

# PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

## 2025 PROJECT SUPPORT

### WRITTEN PANEL



To ensure an impartial and transparent application review process, CAC convenes an online panel of arts and cultural professionals who evaluate and score eligible applications. Requests of \$5,000 or less are reviewed via independent, written reviews where panelists provide scores and comments for the applicants.

### PANEL RESULTS

Panelists score each application based on the Funding Criteria—**Public Benefit, Artistic and Cultural Vibrancy and Organizational Capacity**. Panelists use the following framework: *With an emphasis on Public Benefit, has the application demonstrated the funding criteria?*

- Applicants that receive a majority “Yes” or “Somewhat” scores are recommended for funding.
- Applicants that receive a majority of “No” scores are not recommended for funding.

For more details regarding the panel scoring process please refer to page 3 of the [Panel Guide](#).

Grant amounts are determined by the panel score and adjusted according to the total amount of funding allocated for 2025 Project Support grants.

### PANELIST COMMENTS

The panelists who reviewed your application are listed on your application feedback page. Panelist biographies begin on page 4 of the [Panel Guide](#). Panelist comments are presented in no particular order.

### QUESTIONS?

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## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** America Asian Pacific Islander Organization

**Project Title:** The Indigenous Voyage to Hawaii

**Panelists:** Jordan Adams, Keya Crenshaw, Claudia Gage, Jeff Garrett, Courtney Young

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

By hosting the event at a public library and choosing not to charge a fee, the organization is increasing public accessibility for their event. I think that drawing on people who have attended in the past is a great way to increase support from a targeted audience.

The descriptions surrounding this particular criteria far exceeded expectations. I appreciated that the event is free and will be potentially held in a publicly accessible venue. I also am pretty excited that the communities identified hit all aspects of geography, identity and affinity. The grant writer thoroughly explained not only how it will be promoted widely, but also the shared goal of education with its venue (the library). The description went on to explain how it will thoroughly connect its own cultural vibrancy through planned project activities, but how it will connect directly to attendees too.

Providing programming for free and/or suggesting but not mandating whenever possible is great and makes both the project and organization more accessible to the general public.

No admission fees assist in making the project accessible, to include visual, dance, and music. Focuses on how a diverse groups of people came to live together in Hawaii (and Ohio).

What is strong here is the venue, specifically hosting at the Cuyahoga Public Library. Moreover all their programming is free. Both of these components allow for wide accessibility to the programming.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

I like that this proposal includes both people from the islands and those from Ohio. Additionally, paying the musicians is a great way to support cultural vibrancy.

I would have love to have seen more in this section. It somewhat carried over the same theme from the answers provided in the last questions, as well as the next section (org capacity). I needed a bit more here.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

Inviting artists from multiple AAPI backgrounds and spaces allows for greater cross-cultural engagement and growth.

Community entry could be stronger. Less on actual project, more on community(ies) serving or could serve. Applicant organization's ability to create a relevant and engaging project is evident through its focus on education and understanding.

The applicant has made a clear case for the importance of this culture and history as well as their being uniquely suited to lead this project. Moreover the leaders and performers of this work directly come from the culture which is also important. The artistic samples are also strong.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

The organization and their partner, Manivic's Hawaiian Dance Company of Ohio seem well qualified to take on this performance. For future grant proposals, I recommend including more specific information about what will be included in your evaluation sheets. Additionally, I think that audience requests to engage future is a great measure of success, but I'm curious about your plans to track that. (i.e., a box to check for where they heard about the organization when they sign up for another performance or class?)

I appreciated that the artistic aspect was thought through here but would have loved to see it more explained in the previous answer. Here I did not get a good sense of how and by who the project is being planned and will eventually be executed administratively and logistically. The project budget and financial were a bit unclarified too, with no real explanations of income sources. But I did appreciate knowing that the plan is to use the requested funds to pay the artists involved. However, the CAC funds may be overly committed with the other expense items identified.

Evaluation sheets to measure the viability is great, but if people don't fill them out for whatever reasons, how will success be measured apart from people asking to be connected to performers to perform at their events?

Highly qualified artists and team. Some evaluative measures in place.

Regarding the budget, I would have liked to see where other sources of income will or could possibly come from. For example, if they did not receive this funding, how would or could they pivot? Moreover, under expenses, they have allocated \$5000 as other but did not explain what this is (i.e. contingency funds if things go wrong, legal, etc.)



## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** American Slovenian Polka Foundation

**Project Title:** 61st Thanksgiving Polka Weekend and 36th Polka Music Awards Show

**Panelists:** Rem Cabrera, Karla Centeno, Maria Lafelice, Lisa Much, Elena Velasco

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

The organization has a long record of producing a successful and dynamic event. They show evidence of knowing their audiences — participants & artists— well. While there are efforts to expand artistic and participatory audiences, there is not enough evidence on the approaches to diversify (they mention publicity to marginalized groups). The application would be stronger if they listed all their strategic approaches to engaging diverse populations. Additionally, if they are not doing this already, the organization could benefit from forging strong partnerships with community groups, organizations, etc., that work with the diverse folks they hope to engage with.

The project provides an experience for an audience with varying backgrounds and interests. The organization may benefit from establishing partnerships to expand their audiences and design an event that is inclusive of the growing number of diverse participants.

Applicant clearly defines the community, which includes a solid mix of cultural identity and affinity.

This annual event demonstrates respect for tradition for a small, niche community. The description of the event provides a broad sense of the activities and people involved.

While I recognize that the overall population is predominantly White, I'm not convinced that the organization has a sophisticated outreach effort in place. Sending an email is a passive approach. Engaging people from other communities is more active and likely to result in some heightened interest. Making someone to feel like they belong takes work. I didn't see much evidence of this here. It is clearly obvious that the organization and its programs have enthusiastic patrons!

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

The organization shows evidence of building an event with strong roots; however, I needed more evidence stating how the event is relevant to the audience. How does the organization know that the lineup is what audiences connect with? Are there surveys that state relevancy? While tradition seems

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### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

key to this project, how are new sounds and talent incorporated? What is the selection process, and how do they know that it is needed? Ultimately, this question could use more evidential support.

The project showcases art and a specific culture through a weekend of events. The artistic vibrancy would be more clearly demonstrated if the application included more details about the performers and musicians who will be participating, or examples of past participants.

Two public meetings for festival feedback seems forward-thinking.

There is a self-defining justification of artistic vibrancy and public relevancy. How this art form evolves is not explicitly explained.

The celebration of the genre appears heartfelt and sincere. Its longevity is also a testament to its vibrancy. I would have enjoyed an explanation of what distinguishes Cleveland-style Polka from other types.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

There is a lot of evidence that the organization can successfully plan and manage the project.

The organization seems to have the necessary resources and streams of revenue to implement the project.

The applicant seems very capable to do all of this. The answer to question 12 lists intentions, rather than specific goals with a plan of how to measure them. For example, how do they measure the diversity of the audience to know if it increased?

There is significant support staff noted.

The organization's long history speaks of its capacity. The budget appears sensible; payment to artists and production team looks reasonable.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization: Arts Without Borders**

**Project Title: Trailblazing Movement**

**Panelists: Noah Dixon, June Kim, Dana Manyothane, Alicia Olivio, Laura Weiss**

**Score: Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.**

**2025 Grant Amount: \$3,760**

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

This application section could be strengthened by being clear about what the traditions and styles of dance the festival would showcase, instead of relegating that information to an optional question near the end of the application. Arts Without Borders should own the specificity of the art that they showcase without fear of making it seem that they don't serve everyone. I am also curious about which other communities they are engaging with, or at least hoping to work with and showcase. By addressing the specifics of the work and communities that they wish to spotlight in "Trailblazing Movement," that would give me, as a grants panelist, more confidence in assuming that Arts Without Borders is engaging the people and audiences that they work with in a thoughtful, intentional manner.

Youth-focused festival for emerging student artists and professionals. Considering a partnership with the Public Library - which would be an easy access point for the community. With the event potentially occurring at a location such as a library (which is free), I would recommend considering efforts to eliminate the ticket fee for greater accessibility. Overall, the project is highlighting underrepresented backgrounds and talents, which is important for the community to experience. AWB notes they represent minority artists in Cleveland with a goal to engage beyond the Indian community (strong public benefit overall). The videos were helpful to understand the specific style of dance and music celebrated by this organization - thank you!

The applicant has identified this project would clearly benefit a number of members in the community while also having a strong artistic impact. The youth-focused festival aims to partner with many local organizations and the applicant provides a clear description on how this event would benefit the community.

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#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

Arts Without Borders prioritizes paying its performing artists a fair wage. In addition, the programming will feature artists at different levels, allowing emerging and established artists to show their talents and gain exposure. This commitment fosters a more inclusive and supportive creative community.

The artists and their background are impressive! I have no doubt that they're excellent in their craft. I appreciate the artist compensation featured in the budget. I found myself wanting more information about how they'd be gathering feedback from audiences. Ex: digital QR codes for post-show surveys, paper surveys passed out in programs before the show, etc.

The project celebrates diverse artistic disciplines and talents, and will include a panel discussion for greater insights. The event will highlight mid-career artists, which is important for the younger, emerging artists mentioned to experience.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

AWB has comprehensive ways to measure success of project. This will ensure that programming continues to grow over the years.

This section could have been strengthened by giving specifics on the event timeline. I have no doubt that the artists working to organize this event are more than qualified. However, I wanted to know more about specific numbers: how many individual events would happen, what is the target number of artists showcased, how many surveys would be sent out, what number of social media platforms would Arts Without Borders be analyzing, etc.

The lead artists have strong backgrounds in their respective fields.

Clear what the festival's strengths are in terms of public benefit and artistic vibrancy. I would have liked to hear more details on the festival itself. What are the dates, how many events, etc.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** Association of African American Cultural Garden

**Project Title:** Juneteenth Celebration at the African American Garden

**Panelists:** Rem Cabrera, Karla Centeno, Maria Lafelice, Lisa Much, Elena Velasco

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,570

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The public benefit of the project is clear as it is a free event open to the public in a public location. The organization plans to involve youth and artists as part of the event's programming.

The organization needed to provide more information about its audiences and who it hopes to engage. It also needed to provide more engagement strategies. Overall, this section was missing evidence of public benefit.

Promoting in schools to increase student involvement seems like a fine way to engage the community. A clearer definition of the community could strengthen the application.

The public benefit is broadly identified through its focus on the Juneteenth holiday. Though there is a note that this will engage 500 people and it is free, there is very little information on how those 500 people are engaged, and there is metric for determining success (vague note it will be measured by attendance, participation and volunteerism, but not how they will capture the impact).

The free event in a garden open to the public removes costs barriers as obstacles for attending. Not sure from what we've been told what the group is doing to achieve its goal of educating people of all backgrounds. Impressive that is recognized by the Ohio History Center and the Restoration Society.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

The artistic & cultural vibrancy of the project would be more clear if a description of the performances was included in the application, or if specific musicians were listed.

There was not enough information provided to assess whether the organization is able to create relevant and engaging projects. This response could have benefitted from concrete information. For example, how will they compensate entertainers. What is the pay scale? How are they recruiting entertainers, etc.?

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

The supporting materials greatly aid the application in determining artistic vibrancy.

Again, vague language is used to describe artistic vibrancy. There is mention of a student talent show and "deciding on entertainment," but no clarification of what styles, genres, artistic disciplines, or groups spearheading these.

Photographs of the garden would be helpful to envision its structure. Is there a stage or a dedicated area for performing? How large is the garden and what is its maximum capacity? Celebrating this young Federal holiday is important.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

The application would be stronger if the goals for the project were more specific and less general.

There was not enough information provided to assess organizational capacity.

