryderyk Chopin Institute Of Ohio
Cleveland Contemporary Chinese Culture Association	FutureHeights
Cleveland Grays Armory Museum	Gardening in the District
Cleveland Inner City Ballet	German Central Foundation
Cleveland Leadership Center	Getting To We

Golden Ciphers Youth Development & Cultural Arts Center
 Greater Cleveland Film Commission
 Greater Cleveland Neighborhood Centers Association
 Harvard Community Services Center
 Haus of Transcendent
 Heights Chamber Orchestra
 Henry Johnson Center
 Historic Gateway Neighborhood Corporation
 Ifilm Inc
 India Fest USA
 InMotion
 International Community Council-Worldwide
 Intercultural Network (ICC-WIN)
 Jennings Center for Older Adults
 Jewish Family Service Association of Cleveland Ohio
 Jewish Federation of Cleveland
 Jones Road Family Development Corporation
 Lake View Cemetery Foundation
 LakewoodAlive
 Larchmere PorchFest
 LGBT Community Center Greater Cleveland
 Linking Employment, Abilities & Potential
 Little Italy Redevelopment Corporation
 LYLESART
 M C Chatman Center For Humanitarian Services
 Mandel Jewish Community Center of Cleveland
 Mayfield Township Historical Society
 Metro West Community Development Organization
 MidTown Cleveland
 Museum of Creative Human Art
 NAMI Greater Cleveland
 New Avenues to Independence
 New City Cleveland
 No Exit
 No Surf House
 North East Ohio Bengali Association
 North Pointe Ballet
 North Union Farmers Market
 Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless

Northeast Ohio Hispanic Center for Economic Development
 Northeast Ohio Musical Heritage Association
 NuPoint Community Development Corporation
 OCA Greater Cleveland
 Ohio City Inc
 Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation
 One South Euclid
 Open Doors Academy
 Open Threads
 Open Tone Music
 Pakistani Cultural Garden
 PALS for Healing
 Parma Symphony Orchestra
 Polish Village Parma
 Reaching Heights
 Resonance Project
 RhythmiCLE Sound Tap Company
 Rising Well
 RollinBuckeyeZ Foundation
 Rose Centers for Aging Well
 Schmooze Ohio
 Seat of the Pants
 Sew4Service
 Shaker Arts Council
 SHED Projects
 Shore Cultural Centre
 Smart Development
 Solon Community Band Inc
 SOS: Strengthening Our Students
 Sparrows Fortune
 Stella Maris
 Stellar Acrobatic Dance Academy
 Tastemakers United
 Tavern Coffee House Inc
 Tender Hearts Crusades
 The Foundry
 The Gathering Place
 The Harvard Square Center
 The Land
 The Meeting Place Learning Center
 The Singers' Club of Cleveland

Thea Bowman Center
Tremont West Development Corporation
University Circle Inc.
UpStage Players
Ursuline College
VIVA Bavaria
West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development
West Shore Chorale
West Side Catholic Center
West Side Community House
Western Reserve Land Conservancy

Westlake Chinese School
Windsong, Cleveland's Feminist Chorus
Women in Film and TV Ohio
Women in History
Woodland Cemetery Foundation of Cleveland
YMCA of Greater Cleveland
Youth Challenge
Women in Film and TV Ohio
YMCA of Greater Cleveland
Youth Challenge