The team is large and could demonstrate organizational capacity. The answer to question 12 could be strengthened with more details, such as what participation is relative to volunteerism and attendance and how all will be measured. Not important, but the total budget seems to be \$9,750 as indicated by the budget charts.

There could be adequate staff in the organization, but because details of the event are so broad and undefined, this cannot be clearly determined.

Careful! The budget for the event is \$9,750, not \$9,500. If this organization is mostly volunteer-run, I missed it, but I assume that's the case since the administrative support is included with the \$4,500 budget item.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** Association of Asian Indian Women In Ohio

**Project Title:** Children Day Event

**Panelists:** Jordan Adams, Keya Crenshaw, Claudia Gage, Jeff Garrett, Courtney Young

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$1,505

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

I appreciate that they've identified their community through identity. There has been some thought put into how the community putting on the event can connect with other cultures(communities) through their heritage. However, more thought was put into promotion rather true connection. I do also appreciate that they've identified potential venues and made sure that they stay publicly accessible.

Excellent work creating a day for children to engage in culturally relevant programming. Additionally, hosting the programming in multiple locations gives different communities the ability to participate. Free programming allows for greater access and engagement.

Yes, this project has clearly defined how it will engaged with the community it intends to serve, a community with which it already has many deep and long-lasting ties. The identified venues and lack of entrance fees also make it accessible to the public.

Free "Children Day" event celebrates diversity of Indian culture, encouraging children to sing and dance.

I think the public benefit is strong. Clearly these founders have honed in on a need in a specific community and have risen to meet the challenge. They did say that the venue for 2025 was not decided upon but would either be the public library or the university. Where they ultimately have the event will greatly influence marketing and their audience as the two locales are quite different. Appreciated that their events are free.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

I love that the cultural elements of the project activities have been thoroughly explained. But I would have loved to have learned who will be leading the activities and how the leads and specific activities were selected.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

Working with both artists and child from varying backgrounds creates a multicultural experience and environment. Mentioning what types of venues and the locations that are being considered would be nice.

The wide variety of events included in this event, which will represent many aspects of Indian life from various parts of the country, show a cultural vibrancy. The application identifies a clear plan for forming a committee to plan the event, find workshop leaders, and compensate the leaders for their time.

Applicant organization's ability to create a relevant and engaging project is evident. Additional information with regard to audiences could be beneficial. Applicant's entry could be stronger by directly addressing criteria.

The program does seem culturally and artistically vibrant.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

The organization is beyond prepared to take on the event. They have thoroughly thought through the elements of the event and designated chairs and delegated the load accordingly. All projected financials are balanced and adhere to the guidelines given too.

The application shows robust organizational capability. Using the funds to pay the teaching artists and purchase supplies are

The clearly defined roles of key players and history of this event show strong organizational capacity. To strengthen your grant application, I would recommend setting goals and gathering measurements beyond just audience attendance.

Qualified team. Applicant references 2022, 2023, and planned 2025 event, but 2024? Majority of budget to pay artists/instructors. Nice.

They are transparent on their lack of funds and their inability to continue with programming in the way they would like to should they not receive this grant. Great to see who team members are and who is accountable for what. They did not go into detail on their mechanisms for feedback. Curious how they evaluate their impact and programming.



## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization: Baseball Heritage Museum**

**Project Title: BUCKEYES, BUSES & BASEBALL: A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION**

**Panelists: Noah Dixon, June Kim, Dana Manyothane, Alicia Olivio, Laura Weiss**

**Score: Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.**

**2025 Grant Amount: \$4,700**

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

Having both free and fee-based admission makes this program accessible and breaks down barriers for those for whom money may be an issue.

The applicant does a great job of specifying the community served in this project while also capturing the diversity within the geographic confines. The applicant also does a fantastic job of explaining the historical and emotional relevance of this project for the community, as well as its universality. The applicant also outlines which aspects of the event will also the public to engage with the art, and discussions it will bring.

Funding would support a theatrical piece about the Negro Leagues during the time of segregation. Some of the event will be offered for free while other more targeted parts will be fee-based. Strong intersection of history and art, celebrating the Cleveland community. The event could speak to those who are interested in baseball, but maybe never considered going to a theatre (or the other way around). I would recommend exploring further on HOW you will connect with community through the project - a lot is implied, but I would like to know more about specific tactics and plans. Also, it is mentioned that the discussion may bring up "difficult ideas and opinions" - how will you moderate these discussions?

This is a very compelling project, meeting all three of the funding criteria, and particularly enjoyed reading about how the event will meaningfully engage its audiences in multiple ways.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

The proposed event combines a variety of artistic mediums including, drama, spoken word, music, movement, etc that would all intersect around a culturally topic. The applicant provides detailed examples on how this event would impact both artists and audiences.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

The artists and organizers involved show breadth of talent and skill to bring this multi-faceted event to fruition. The applicant also brings to attention recent events that emphasize the cultural and artistic relevance of this project for 2024.

Strong collaboration of artists, including a poet, performer, and playwright. Aiming to add more Cleveland-based performers to the project, as well.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

The Baseball Heritage Museum has clearly outlined the goals of the Buckeyes, Buses & Baseball: A Community Celebration program. This program aims to appeal to a broad cross-section of the community. The creator's support information document evidences the described execution and depth of the artists' talent satisfies that the project is attainable. I particularly appreciate the plan for a meal following the performance. Breaking bread with others creates a sense of community, sharing, and belonging. The budget and shared organizational financial resources support the execution of this project.

The artists and organizers involved show breadth of talent and skill to bring this multi-faceted event to fruition. The live performance engagement with the public is especially exciting, as it allows the art to not necessarily prescribe an opinion to the community. This section would have been stronger if there had been more specificity around number of performances, length of talkbacks, etc.

The community meal is a strong demonstration of belonging and a way to bring audiences together for further dialogue at the literal table. The Museum funds and the City of Cleveland funds do not appear to meet the match of the \$7500 - what are your plans to achieve this? I would recommend including further information regarding the income. Also, there was mention of some events being fee based - how is this factored into the income plan?

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### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** Bellaire Puritas Development Corporation

**Project Title:** The Lyric Center Mural

**Panelists:** Rem Cabrera, Karla Centeno, Maria Lafelice, Lisa Much, Elena Velasco

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

There is evidence of public benefit. Youth involvement and payment is a plus and shows the organization is invested in helping the youth ecosystem; beyond providing an arts opportunity, they are investing in the creative sector.

The application describes a mural project with a strong public benefit, as the outcome will be public art but also because the youth participants have been part of the advisory for the project. The application would benefit from more details on the culminating event and how it will be promoted to a wide audience, as well as how the youth participants will be recruited.

Applicant very specifically defines their community through neighborhood demographics.

The thorough background information about the particular aspects and attributes of this community paint a full picture of how beauty and art can make an impact through its presence in the community, as well as providing youth the opportunity to have a hand in the creation of beauty in their neighborhood.

Serving two communities with a median income of \$47,430 with a poverty rate of 28%. The community has a 45% poverty rate when residents living in or near the poverty line are needed. 20% of the families do not have home internet access and 21% do not have access to a motor vehicle. Engaging students from these communities in a group project to create a public mural directs time and energy in a positive way, and can instill a sense of pride. The youth working to create and install the mural during the summer of 2025 will be paid for their work. The neighborhood is part of the West park "Education Corridor."

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#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

The project connects with an artist who has background with youth and creating large-scale artworks with them. The project will add to the vibrancy of the new space, and youth are integrated into all aspects of the project.

Youth led, especially with an employment component, seems really effective and good for the community and cultural vibrancy.

The organization has effectively articulated the benefits of the mural for the Lyric Center and its potential impact on residents.

Heavy involvement of the youth who will participate: "The youth will take the lead on the design, painting and planning of the culminating event. The youth will identify the project leaders to serve on the planning committee and will work with the artist to conceptualize and design the mural. Youth participating in the job club will work on the mural as a part of their summer employment experience and the planning committee will organize and host the mural reveal event. This project will allow the youth to have ownership in the project from the beginning and it will allow them to establish their voice as youth advocates and leaders." Students will be led by Tanya Gonzalez, local artist and owner of Art of My Heart. Tanya has more than 20 years of experience working with youth school-age youth and creating art projects for Cleveland neighborhoods, schools, and recreation centers. She'll work with the selected artist to bring the mural to fruition and work with a youth panel to lead and approve the mural's design.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

There is a strong evidence of organizational capacity.

The goals, community partners, and the budget are aligned with the scope and scale of the project.

Applicant clearly demonstrates capacity for this project through supporting documents and the tools for measuring success.

It's not entirely clear if the artist will be working alone with the estimated 100 participants alone or if the team members listed below will also directly work with students to facilitate the development of the art rendering for the muralist to execute the work.

Knowledgeable, qualified people in place. success to be measured with two assessment tools. The CDC wants to help raise the quality of life for the young people they engage with. Planning is sound, the budget is sensible,

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging

**Project Title:** Feeding the Soul through Arts and Culture

**Panelists:** Jordan Adams, Keya Crenshaw, Claudia Gage, Jeff Garrett, Courtney Young

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The org identified the project's intended community being served by their geographical residential location as well as their age identity. This allowed for pertinent context on how you will meet their identified basic needs to make the artistic experience just that more beneficial.

Great job presenting engaging and meaningful programming for the intended audiences across the city. Also, presenting free programming allows for greater inclusion.

Yes, this organization serves the public and has a clear history and relationship with the community they are serving.

Partnership(s) are beneficial for public spaces, in addition to site-specific visits. Applicant organization is responsive to diverse neighbors/residents.

High public benefit: to help older adults age well through art

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

Understanding your communities and developing programs for them is key to building relationships and sustainability.

Yes, this application demonstrates artistic and cultural vibrancy by explaining the benefits of the activities proposed and the qualifications of the instructors.

Applicant organization creates relevant, engaging, and ongoing projects. Participants enjoy the connection(s) the organization offers.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Thank you for providing the team and their roles directly related to the project. I appreciate the metrics described that will be tracking in relation to your goals. The budget is solid. The detailed description of how the CAC funds will be allocated.

Using your measurements and listening to participants is key and this application shows they understand.

Yes, this application shows organizational capacity through its history of programming and use of surveys. I like that this grant includes data from previous years to support the benefits of the proposed project.

Qualified personnel. Outreach, recruitment, as well as, evaluative processes are in place.

Concerned that there is not a lot of diverse income streams thus, not sure how their long term sustainability planning will go.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** BigHearted Blooms

**Project Title:** Flower Design Workshops in Urban Neighborhoods

**Panelists:** Noah Dixon, June Kim, Dana Manyothane, Alicia Olivio, Laura Weiss

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

The applicant provides a plan for 20 workshops that will engage with urban residents in the Cleveland area. The project aims to partner with community development corporations, churches, and community centers which would provide a wonderful public benefit, however it would be nice to see some of those specific partners identified. Despite this, the proposal seems like a wonderful program that would connect neighborhoods and residents.

This project holds great public benefit. It focuses on urban neighborhoods and reaching out to neighborhood organizations, community development corporations, churches, community centers, and events. The workshops are free, removing barriers to participation based on cost. In past years, the outreach and exposure of some attendees resulted in gaining lead volunteers, contributing their talents to refine the workshops and better serve their communities. Brilliant!

The ripple effects in the public benefit section of this application are clear. Sustainability is built from offering these free workshops, from continuing to strengthen partnerships, recruiting volunteers, and benefiting folks who have no idea about BHB by being gifted bouquets.

The organization will host 20 flower arranging workshops at their facility and also at community centers in certain neighborhoods, free of charge. An identified goal is to strengthen their relationship with the SCS neighborhood. I would recommend the applicant dig into this further - why do they feel it is important to strengthen this relationship? How is what the organization offering essential to the community? Joy and smiles are certainly worthy goals, but I would like to know more about why they have determined this specific neighborhood/community is in need of filling this gap through the flower arrangements.

What a beautiful project that brings people together and uplifts the community. This application easily meets all three funding criteria.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

Sense of collaboration among experienced volunteers and first-time participants. I would like to know more about how the programming/project was designed - meaning, how did they determine that the participants likely hadn't worked with flowers before? Was there pre-workshop dialogue or collaboration with the participants, or was the workshop brought to them 'packaged' without any input? I think it is important to incorporate the input and feedback of participants in what is being offered (Note: some of this is addressed later in the application).

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

The budget for the project is very reasonable

Excellent use of specificity in this section, regarding the amount of volunteers and workshops, etc., being offered.



## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** Blazing River Arts Group INC

**Project Title:** Fresh start, instrumental music for beginning adults.

**Panelists:** Jordan Adams, Keya Crenshaw, Claudia Gage, Jeff Garrett, Courtney Young

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The public benefit is greatly explained here and demonstrates actual and true benefit. The communities identified speak to all geography, affinity and identity aspects. It funnels down on a macro level and then down to hope the project hopes to attract. They were also able to explain how the project need was identified by and for the communities previously explained, but also went on to explain how they plan to meet the need and through what mechanisms, ultimately introducing this entire project.

Expanding the mission and locations of the project, as well as creating free community classes allows for greater accessibility and interaction. Looking for lower to no cost instruments is recommended rather than charging a rental fee. Maybe you could also consider a "scholarship" for individuals who would like to participate but who cannot afford the rental fee.

This application shows a clear public benefit and a dedication to breaking down barriers that often exist in the arts.

New adult Edu program consisting of free community classes for LGBTQ+ (friends and allies?) adults w/interest in learning to play an instrument. Applicant organization acknowledges need to be more active in diversifying membership.

Overall, this is a very strong application. In particular, the public benefit is very clearly stated and supported with evidence. Specifically, this is a safe space for LGBTQ+ artists/musicians to create and the program is designed by individuals who reflect the community. The programming is also free and plans are made to make the instruments economically accessible.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

I could have used a bit more information in this section. The content here reiterated the mission and vision of the org and the need that it needs to address. But I am missing the specific how of how courses plan to be taught and the curriculum aspects of instrumental music education.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

Partnering with local organizations and teaching artists, providing weekly workshops, and presenting at different venues in the city allows for great artistic and cultural vibrancy.

This application shows dedicated leadership with strong history and training in their field, as well as a diverse and enthusiastic group of participants.

Offering free instruction to the community fosters/recruits/creates musicians. Applicant organization's ability to create a relevant and engaging project evident through openness and willingness to come together.

Artistic and cultural vibrancy is high. I recommend this organization for funding.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

I appreciate the information provided on how the organization has scaled over time. I was unclear if the creative directors act in their roles for the entire org or this project specifically. But I love that the success metrics are identified and achievable.

Great expansion by the board and staff who are well versed in the medium.

The organization's track record of scaling up proves that they are ready for this undertaking. Goals for measuring success are clear and involve multiple ways of tracking different measurements.

Applicant organization has experienced great growth since humble beginnings years ago. Highly qualified team. Evaluative measures in place.

The budget is strong and tight. A few things to note: -- Very much appreciated how this organization details clearly what they measure, how they define impact, and the ways in which they solicit feedback. -- They included their contingency plan should they not be funded. And they outlined other sources of income. -- One small suggestion: The proposal includes the following: "The current Board of Directors have managed to scale the organization in two years: Budget from \$4,000 to \$55,000. Board membership from 5 to 9, general membership from 25 to over 100. Public performances from 4 to 12." They never state how this was done. Was it one or two of the staff (I really like how they list them to include their biographies)? Was it marketing efforts? That would have been helpful information to know.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Bodwin Theatre Company

**Project Title:** Run Jesse, Run!

**Panelists:** Jordan Adams, Keya Crenshaw, Claudia Gage, Jeff Garrett, Courtney Young

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

Offering completely free programming is a great way to maintain the audience you currently have as well as gain new followers. It makes the art accessible. Additionally, highlighting a local important figure may create new interest and investment in the company.

Yes, by hosting events throughout the community, the organization is maximizing opportunity for many different Cleveland residents to access the performance. Additionally, this project will draw attention to an important part of Cleveland's history, Jesse Owens.

It is a project to create a production, as well as, historic preservation? Some confusion. Additional discussion with regard to "Neighborhood residents" could be beneficial. Oh.... there's some resident info when discussing the home location. Performances are at no cost, with approximately ten anticipated.

The applicant briefly identified the communities that the project would serve in the geographical (Cleveland and Northeast Ohio), identity (African American), and affinity (sports and Olympics) contexts, but failed to articulate how it would use the project (theatrical performance) to connect with those identified groups. Rather it dived into how it would seek to promote it. I would have loved to see some intention on how the performance itself would invite those groups in and surpass to other extended audiences more specifically.

This has a strong public benefit that is dual in nature: preserving the home of Jesse Owens and educating the surrounding community on his legend and legacy. Plus, all activities are free and the venues: library, the Jesse Owens home, and community centers are appropriate places for this kind of work.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

Utilizing theatre as an educational tool is a great way to get new people into the medium.

The organization shows passion for this project, and a clear idea of how the project would move forward based on amount of funding given by CAC.

Applicant organization may have ability to create a relevant and engaging project. Project both creates work and presents.

This section of the application was used to restate facts already shared about the theatre performance's subject, Jesse Owens. However, I was interested to learn if there would be any focus and attention to engagement with specifically curated dialect, music, costume design, local actors, and or elements of the props and sets used?

The artistic and cultural vibrancy and relevancy of the project is sound. I am not sure, however, how the community is reflected in the planning, writing and direction of this project. Specifically, what is the racial makeup of the leadership and artistic direction of this project? Are there any African Americans in leadership?

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Having professionals in the medium head the team ensures compliance and quality.

This organization has a clear goal - the funding of the Owens house. The plan to track audience members and hopefully turn them into donors or otherwise engaged in the project is a good one. The work of the key players and long organization history also shows strong organizational capacity.

Project Dates start date entry is not within grant period. Organizational capacity is present. Paying artists. Nice.

There seems to be a competent team of Kevin and Peter. However, I am a bit concerned that there aren't more human resources to assist in the development, management and promotion of the performance outside of them. However, the team that is being utilized to restore the family home of Jesse Owen was named. But, I am not quite sure how their presence is relevant to the theatre performance project specifically. Also, the measures for success are somewhat misaligned to what the project's earlier articulated goal is.

The budget is sound and clearly expressed. Moreover, there are contingency plans provided should they not receive funding or less than anticipated and they have reserves.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Brooklyn Heights Service Clubs

**Project Title:** Brooklyn Heights Service Clubs Art in the Park

**Panelists:** Jordan Adams, Keya Crenshaw, Claudia Gage, Jeff Garrett, Courtney Young

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

The community served through geography, identity and affinity served as context on how you plan to be intentionally engage these unique groups. Well done.

Offering free intergenerational artistic and educational programming is an excellent way to increase support, attendance, and community. Great job showcasing the importance of this summer program.

Yes, the application shows a benefit to the public through the community it serves. The application also clearly and compassionately explains the organization's choice to not impose any fees.

Applicant organization resides within the community it serves along with members and participants from the area.

High public benefit.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

This section was a bit vague for me. Could have use more detail and concrete examples.

I'd like this section to be a bit more robust so the reader can fully understand how engaging programming is developed.

Yes, this application shows a plan to solicit feedback, suggestions, and critique from the community the organization serves. Additionally, the programming plan offers a wide variety of activities connected to the organization's mission.

40 years of programming equates to an asset for the community. Little to no mention of artists. It is evident the organization has and will continue to create relevant and engaging projects, but the entry was a bit lacking.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

I appreciate the identifying the point lead on the project as well as their experience and direct role. The metrics given are both qualitative and quantitative and should lead to great reflective data should you pursue this again with continuous improvement in mind. The budget is solid and the CAC funds are intentionally allocated.

The organization appears well positioned for success.

Yes, this application shows organizational capacity based on staff, evaluation metrics, and a well-balanced budget.

Project Dates entered are June and July 2024 (outside grant period) Qualified personnel.

Appreciated how this organization is considering how to capture feedback from children.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Canalway Partners

**Project Title:** Towpath Trail Lantern Parade 2025

**Panelists:** Noah Dixon, June Kim, Dana Manyothane, Alicia Olivio, Laura Weiss

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

Very cool project with art that celebrates sense of place and environment. Meets all three funding criteria.

The Towpath Trail Lantern Parade 2025 proposal was a joy to read. The public benefit of being a free, family- and community-oriented event during the time of the year when people want to stay indoors is genius. The celebration of light, creativity, and sustainability to usher in Spring down the Towpath Trail makes it accessible to everyone. Available free public lantern-making workshops hosted by the Parade producers are an excellent way to engage the community and bring it together for artistic endeavors. Seeing the Cleveland Museum of Art Community Arts Center partner is wonderful, allowing this institution to engage with the community. The 2024 Lantern Parade Recap was helpful in review of the public benefit and impact of this project.

The Towpath Trail Lantern Parade is a celebration of light, creativity and sustainability welcoming spring to the banks of the Cuyahoga River. Expects 600 people to attend. The program is free. Utilizes a public RFP process to participate. Also offers a free public lantern-making workshop to encourage participation. I would like to know a bit more about why this project is important to the public. It is free and accessible, but what are its goals that make it important and relevant? I would also recommend expanding on your methods of HOW you will connect with community through the project (other than simply having it be free and accessible). I would encourage more specific steps to involve the public at large.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

The aspect of using upcycled materials for this programming's art is particularly fresh.

The use of recycled materials is a key portion of the project, emphasizing upcycling to create art. I would encourage the organization to elaborate further on why this is important for the public though.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

The Canalway Partners provides wonderful great application which clearly details their plan for the Towpath Trail Lantern Parade 2025. The organizational aspects of their applications lead me to believe it will be a successfully executed event.

Great use of using either estimates or previous numbers to show how success will be measured.

The measures mentioned are very tangible, which are important; I would also recommend expanding the definition of success for the organization. Are there other ways to measure if the project was successful or not?



## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** Case Western Reserve University

**Project Title:** The 2025 Cleveland Humanities Festival: Appetite

**Panelists:** Jordan Adams, Keya Crenshaw, Claudia Gage, Jeff Garrett, Courtney Young

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The org has identified its community by basic geographic location. However, they understand the broad audience the intentional broad theme will bring in and have done this by design. They have designed an array of programs to meet the broad need of partner orgs and their appropriate communities. It is a ripple effect of community offerings.

Partnering with so many organizations is great for increasing attendance and offers greater inclusion and sharing of resources. I'm interested to know which events aren't free, but offering a majority of events for free is great.

Yes, this event provides a benefit to the public by providing free high-quality public programming. The fact that 60% of their attendees are from outside the university community shows that there is a history of successful marketing and outreach. Additionally, the organization states that it is already meeting with event partners to seek their input.

Applicant organization's mission includes engaging with the public via free events (avg. 25 org partnerships/event sites). Public benefit by building relationships with numerous arts and edu organizations. Applicant entry lacks detail with regard to Community, other than 40% academic and 60% public communities.

This proposal is well written. This has a high public benefit.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

The board array of offering are all relevant and engaging and they are bringing an array of expert artists to ensure this is executed well. Understanding that this is its 10 iteration is not enough. How is it evolving and evaluating its performance?

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

Offering a variety of different event options allows for audiences to not only participate how they want, but it also offers the opportunity to be exposed to something new.

Yes, the organization's strong relationships with other Cleveland institutions and history of bringing in nationally and internationally recognized speaker show artistic and cultural vibrancy.

Organization has ability to create a relevant and engaging project(s) through partnerships.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

The team of experts are equipped to carry out the festival/conference. A more detailed list of success metrics would have been beneficial to see. The budget is solid. It would have been a bit more helpful to see and know.

The project leadership appears well positioned.

Yes, this application shows organizational capacity in the history of the event and the collaboration between team members and community organizations. I do have a slight concern with the lack of variety in budget income sources when thinking about the sustainability of the event, but that is not something I am holding against the organization as I do not have further detail about their financial situation.

Highly qualified team. Success measured by number of partners and events, but could be more robust (i.e. feedback, informed decisions, visitor eval, etc.)

This is a very well-funded program and will most assuredly continue whether it receives funding or not.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** Catholic Charities Diocese of Cleveland

**Project Title:** Fatima Family Center 2025 Block Party: Music to Inspire

**Panelists:** Rem Cabrera, Karla Centeno, Maria Lafelice, Lisa Much, Elena Velasco

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

There is strong evidence of public benefit.

The application demonstrates strong support from not only community members but also other community organizations. The organization seeks to invite a wide audience to the event.

Applicant clearly defines its community and how the community and the neighborhood work together.

The organization has noted that the Fatima Family Center has been a space for Hough residents for over 50 years. As this is under Catholic Charities, it is not clear from the language provided if the public benefit is ecumenical, interfaith or non-religiously affiliated and if the content shared in the block would be welcoming to non-Catholics/non-Christians. There is indication in the language regarding performers that seems to imply that performances would be religiously centered (ex. "spiritual revival"). This would seem to indicate that the definition of "public" is in question.

Free block party marketed to the Hough community and adjacent neighborhoods for the first week of August. Primarily Black community (94%).

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

There is a diverse artistic roster; however, more information on how artists are relevant to their audience would have strengthened this response.

The organization plans to use funds to support fees for the musical performances, and describes past artistic participants that are culturally relevant to the audiences.

The local performers listed represent various musical genres, and the description of their performances exude pride and excitement from the hosts.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

Emphasis on 3 - 4 musicians with a local connection. Collaboration with local partners including the Cleveland Public Library Midtown Cleveland, Cleveland Orchestra & Baseball Heritage Museum, among others. 2025 artists TBD.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

There is strong evidence of public benefit.

The budget outlines multiple sources of support, it may require additional line items for expenses related to marketing and staff time for a more holistic sense of the financial commitment needed. Additionally the application includes meaningful goals.

Applicant seems to have capacity to execute the program through staff listing. \$10,000 feels like a small budget for such an event.

Planning process for 2023 included 9 focus groups and 76 community members. Marketing Communications Dept of the Fatima Center will seek feedback from attendees.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District

**Project Title:** Cedar Fairmount Summer Festival

**Panelists:** Jordan Adams, Keya Crenshaw, Claudia Gage, Jeff Garrett, Courtney Young

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

The applicant identifies its community through the geographical neighborhood and affinity of arts and fun. However, I did not receive a full sense of how it will be intentional about engaging and including diverse populations. The ways of connection were vague and not specific.

The public can benefit greatly from the program and initiatives created by this SID. For example, a free summer festival that utilizes and highlights local talent and businesses creates an inclusive and accessible environment. However, I would suggest thinking of more marketing strategies like media - social, television, radio, etc. to reach the broadest audiences.

Yes, this event provides a public benefit to the residents of the neighborhood by being free and open to the public. Additionally, the multiple marketing methods ensure that many potential audiences hear about the event.

One-day festival of free activities and resources. A little more info/data with regard to "residents from any surrounding community" could be beneficial. Various populations via crafts, activities, and music.

The public benefit is apparent and clear: a free multifaceted festival that has buy-in from so many different stakeholders in the community: churches, nonprofit organizations, arts and culture organizations, etc.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Again the information was provided but did not provide great detail. There was no sense of how past generic crafts and arts organizations the event would be relevant and engaging, or what would be used to determine fair compensation.

Noting that local talent will be available as well as paying the artists is fantastic, but I'd like to see this section a bit more robust.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

Yes, this application shows artistic & cultural vibrancy by working directly with the artists who will be involved, drawing on past programming, and compensating artists for their time.

Applicant organization's entry is light, could address project's relevance and engagement better, beyond presenting 19 years of experience. Paying artists... yes!

There is a lot of artistic and cultural vibrancy here.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

I appreciate knowing there was a robust team beyond the executive director and board of directors that would be dedicated to making this event come to fruition as well as other income sources that are identified to contribute to the success of the project.

While the event planners appear well positioned, I'd recommend more/better modes of measurements of success.

The collaboration between the organizer, board of directors, and participants shows organizational capacity.

Qualified team with "various tenants and building owners." Evaluative measures could benefit from additional details.

I really liked how the budget was laid out and how much support -- in kind and actual funding -- came from the community. See: "Various tenants and building owners currently contribute to help fund the festival and match the grant: Cedar Grandview Building, Heights Family Dental, Heights Medical Building, Honda of Cleveland Heights, Mangano Law Office Co., LPA, Strategic Properties and The Ascent." This application did not, however, talk specifically about how feedback is collected and the type of data they look for.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Cesear's Forum

**Project Title:** Joanna McClelland Glass' CANADIAN GOTHIC & AMERICAN MODERN

**Panelists:** Heather Beffa, LaShawnda Crowe Storm, Susan Roll, Emily Sollenberger, Anna Tragesser

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

There is always a need for experimental spaces to create opportunities for new ways of seeing and being.

The grant narrative shows strong benefit for those participating in the production, but the applicant does not speak to growing inclusivity and engaging a more diverse audience/community. . Is the theatre venue accessible? Does the marketing of the production go beyond academic and historical/traditional (for this organization) bounds?

It's unclear who the audiences are beyond the colleges/universities and some of the partners mentioned further into the application. But who makes up the communities and audiences you serve? How do you know these two productions will connect with them?

Would love to hear more about why these pieces were selected and, given the highly participatory nature of the works, who the audience is. A more thorough exploration of its community would benefit Caesar's Forum. When you look into the audience, who do you see? Is there a commonality besides the fact that they are in the same room? It would be helpful to answer Question 9 with more tangible information, like anecdotes from past performances that acknowledges who is engaging with these kinds of performances (and who isn't), and how the organization is responding. It seems that organization is assuming that excellent work will draw its community to participate. Without mindful self-awareness and observation, the people who show up tend to look like the people who are producing/performing. This tends to create a closed loop, and sees the same people or same kinds of people participating each time. Public benefit is the area for greatest improvement.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

It sounds like they will be producing unique plays, and I think that every community needs a theatre that presents the creatively risky and the vanguard.

I like that you value both your union and non-union performers and want to ensure comparable pay. The supporting materials you provided were very informative and allowed me to better understand the depth and breadth of your work. Given the art form is primarily performance and sound, I would have greatly appreciated a link to video to be able to fully appreciate the work of your organization.

Use of a play reading committee speaks positively to the search for and selection of a relevant and engaging play. Paying competitive wages to artists (especially including equity actors) speaks well of the production and its quality.

Clear connection to evaluation and feedback; however consider explaining how these particular productions connect with your audiences? Why do you feel these would best connect with them?

Appreciate the engaging, interactive format that's being explored here. It seems that many people could enjoy this kind of theatre experience, especially people who might not enjoy more traditional theatre. This program seems like a wonderful asset to the local theatre community, as it is providing new exploration of theatre in a highly professional environment. It would be very helpful to hear more about the play reading committee-- who are they? How/why are these specific folks invited to participate? Would love to hear some more details about the collaborations with the named organizations (Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage, the Cleveland's Alzheimer Association, Samuel Beckett & Sylvia Plath Estates). What was the project? What impact did their input have? Generally, it is not clear if and how Cesear's Forum has approached this project with an inclusive awareness of its audience.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

It is clear that you will be able to execute this program at a high level.

The team is qualified and capable. More description about the feedback process (noted in questions #10 and 12) and use of the results would build confidence in the organizations process. Appreciate the role in uplifting lesser know works; and plans for paying folks.

There's no doubt that this team will produce a wonderful show, and that the project is feasible. This organization is highly focused on artistic output. It appears that Cesear's Forum sees its role as serving the theatre community in Cleveland. Great artistic work is important for its own sake, and will undoubtedly generate more and better theatre in the region. However, this project lacks thoughtful public benefit and may not be the best fit for this particular funding opportunity.



## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Cleveland Arts Education Consortium

**Project Title:** Artlook® = Equitable Arts Education Community-Wide

**Panelists:** Heather Beffa, LaShawnda Crowe Storm, Susan Roll, Emily Sollenberger, Anna Tragesser

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

Cleveland Arts Education Consortium made a strong case for the value of implementing ArtLook, especially by coordinating multiple partners and presenters and by planning its informational sessions across several years. Connecting its schools with community partners, and identifying gaps in arts education availability, are core functions of the tool, and it is already tested in multiple cities/places. <https://artlookmap.com/>.

I really like that your work focuses on strengthening the work area creatives and service providers. The Artlook® Project is a crucial form of creative infrastructure needed in any vibrant art community and will serve to provide much needed stats to enhance effective advocacy, which will hopefully lead to increased funding opportunities for your community.

The project planned by CAEC will connect their community and offer the power of data, an insightful and persuasive tool for growing educational programs and discovering/validating needs. The letters of support confirm the community engagement and desire for this project.

Clear connection to community and audiences, with clear intentions and specific goals.

This organization is member-driven, and the spirit of the project is to build consensus and energy around artlook. Appreciated the enthusiastic letters of support from key partners who will make this initiative a success. It would have been helpful to hear a little more about why CAEC has chosen to pursue Artlook now, a brief timeline for implementation, and if there are currently barriers to implementation.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

This is important creative infrastructure that will support the artistic and cultural vibrancy for Cleveland area as a whole.

The CAEC team has plans that allow time and information about a new software system to engage and take root with their community.

The proposal instills confidence that CAEC will recruit diverse perspectives and involvement. Appreciate that there are many perspectives included in the planning team - institutional, artist, and educator.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

It is clear that you will be able to execute this program at a high level and are committed to getting the project completed.

The capability of the team is clear and the history of successful project shows that success in this project is highly likely.

This project clearly connects to the mission, vision, values of the organization.

This project is logical-- it creates a foundation for collaboration and feedback as artlook is rolled out in the community.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Cleveland Chamber Collective

**Project Title:** Music of America

**Panelists:** Noah Dixon, June Kim, Dana Manyothane, Alicia Olivio, Laura Weiss

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

This section could be strengthened by defining who the community being served is. What are the demographics? Are there large differences between the two communities at the venues that CCC plays at? Could there have been specific audience testimonials/quotes that were included, rather than painting broad strokes?

Music of America' is a series which strives to remove barriers associated with 'classical music' and connect the community with music from composers from the Americas while also highlighting local composers. The application provides well thought out responses describing how this series will benefit the public. I would love to hear more about the two specific venues chosen.

Funding would support music series dedicated to composers from the Americas. Concerts are free. Strong sense of awareness around the organization's role in inclusivity and diversity in programming. There appears to be a strong sense of their identified community. I would recommend that the organization further consider how they are engaging with audiences they are not currently serving.

A more detailed response for who their audiences are and how they meaningfully engage with them would have made this application stronger. It seems like they have changed their repertoire priorities in recent years -- how does that connect to the people they serve and who come to their concerts? I like that they are featuring local composers. Clear that their artistic vibrancy and organizational capacity are strong.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

I appreciate the applicant's dedication to taking their community's thoughts and feedback into account when building next year's seasons! The compensation rates for artists are admirable.

I appreciate their thoughtful approach to designing their programming, utilizing feedback and input.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

The artists involved in CCC are skilled. It would have been more beneficial to have shared benchmarks around surveys - what was the goal response rate, how often are they distributed, how many performances does this event have, etc.

The noted income (\$14,200) is far below the expenses - I would recommend sharing further about this to clarify how this will be balanced (are there other means of income for the org as a whole to offset this?)

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** Cleveland Composers Guild

**Project Title:** Creativity: Learning through Experience XXXIII

**Panelists:** Jordan Adams, Keya Crenshaw, Claudia Gage, Jeff Garrett, Courtney Young

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

They have thoroughly explained the community being served in geographical and affinity aspects. Both the organization and the intended community being served was identified and described. They also described well how they plan to have relevant engagement between the organizations' community and the students/families that will participate, as well as they recruit to implement the project.

Excellent job keeping the project free and accepting at-will donations. This makes the event more accessible to all participants.

Yes, this application shows public benefit through the free concerts, as well as by providing serious young musicians opportunities to network in the community and showcase their work.

Free with donations encouraged helps keeps project going, as well as, financially accessible. Applicant could provide additional information when referring to/describing "interested students." Organization has ability to connect with its community ("tight knit classical) through its projects and programming.

This has a clear public benefit, especially for young musicians.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

The who, how and why of how artistic vibrancy will be supported through this projects. The music teachers, composers and artists will be compensated in order to garner an incentive around full commitment to the pieces developed and performed.

Working with local teachers and students is a great way to expand the cultural vibrancy of the city and creates a system where locals aren't kept from participating.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

Paying everyone, including the student participants, really enhances the artistic and cultural vibrancy, underscoring the seriousness of the project and setting expectations early that artists deserve to be compensated for their work.

Paying student artists, instructors, and composers...yes! Applicant organization's ability to create a relevant and engaging project is possible through curating new music and artists.

There is a clear artistic benefit here.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

I appreciate that the team was fully identified and provided who, their background/experience and their specific role with the project. However, the project budget and financial were a bit concerning. There was a deficit of expenses compared to income by \$1000. I appreciate that it was identified that the CAC funds would go to artist personnel. But it would cover 76% of that expense line rather than 66%.

Organizationally appears sound.

Yes, there is strong organizational capacity with clearly defined roles and a history of success. Highly qualified team and artists. Evaluative measurement practices in place.

The budget is good. I also like the inclusion of a contingency plan. Finally, I appreciate that student performers are paid.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Cleveland Dance Project Company

**Project Title:** 2025 Community Dance and Wellness Project

**Panelists:** Heather Beffa, LaShawnda Crowe Storm, Susan Roll, Emily Sollenberger, Anna Tragesser

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

I like that this wellness/health in dance program's measure of success is tied to decreased stress levels for participants.

I like that you are intentionally connecting your work within community spaces and partners to reach people where they are. I would encourage you to reconsider the expression of "at-risk" as it is vague and can be viewed as coded language. Later in your explanation you were specific about the issues facing the populations and this helped me to better understand your work and the communities. One last thing, given that you partner with such a variety of organizations, I would have appreciated a small discussion of the demographics you are serving through these organizations.

The applicant understands who their community is and their multi-pronged programming supports and engages that community well. Mentioning past numbers of participants or adding letters of support (support materials) from their community would further support the public benefit of this program.

Clear connection to their audiences/community. To strengthen, would like to know more about the "community outreach" and how they determine partnerships and building relationships with the DEIA lens -- what might that look like from their perspective? Consider explaining more about the adult populations being served -- is this anyone that's 18 and older? Or are you looking at groups that may be older than this?

CDP Company has thoughtfully and empathetically explored its role in the lives of its community members. It is actively seeking to build relationships with communities who might see real benefit from movement experiences, even physically meeting these folks where they are. The evaluation methods used to design programs are exceptional, and could be used as models for others.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

Your support materials really helped me to understand your variety of offerings you make available to the public, as well as the diversity of your performers.

Research and data driven feedback is a solid way to ensure the project remains relevant and engaging.

There are clear feedback and evaluation efforts.

This programming seems very accessible and co-created. These experiences enrich the lives of participants and spotlight dance as a valuable part of health and everyday life.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

It is clear that you will be able to execute this program at a high level.

The diverse and experienced leadership team and the focus on data supported development is a strong indicator of the organization's capacity to successfully deliver and sustain their project. Clear they have had successes with these projects/programming and trusted partners. With strong evaluation and feedback, have a strong commitment and capacity to continue to be effective and important to the community being served.

CDPC has a strong team and a history of implementing these programs successfully. Appreciate the specific examples of participant feedback and how the organization is responding.



## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Cleveland Inner City Ballet

**Project Title:** Dance Education Health and Wellness

**Panelists:** Heather Beffa, LaShawnda Crowe Storm, Susan Roll, Emily Sollenberger, Anna Tragesser

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

I appreciate the approach of bringing health and wellness through dance education to community centers throughout the area, and I think this project will do this well.

I like the grassroots nature of your organizations founding and how you have continued to adapt to present moment to keep your work relevant and in tune with community needs. Health and wellness, especially mental wellness are a big thing right now for youth and I am encouraged to see you being willing to step into this space using the arts as a vehicle of wellness. I love also that you can provide access for different age groups in your programs, as well as economic. Kudos to being a model example of how to explore the world and thrive during covid.

This program shows its positive intentions for diversity in participants through diversity in instructors, locations, accessibility, and role modeling. A few examples of strategies in the marketing plan would further illustrate their outreach.

The organizations seems to have a good understanding of the needs of the community, and implementing programming in response to those needs. However, to strengthen, it would be helpful to know more specifics about the dance, health, and wellness classes -- such as an example of what someone can expect.

Pink Tutu has been rooted in the spirit of public benefit from its inception. It's clear that the organization values inclusive access and meaningful experiences. Partnerships between arts + health to address alarming trends in isolation and loneliness will become more prevalent in the coming years, and this program has the potential to be a model for other dance programs across the nation. It would have been helpful to read about any particular health practitioners or organizations that you're building partnerships with (even if they are still proposed, not committed).

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

The supporting materials you provided are pure eye candy. Given the art form is primarily performance, I would have greatly appreciated a link to video to be able to fully appreciate the work of your organization and students.

The plan to include more support in the wellness area is innovative and increases the programs relevance. The quality of dance instructors also adds confidence to the program's relevance and engagement.

Appreciate the feedback and evaluation efforts in place here, and including medical and dance professionals in the work. Given there are many disciplines in Dance, and many different types of medical professionals, it would be helpful to know more specifics around the intended community involvement and partnerships here. (some of this in the next section, how were they decided on?)

Thank you for considering a diversity of perspectives and bodies in leadership roles. It's encouraging to hear that you'll also incorporate feedback from participants to shape the program design.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

It is clear that you will be able to execute this program at a high level.

It is clear that the organization understands the value of its programming and is making an effort to better connect with a wider, more diverse audience. Providing prior years' survey information would further support this organization's commitment to understanding their community and program impact. Overall, I think the organization has the history and capacity to implement the programming. But for someone not familiar with the work, more specifics about the programming and audiences being served -- an example class/schedule -- would strengthen the application.

This program design approach is strong. It would have been stronger with a little more detail about which health partners will be involved and their backgrounds, although the proposal instills confidence that the right folks will be involved when the time comes. It would have been helpful to understand more about the funding sources. Is the Foundation Support committed or proposed? CICB is listed as a funder, and Pink Tutu has also listed them as an alternate source of funding if these CAC funds are unavailable. It's unclear what the relationship between Pink Tutu and CICB is, and perhaps more explanation could have been provided in the optional space in #13.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** Cleveland Leadership Center

**Project Title:** Connecting leaders to the community through Arts Days

**Panelists:** Jordan Adams, Keya Crenshaw, Claudia Gage, Jeff Garrett, Courtney Young

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

I appreciate the identifying of the community through affinity, especially through participation in previous program offerings. It is relevant to use your own network as well as referrals through the art community in order to expand those involved and connect missions and visions through aligned principles.

Project offers great public benefit to the city, especially by engaging multiple age groups, centering relationship building, and offering fee-free access.

This shows a strong public benefit by identifying arts and cultural organizations as a center of civic life in Cleveland, and by reducing the barriers for participation for the high school students involved in the program. Additionally, it benefits many organizations by helping groups of people come to them to learn more.

Applicant organization describes the purpose and benefits of program, but lacks specifics about what the project actually is/or occurs.

This has a clear public benefit and clear, qualified support to lead it.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

The marrying of two relevant needs of both artists and civic leaders and those alike is innovative and engaging. It speaks to the org's mission, target audience and promotion of the artists who have been engaged in this work for quite some time.

Exposure to multiple venues and disciplines increases diversity of opportunities and experiences.

This application shows artistic and cultural vibrancy by working with the artists and arts organizations, and by using art to address issues of racial inequity and social justice.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

Applicant organization's ability to create a relevant and engaging project is there, but would like more details about project(s).

Clear cultural vibrancy.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

The team is intentionally built with those with relevant expertise. They meet regularly for the advancement of the org as well as the planning of the event. I appreciate the articulation of the metrics of success. The budget is solid and CAC funds intentionally allocated.

Program directors appear well positioned.

The framework of the Cleveland Leadership Center and their existing program design gives strong organizational capacity.

Highly qualified team. Evaluative measurement practices in place.

This is strong. In particular, most staff have advanced degrees and the way they collect feedback is clearly outlined. The budget is clear and there are contingency plans in place should they not receive the funds.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** Cleveland Philharmonic Orchestra

**Project Title:** Next Generation of Community Musicians

**Panelists:** Jordan Adams, Keya Crenshaw, Claudia Gage, Jeff Garrett, Courtney Young

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The community(ies) served by the CPO in this particular project were identified and well-articulated. This articulation served as foundational context on how they intend to engage this community in particular. The historical context given earlier in the application was great to know so that we can see how they are and will demonstrate inclusion efforts past its core audience.

Great job engaging different parts of the community, including inviting representatives from the schools and CPO members into the planning, as well as creating intergenerational programming. Low ticket prices are wonderful but consider free to at-will donation opportunities as this may allow others to attend as well.

Including representatives of the local high schools as well as CPO musicians and incorporating feedback from previous years shows a clear public benefit. I think it is good that there is no participation fee and that ticket costs are kept to an access price, as well.

Event/program is form of recruitment for musicians seeking advancement, as well as, fostering lifelong learners. Artist (high schooler's) participation is free with a fee based ticket for performances. Brief bullet point-like presentation of community appreciated, and could benefit from a little more data with regard to audience(s).

Strong public benefit. Appreciated seeing how they specifically define their community. And that students as well as CPO representatives makes up the planning committee for these events. Also appreciated the intergenerational

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

The learning opportunity to make this a permanent offering to youth is an interest so the intentional evaluation efforts are pertinent. This is appreciated and valued.

Excellent point in using the previous year's feedback to develop the new programming.

I really respect the detailed feedback incorporation based on past years' programming and the dedication to fair pay for professional musicians. The long-range thinking (assessing the finances for this year) also shows a commitment to artistic & cultural vibrancy.

Feedback informs applicant organization's projects. Although a fairly recent project, the organization's ability to create a relevant and engaging project is clear.

Definite artistic and cultural vibrancy

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

The team and the relevant experience is well equipped to carry out this project. Success metrics are succinct and obtainable. Budget is solid and the CAC funds are allocated. Concrete number figures for the CAC allocation would have been appreciated.

Organizational leaders appear well positioned.

Yes, I see strong organizational capacity by drawing on the experiences and expertise of both the orchestra's director and musicians as well as the high school conductor. Use of pre- and post-program evaluations is also a great way to measure goals.

Highly qualified team and artists. Good evaluative measurement practices in place. Music Dir and Concertmaster are line items, any funds for artists?

Liked seeing how feedback is integrated into programming. This shows a willingness to listen and evolve. How success is measured is clearly stated.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** Cleveland Rape Crisis Center

**Project Title:** Healing Art Therapy Programming for Survivors of Sexual Violence

**Panelists:** Heather Beffa, LaShawnda Crowe Storm, Susan Roll, Emily Sollenberger, Anna Tragesser

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

It is clear that you understand your community and what is happening around sexual violence and trafficking. I like that "CRCC's locations were strategically chosen to meet survivors where they are and increase engagement with communities of color."

The CRCC has shown their connection with and support of their community. Their use of statistics adds a lot of insight to their community.

Clear they have a good understanding of working with this particular community, and have the staff working within art therapy to facilitate this specific programming within the healing process for these individuals.

Thank you for the thoughtful exploration of how historical inequities and barriers impact every facet of this work.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

This program employs a trained art therapist who is in tune with the needs of the individuals seeking help at the rape crisis center.

It is important for the arts to be used as an expression of the human experience, as well as offer space to process horrific crimes and unspeakable experiences through the creative process.

The CRCC is paying their key therapist well and engaging with their community geographically (and emotionally) where their community is. This is powerful.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

To strengthen the application further, it would be good to know the types of art therapy being planned. Based on the work sample, it show visual art -- is this the only type of art therapy offered? Are there any music, performance, or literary options? Perhaps further information about how the arts-based activities are being included would help to uplift the work further.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

I like that your staff is reflective of the populations it serves. With only one Art Therapist on staff, this is crucial to ensure clients see themselves somewhere in the treatment process.

The team is well qualified and, based on the support materials, experienced. The CRCC commitment to being where needed most is heartening.

The team is credentialed and mindful of the complexities their clients experience.



## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Cleveland Repertory Orchestra

**Project Title:** Cleveland Repertory Orchestra's Third Season

**Panelists:** Jordan Adams, Keya Crenshaw, Claudia Gage, Jeff Garrett, Courtney Young

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

The community described was the makeup of the organization. I interpreted that we (the CAC panelists) were interested to know about the org's target audience, ultimately the community they are serving. However, I appreciate identifying the org by their geographical residence and affinity to better understand who makes up the orchestra. I appreciate knowing the foundational pertinence of DEI to the org and its members too.

Presenting free programming with at-will donations across the city allows for greater access and inclusion.

Yes, this application shows public benefit through the organization's work to break down barriers in its art form, its commitment to DEI, and its free performances at a variety of locations around Cuyahoga County (to increase access for audiences).

A focus on new and historically excluded works. Musicians are greatest advocates, as well as, supporters. Partnerships have equated to support. DEI and belonging are pillars of the organization. Multiple venues and no admission increases access.

Public benefit is high. In particular, there was a lot of intentionality in this proposal. There is real thought behind why decisions are made as they are and a real commitment to diversity and inclusion.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

I appreciate the intentionality of the recently selected pieces played by the orchestra. The description really displays how the org wants to engage their intended audience. However, the context of this would have made a bit more sense if the orchestra's core audience/community's evolution was described in the public benefit section.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

Continuing to increase your DEIA+Belonging initiatives will expand your audience, partnerships, and support.

Yes, this application shows artistic and cultural vibrancy in both its commitment to paying musicians and its dedication to performing an inclusive repertoire of classical music.

Striving to change perception of Classical in NE Ohio and including works of female, BIPOC, and LGBTQ artists.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Thank you for providing the background, experience and roles of the musical director and concertmaster. I appreciate knowing the size and leadership of the board and the many musicians that directly make up the orchestra. The metrics for the goals could be a bit more substantial and identified. The budget income and expenses are both a bit less than the amount expressed it will cost for the overall project. I would have love to see the detailed breakdown by number of how the CAC funds will be spent, ensuring that it is not overextended.

I encourage the applicant to consider using phrases like 'disadvantaged' or 'marginalized' rather than 'minority', but being mindful of these communities will continue to set the organization up for continued success.

Yes, this application demonstrates organizational capacity with clearly measurable and defined goals and a well-organized budget that shows exactly where CAC funds would be spent. Highly qualified team. Working on audience cultivation. Evaluative measures in place.

Appreciated the diversity of funding sources.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** Cleveland Seed Bank

**Project Title:** Sowing Seeds of Community Resilience

**Panelists:** Noah Dixon, June Kim, Dana Manyothane, Alicia Olivio, Laura Weiss

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The Hummingbird Project is a compelling project bringing issues of environment, food, culture, and community together. Meets all three criteria.

This section could have been strengthened by explaining who the community served are; I didn't receive a good sense of the size of the community, whether in number of partnerships or individuals. This is better viewed in the work samples, and I wish that information was up front and center in the narrative portion of this grant.

Seed Swap will provide resources and knowledge about seed saving. Regular workshops will be held at various library branches. Free and open to the public. The described events are clear entry points for people to participate in this. I would like to know more about HOW you are connecting with individuals who might not know about this. What are you actively doing to connect with new participants?

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

"Local entertainment" and "arts professional" are mentioned - but I'm not clear on what the artistic portions of the events/workshops are? What do the arts professionals do within the context of the events/workshops? I would recommend sharing further around how the topic explored through the workshops/events are relevant and important to the community at large. I believe the importance of learning about climate change and the environment is heavily implied, but it would be helpful to know more specifically how the organization is creating an engaging event addressing this.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

The Hummingbird Project presents a long and successful organizational history and proves themselves capable of putting on their 'Sowing Seeds of Community Resilience' through this application. Their responses are thoughtful and detailed.

The Cleveland Seed Bank's Sowing Seeds of Community Resilience project is supported by part-time staff, volunteers, board members, and community project partners. Leadership has been able to execute this event over several years and is looking for a larger space because of the event's growth. The organization's board of directors supports building community relationships, which is vital to the sustainability of an organization. The team has a plan to measure the project's success. The project budget is reasonable. There seems to be an underestimation of in-kind donations, considering the volunteer base that helps with the execution of the project.

The staffing plan is clear. Similar to above note - the budget shares that \$2500 is budgeted for "Arts and Cultural Professionals" but I'm not clear on who this includes and what their role is in the overall project? I would recommend clarifying this further throughout the application.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Cleveland Shakespeare Festival

**Project Title:** Free Shakespeare Outdoors

**Panelists:** Jordan Adams, Keya Crenshaw, Claudia Gage, Jeff Garrett, Courtney Young

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

Identifying your community by the target audience you serve is an elite display of self and community awareness. Doing this by affinity and geographical location residence. Going beyond this and understanding the socio-economic identity will really inform the programming outcomes and understanding how you can transcend the original intention of the art form and how it can extend its benefits to untraditional audiences.

Offering free performances makes the programming more accessible and may invite new audiences to participate. While cross cultural representation is necessary, I invite you to consider not relegating non-white cast members to the supporting cast. For true "colorblind" casting, individuals should be included in all roles across the production.

Yes, this organization shows a commitment to public benefit by hosting free performances in public locations across the greater Cleveland/Cuyahoga County region. I also see that there is acknowledgement of the traditional history of Shakespeare plays, and efforts to shape the productions to be more inclusive both for actors and audiences.

Non-traditional casting and free performances (part of mission) are public benefit for both performances. Some specificity with regard to audiences/community served.

This has a strong public component: Using untraditional casting, they introduce the community to Shakespeare's works for free in community and celebrating local artists. Also, all performances take place in public areas. See: "At public parks and spaces around Northeast Ohio. Probable sites include Cleveland Heights Library, Lakewood Park, Coe Park (Berea), Sims Park (Euclid), Van Aken Market (Shaker Hts.), Lincoln Park (Tremont)"

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

Thank you for clearly stating the given examples you are speaking to directly to. But because you felt you could not meet the criteria examples. Sharing ways that you will bring the artistic vibrancy, the core element of the project, would have been best.

It might be worth meeting with a consultant to see what other ways you can bring in more revenue in order to pay actors and increase the \$200. Also think about other ways participants can be surveyed.

This application shows some artistic vibrancy, by committing to compensate actors and acknowledging the limitations in its current model. I would be interested to hear more about efforts to increase pay, if that is important to the organization and application. I would also be interested to see some specific examples of changes that were made based on survey feedback.

High artistic and cultural vibrancy.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

The team and their experience was identified and share. Would have love to have seen more of the roles of the cast and crew members. The metrics of success were solid. However the budget and its facets were unbalanced.

The board appears well positioned.

Highly qualified team and Board. Evaluative measures in place with applicant stating it informs their programming as well.

Success is clearly defined and like that the sole use of these funds will be to pay actors.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** Cleveland Silent Film Festival and Colloquium

**Project Title:** Cleveland Silent Film Festival & Colloquium: 2025 Events

**Panelists:** Jordan Adams, Keya Crenshaw, Claudia Gage, Jeff Garrett, Courtney Young

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,230

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

CSFFC clearly identified and communicated the community and target audience through those that appreciate film and silent film specifically. As well as, geographical and identity through diversity. I appreciate the foundational context to lead to the intentional in including diverse populations through publicity coverage and a targeted newsletter, but also haven't concrete impact goals that can streamline the orgs aims and intentions through programming.

Nice job reaching out to the community to include students etc.

Yes, this application clearly defines public benefit by articulating the current community as well as communities the organization hopes to reach with their next season (student musicians, the Deaf community, and the African American community). The mix of free and low-cost events at multiple accessible venues throughout Cleveland also shows public benefit.

"Modest fees" for many events with free community as well. Applicant organization may be experiencing growth and looking to pursue more programming. Entry may benefit from additional demographic data.

This proposal is one of the best written. It provides clear and thorough answers to all questions. Thus, the public benefit is clear: providing access to a part of film history community members may not have access to: silent films. Though not free to attend, they make them low cost.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

This was very clear on how the org plans to be innovative with its offerings and survey its effectiveness among attendees.

I suggest thinking of other ways to include the community. For example, having a film showing at a board members house makes this seem like a very restricted and secular group only meant for a select few. How are you reaching the larger Cleveland community? How are diverse populations engaged?

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

Silent films have the stigma of being quite racist - so how are you discussing this and creating a safe space? Outside of Oscar Michaux, what other directors/actors are you including?

This application outlines a dedicated list of organizers who have a variety of skills necessary to host this project.

Newly tiered membership program may assist with programming funding. Applicant organization not quite fully addressing how applicant will create relevant/engaging project.

High artistic and cultural vibrancy.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

The team was identified and their respective experience and roles. The metrics of success, as well as the budget is solid. The projected CAC funds are concretely allocated.

I encourage not only physical mailing lists but electronic ones if that doesn't already exist. The team appears well positioned.

Yes, this application shows organizational capacity and goals. For future applications, I would recommend having clear metrics for attendance and membership goal like you have for media coverage goals.

Qualified team. Applicant could describe how it defines "unique attendees." Specifics, with regard to evaluation/measurement could be beneficial.

Clear definition of what they consider success and the metrics they track. Good budget.



## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Cleveland TOPS Swingband

**Project Title:** BIG BAND MUSIC "PRESENTATIONS For The GENERATIONS"

**Panelists:** Jordan Adams, Keya Crenshaw, Claudia Gage, Jeff Garrett, Courtney Young

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

The org identified the community of its members, as well as those who are interested in their genre of music and performance. But, the org also reminded us that their specific is not a monolith and how they intend to engage those from varying socioeconomic statuses in their target demographic.

Nice job presenting intergenerational programming and offering free events.

Yes, this application shows public benefit by clearly defining the community the organization serves (seniors) and a plan for reaching that population (performing at senior-centric facilities). This application acknowledges the challenges of their population (limited mobility and income) and plans to overcome those challenges (traveling to places where their population resides and performing free concerts).

Applicant organization states it's programming is "By Seniors, For Seniors (& Juniors Too)." "Senior Centric" venues, events, and audiences are their community, free and open to all. Applicant connects with its community through performance and face to face interaction.

High in public benefit. This swingband, of which the average age is 77, plays for the senior population. It's a cool idea.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

The org knows its community well with a sustained presence amongst them, but they are also focusing on intergenerational performance and program opportunities which is always great to see.

Creating a fun, safe, and relevant space for mature generations is great, as well as inviting other community members to participate.

It is clear from the application that this organization engages with its stakeholders to provide a performance that is vibrant and relevant.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

Applicant creates relevant and engaging project through musical selection/experiences that are recognizable to their audiences.

High artistic vibrancy.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

The team is made up of experts and a good number of members who can carry the project out. However, I would have loved to see more concrete success metrics. The budget is solid and CAC funds appropriately allocated.

Might be worth finding a consultant or volunteer to help with the application as there are some grammatical errors and general typing mistakes. That said, the organization and board appear well positioned.

Yes, this application shows organizational capacity. For future applications, I would recommend clearly defining your goals and measurements (i.e. perform in X senior homes, make Y return visits, etc.) Highly qualified team consisting of retired and late career artists. Applicant organization's 20 year history may be an indicator of org capacity.

The proposal is transparent about some of the risks, namely COVID, that this particularly sensitive population has to face. Though these constraints are recognized contingency plans for programming and program participants are not included with specificity. Moreover, how this will affect long term programming or the sustainability of this program is not discussed.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Cleveland Treatment Center

**Project Title:** "Break Masters" - Let It Ride - Game Ready 4 Life DJ Training

**Panelists:** Jordan Adams, Keya Crenshaw, Claudia Gage, Jeff Garrett, Courtney Young

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

The applicant has identified the community it will serve directly and the attributes that the community mentioned shares. They also articulated well why and how this project will meet, connect and engage with the community specifically.

Great job with cost accessible programming as well as working with disadvantaged communities.

Yes, this project shows a public benefit by providing classes/an exciting and artistically enriching extracurricular activity to youth engaged in its programs who are facing other challenges.

Appreciate note about public trans/free parking/ADA access of venue. Program available current enrollees, then broadly marketed. Applicant organization connects with its community through its project.

The public benefit is clearly stated: to offer DJ training and programming for skill development and intervention to an at risk demographic. Appreciated that this application outlines how and why this demographic is at risk. The programming is also free. Also, both venues: the Cleveland Treatment Center's Computer Lab and Conference Room and the East Cleveland Public Library are good, in particular they note that the venues offer free parking, access to public transportation and are compliant with the ADA.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Because this is a arts learning based project the applicant was very thorough in outlining the component of the course project that would make it a relevant and engaging project with an emphasis on the creative and performance components.

Excellent job writing in experienced teaching artists.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

The exposure to industry professionals, diverse curriculum, and emphasis on creativity enhance the artistic and cultural vibrancy of this project.

Organization's ability to create a relevant and engaging project evident through the six points presented in entry.

Very strong in artistic and cultural vibrancy. I am curious how this organization views this type of skill building in the long term for this demographic. This is captured in their quantitative metrics: number of graduates employed as DJs. Knowing this figure would be instructive in regarding whether this program is more extracurricular or useful as an intervention program rather something that can lead to full time employment. Appreciate that actual DJs are oversees and teaching this program.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

The organization's history and budget itself are in great evidence of sustainable capacity. However, specific to this project, it is great that the executive director and instructing DJ are qualified to carry this out. I would have loved to see the income streams more identified. However knowing that both quantitative and qualitative metrics have been identified in achieving overall success should carry them to their goal.

Listing both qualitative and quantitative measurements is great and will lead to a successful outcome.

Yes, there is strong organizational capacity in the form of experienced program leaders and detailed systems for program feedback and improvement.

Highly qualified team. Evaluative measurement practices in place.

This application included one of the best articulations of feedback: how they measure it, what they measure, and the type of feedback/data they are looking for. The budget was also solid. I was curious what other sources of income they are considering outside of this granting program. They broadly identified "both public and private foundations and grantors" but specifics would have been useful.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Cleveland Uncommon Sound Project

**Project Title:** Re:Sound Festival Series 2025

**Panelists:** Heather Beffa, LaShawnda Crowe Storm, Susan Roll, Emily Sollenberger, Anna Tragesser

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

I like the intentionality of the direct of the work and its expansion, as well as the desire to "turn no one away" for your events. Although you mention diversity frequently in this application, would have liked to see some stats on how your diversity has changed. In addition, I like that you are offering the events in different neighborhoods of metro area. However, as I am not a local a smidge of information to describe the demographic make-up the communities would be useful to allow for comparison of your claims for diversity.

This applicant shows a deep commitment to and engagement with their community through their advisory board, diverse marketing program, and ticket pricing model.

Appreciate the inclusion of past festival artists/attendees as part of the committed who helps to make decisions for the next year. Curious to know why it's important to the organization and community to have national headliners (and why that's curated/invited) along with local artists who are applying to participate. Appreciate the consideration of not turning away folks because they may not be able to attend.

This program seems to be an important resource for artistic development in Cleveland and beyond. Committees are intended to represent diverse perspectives (it would be helpful to learn more about the perspectives that are in fact represented), and paid for their participation. Tangible practices are described that demonstrate an openness to all, like a sliding ticket price and being personally welcomed by staff. There is evidence that the participants are being asked for feedback, and that programs are responsive to artist and audience needs. Re:Sound is an important asset to the artistic community, and is intentionally cultivating an experience that's open to all. Therefore, it meets the public benefit criteria. There could be room to explore how the experience might connect with audiences who might not naturally reach for experimental music. Could CUSP proactively pursue partnerships with other audiences? For example, is there a natural overlap between local high school music curriculum? Would an instructor encourage their students to experience Re:Sound for extra credit? CUSP's application still

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

meets the public benefit criteria as is, and this is only a suggestion for future sustainability and audience development.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

Provides an open call to support new works; this is a rare opportunity for sound artists.

I like that you have both experimental music AND sound-based projects to expand the idea of how sound can be used and incorporated beyond the stage.

The applicant showed strong evidence of a relevant and engaging project with national artists, a relevant panel to choose performance acts, and the open call to local musicians/sound artists.

Clear and thoughtful festival.

This criterion is where CUSP and Re:Sound really shine. It's clear that artists are not only celebrated, but they run the organization. It's tough to evaluate the artist fee without more details, but I can assume that it is fair, given that artistic peers are involved in budgetary decisions.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Your organization is growing in different ways and I like the intentional investment in artist and the infrastructure of your organization, which will lead to longer term capacity to grow this important work.

The project team is strong and the focus on understanding the audience experiences, sizes, and demographics shows a positive practice for long-term success. Also, the shift from a single festival to several shorter experiences reflects this engagement and understanding.

I appreciate the feedback and evaluation loop they have set up here.

The project seems well-planned, and has been successful in past years. Thank you for sharing about changes you'd made to the schedule in response to audience participation and feedback. Appreciate that you have a paid advisory committee. Hope to see much success with your new volunteer-led committees, and it will be helpful to hear about successes, challenges and adjustments to these structures in future proposals.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Cleveland Winds

**Project Title:** The Cleveland Winds 2025 Concert Series

**Panelists:** Brad Carlin, Lenore Herbst, Sara Little, Alexandra Opsahl, Ami Scherson

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

The applicant's project provides strong evidence of how it connects with two of the three communities described in question 8. But I would like to have seen more evidence of how they will specifically engage the third circle, the Wind Band connoisseurs in the US and abroad. I have questions as to why this circle is more important to this project than the local audiences attending recitals and performances.

Applicant serves several layers of individuals; from students of all ages to local adult musicians to professionals as well as to a virtual community.

It is unclear if there is a local audience.

Collaborates with a variety of Cleveland arts institutions and educational organizations while providing free and public performances.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Applicant demonstrates a long history of serving the community and adding to artistic vibrancy even beyond Cleveland.

Performing music by underrepresented composers is a wonderful initiative, but it is not considered in itself to be an effective way to engage a more diverse audience. There should be other initiatives in terms of expanding the audience.

Indicates specific programming and reasoning behind those choices.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

The application was lacking evidence of how they plan to to proactively market and reach audiences outside of the families and friends of performers, and how their marketing investment of \$500 was going to support those efforts. Including details like this in the future, especially for events like this that are free and open to the community, would make the application stronger.

It's not clear if this benefits the audience or the performers.

Would be interested in learning more about key members of the leadership team, though highlights the institutions these individuals and performers come from.



## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** Cleveland Women's Orchestra

**Project Title:** Cleveland Women's Orchestra 90th Anniversary Concert

**Panelists:** Brad Carlin, Lenore Herbst, Sara Little, Alexandra Opsahl, Ami Scherson

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

Evidence of public benefit is strong. The applicant has deep knowledge of its stated communities and goes above and beyond to make sure tickets and the concert-going experience is widely accessible.

Applicant's project very clearly supports local female musicians while also bringing music to groups and schools who might not otherwise attend through free tickets. More support could have been provided about how applicant is addressing diversity within the orchestra and/or it's programming which might more organically appeal to a wider audience and thus increase public benefit.

I commend all your partnerships, I would be interested in the full list.

This historic institution clearly benefits the public. This application provides a lot of specificity and shows how its programming is affordable and connected to the community it serves.

The organization had no/low ticket options and have a vast range of community partners to collaborate on programming.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

Evidence of artistic and cultural vibrancy is fair. The inclusion of a piece of contemporary music commissioned by the orchestra 15 years ago demonstrates more fresh programming than the Beethoven Triple. But little evidence is provided as to how the applicant engages its communities directly to ensure the participation of diverse artists and to ensure programming evolves to remain responsive to its community 90 years on.

The program includes women identifying musicians of all backgrounds. To celebrate 90 years of the organization, programming centers local musicians.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Thank you for paying your interns.

Organization is clear their mission and staffing alligns.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** Colors+ Youth Center

**Project Title:** The Art of Drag

**Panelists:** Brad Carlin, Lenore Herbst, Sara Little, Alexandra Opsahl, Ami Scherson

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The application provides very strong evidence of public benefit by describing their communities in great detail, and supporting their intended impact with data and connections to public policy challenges facing their intended communities.

This applicant makes clear that this is a worthwhile project but it was not clear how this applicant plans to encourage an audience beyond those enrolled in the program to participate or how the program might reach a wider audience which might not otherwise seek out such programming.

This grant application clearly displays the way in which it benefits the public.

The organization and program serves LGBTQIA+ youth, and highlights the breadth of programming available for these individuals and identities. Program is free, with a fee for the brunch to cover cost which is reasonable.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

Artistic program is relevant to the organization's goals, and centers the Cleveland specific queer identities.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Just a small note that the CAC request for \$5k is not quite 50% of the project expenses. More information about how the applicant will expand their individuals attending their programs by 20%, or how the marketing budget will help achieve that goal of expanding awareness and engagement with the programs would make the application even stronger.

Further detail is needed on how you will measure self esteem.

Clear outline of staff working on this project and their connection to the scene.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** Comité Mexicano

**Project Title:** Ofrendas Exhibition

**Panelists:** Noah Dixon, June Kim, Dana Manyothane, Alicia Olivio, Laura Weiss

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

A wonderful project that is free, creative, and inviting to communities.

The application could provide more specific details on how they plan to market the exhibition and involve specific members from the community, however the proposed project seems like a wonderful event for communities members and would be specifically beneficial towards the Latino community in Cleveland.

The project adds to a thriving neighborhood as the community connects with its Latin roots and upholds the significant tradition of Dia de la Muertos.

The specificity of the community being served does not limit the applicant in their clear detailing of what outreach efforts will be made for the wider community - excellent!

Project will include the creation of 7 to 10 Ofrendas. The event will be free and expects 1000+ attendees. There is a noted lack of celebration of Dia de Muertos in Cleveland. The event will strengthen Latin roots and preserve tradition. I would like to know more about how you plan to engage with the various populations of the area. I think it is a great strategy to engage with families in the planning phases. Are there plans/goals associated with extending beyond the mentioned Hispanic communities?

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

The artistic and cultural vibrancy is woven throughout the grant request. Comite Mexicano is reaching out to the Hispanic diaspora to engage, culminating with workshops and recruitment of families in building Ofrendas. In turn, workshops and the November 2nd Día de la Muertos event will attract people from the broader community to celebrate this traditional holiday.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

The project appears to be very interactive, resulting in families building their own ofrendas. I would recommend sharing further about the instructors/leaders of the workshops, and how they will conduct the workshops so families learn about the process.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

I like the proposal very much, but would have liked to hear more about the existing connections with community members and organizations, as well as whether they have experience holding workshops, partnering with organizations, etc.

There is a clear understanding of how to adjust proposed programming in the case of CAC not awarding funds, showing the applicant's capacity.

The response shares that there will be applications received expressing the interest of the community - I believe this is the first mention of applications, so I am a bit confused about the process. If families need to submit an application to participate, I would recommend clarifying that process and how they will be selected. Also, earlier in the application, it is mentioned that this will serve 1000+ people. With just 4 team members mentioned, this may be a rather heavy lift, and the organization may need to consider additional staffing/volunteers to assist in the management of the event(s). Regarding the match - \$3500 of this is noted as being In-Kind. Only 50% of the match can come from in-kind donations. Additionally, \$4000 from one source is "pending," so if this is not secured, then there would be a significant shortfall and the match would not be met.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Community Cup Classic Foundation

**Project Title:** Negro League Soul 2025

**Panelists:** Noah Dixon, June Kim, Dana Manyothane, Alicia Olivio, Laura Weiss

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

The application would have benefitted from describing further the details of the project and who it benefits.

Negro League Soul is a series of multi generational programs and activities designed to engage families. Offers virtual presentations, short films, and live family events. There appears to be a wide range of options when it comes to the specific programming; I would recommend sharing more specifics, as opposed to broader overviews. I'm not entirely clear on the activities - how do these activities "increase positive engagement between young people and adults"? Literacy is also mentioned as a primary goal, but there aren't a lot of details around programs or activities that would focus on this. Overall, while there are broad goals and activities included, I'm not clear on the project(s) and how they will connect with specific communities. I'm also not clear on the relationship between the virtual programming (who is that reaching?) and the in-person programming.

Great detailing of venue locations, both confirmed and prospective, as well as the community/ies that CCCF aims to serve.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Similar to above, there are some broad statements included, but I'm not entirely clear on the efforts of the organizations and how they work to create a relevant and engaging project overall. The response includes brief mention of "youth clinic, community event" - as someone from outside of Cleveland, I'm not familiar with what this is referencing. I would recommend that they include more specific details and descriptions. The mentioned partnerships can certainly be helpful in creating relevant programming.

The breakdown of presenter fund clearly show the value of the folks working on this project.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

The application provides a clear plan for how they plan to execute the 'Negro League Soul 2025' event. They've provided a detailed budget and thoughtful answers that demonstrate strong organizational capacity that ensure a successful event and use of grant funds.

Community Cup Classic Foundation has a robust marketing budget to promote widely to the Cleveland area community. Seasoned team members with years of experience will lead this project to a positive and well executed experience. Measurement of success through an expected target of 1000+ attendees demonstrated a strategy for greater accessibility.

Great benchmarks for measuring success in the form of attendance; the rest of benchmarks could have been strengthened by offering specific target numbers.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Community Life Collaborative

**Project Title:** 2025 Garden View Gallery exhibits and programs focused on social and environmental change

**Panelists:** Jordan Adams, Keya Crenshaw, Claudia Gage, Jeff Garrett, Courtney Young

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

The CLC community served is wide and broad all share the affinity of social and environmental justice and progression. They have catered their many programs and avenues of engagement to meet the broadness of their community with relevant offerings.

Application above and beyond. Great job offering free programming across the city and within multiple communities and age groups.

Yes, this application shows public benefit through the organization's commitment to civic life and reaching different communities in the Cleveland/Cuyahoga County region.

Applicant organization connects with its community through its project, as well as, in addition to numerous programs and partnerships.(700 events/15,000 visits!!) Entry touches on demographics in a broad sense, not too specific.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

They intentionally tap into their partners for relevant themes and topics to feature during their exhibits.

Engagement tactics are relevant and effective as well as continuing to expand partnerships and collaborate across the county.

Yes, it is clear that this organization has done research to connect to local artists who align with their mission of social and environmental justice and are planning an artistic and culturally vibrant event.

Applicant's tense gives the impression this may be a new(er) project. Through partnerships and current programming, the organization's ability to create a relevant and engaging project is evident.



## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

I appreciate knowing the robust team by name, expertise, and role. They are well equipped to lead the exhibitions. The success metrics are succinctly laid out and attainable. The budget is solid and well thought out and the CAC funds are appropriately allocated.

The staff is well positioned to continue to help the organization succeed.

Yes, this application shows capacity both in the team and in the evaluation process. There is a clear plan for using the funds, as well as clear plans for what the organization would do should they not receive the full funding requested.

Highly qualified team. Great evaluative measures practices in place. Appreciate attention to Access and persons with disabilities.

One of the strongest parts of this proposal is the matrix of community partners woven throughout that contribute to both programmatic planning and marketing to specific communities. This matrix allows for a unique combination of diversity, skill sets, and experiences. The budget is solid as are the feedback loops.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Connecting for Kids

**Project Title:** Music Therapy & More 2025

**Panelists:** Noah Dixon, June Kim, Dana Manyothane, Alicia Olivio, Laura Weiss

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

This organization and project is clearly valuable for so many families and kids. The project is clear, well organized, and demonstrates all three of the funding criteria.

The application provides a detailed plan on how this program "Music Therapy & More 2025" will impact young residents and the community at large.

The project locations outlined in the grant application offer access to a wide swath of Cleveland residents. The program is free, and day/location options help break barriers to participation. Woven into this grant request is equity to serve any family that needs to be connected with this project.

Great detailing of venues, including many public libraries!

Music Therapy & More program will offer 48 total sessions in 6 different locations, representing economic and racial diversity. All locations are at public libraries. Programming is free and expects to reach nearly 1000 people. Programming is responsive of needs identified in the community. Families register ahead of time through website - curious if there are other means to sign up, as WiFi/computer access could be limited for some of the families they are aiming to reach? Appears to center equity and belonging in their work.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Applicant outlines clear avenues for feedback and responses from communities served, showing the applicant's honest connection to them.

The application shares that they formulate programming by listening to families and their needs - I'd like to know more about the methods used to collect this information. How is the programming shaped/designed based on this feedback?

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

The team for the project is skilled and certified. Great use of previously-gathered data to support their points regarding their services.

Well organized team available to handle the programming. Very specific data has been collected from past surveys.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** Coventry PEACE Campus

**Project Title:** Coventry PEACE Community Building Events

**Panelists:** Brad Carlin, Lenore Herbst, Sara Little, Alexandra Opsahl, Ami Scherson

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

Strong evidence of working closely with community partners and stakeholders to plan and deliver an event that benefits the public.

Great community and collaboration!

The description of the community lacks specificity. In general, more detail would make this grant application more compelling.

The organization is clear about their cultural programming and makes sure that it is free or low cost to participants. They are clear about the type of art they hope to share.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

More detail about how participating orgs shape the artistic and cultural programming for the Pops, including how they listen to and respond to their communities in their planning would have been strong evidence of Artistic and Cultural Vibrancy.

This applicant clearly contributes to local artistic and cultural vibrancy by bringing together so many artists while also creating space for the community to gather and experience local arts and culture.

Would like a clear schedule of events in regards to the upcoming programming, though clear about the types of art they will have at each event.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Good evidence of organizational capacity, but noting which expenses would be in kind (revenue was noted) would be helpful. I appreciate the strong investment in marketing, but the flyer provided failed to communicate that the art and cultural experiences are FREE for all to attend (only mention is for free food/drink).

Staff members share and highlight their work with the organization and being active members of the community.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** Coventry Village Special Improvement District

**Project Title:** Coventry Village Community Event Series

**Panelists:** Jordan Adams, Keya Crenshaw, Claudia Gage, Jeff Garrett, Courtney Young

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

I love that you have identified your community explicitly through geography and affinity. However, I would have loved to learn more about the affinity aspect outside of partnership. Explicitly articulate the common thread through these partnerships. I do appreciate that the commitment to inclusivity and engagement of and beyond the community identified is strong and tangible.

Collaboration with local organizers and community-based groups and presenting programming around the city will benefit the community greatly. Free events also allow for greater accessibility and inclusion.

Yes, this application shows public benefit by defining the community and collaborating with individuals and organizations that will be impacted by the event. This application shows and understand of and appreciation for the diversity in their community and a desire to continue to build those relationships.

Partnerships with local groups help "foster cultural vibrancy effectively and authentically." (working in/with groups in geographic area) Additional info (demographics) may be beneficial.

High public benefit

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

I am not fully sure that the description gave here belongs entirely here and could have been added a bit more to public benefit. However, the commitment to true community engagement where an environment for dialogue is supported and extracted from to inform project activities and other plans is amazing. I love that artists are tapped on for their expertise, input and both informal and formal leadership capabilities.

Allowing the community to be a part of the development process creates true engagement.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

Yes, this application shows artistic and cultural vibrancy through its commitment to letting artists lead the way in this event.

Public meetings assist org with events and installations. Intentionally bringing "outsiders." Excellent.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Thank you for providing the background and experience of identified team members. It would have been amazing to know what their specific role(s) will be in the planning and implementation of the project though. I appreciate that the creative collaboration of deciding metrics will take place. The budget is solid and feasible. However, the explanation of where CAC funds will be expensed to exceeds the amount requested.

The org is positioned to continue to succeed and provide quality programming to the community, especially considering how they measure success.

This application shows some organizational capacity. I appreciate the honesty and commitment to re-learning processes of measurements and the desire for continued improvement, especially improvement based on input from the community.

"The start and end dates should not be the entire calendar year," although just may be with 15 events annually. Highly qualified team members. Great supplemental mats.

It feels as if this project is going through somewhat of a transition period. Meaning that it is not sure what it wants to be in the future. See: "Our board and new volunteer teams are beginning a process now of re-learning how to measure success. In the past we have counted people, using attendance as main metric. We will continue this in 2025 and beyond but want to find out what else we can do that a deeper impact with those in attendance." This sort of inquiry is good but would have liked to see more intentionality around how will find the answer to these questions. Do they implement more feedback loops? Do they hire a consultant? Do they implement an advisory board?

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad

**Project Title:** Murder Mystery

**Panelists:** Brad Carlin, Lenore Herbst, Sara Little, Alexandra Opsahl, Ami Scherson

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

Evidence of public benefit for this application is weak. High demand for a ticketed event is not sufficient evidence of how the project will meaningfully connect with its community. Lacking evidence of a deep understanding of its community, the application uses fast sales and high demand as an example of engaging with diverse interests of residents and visitors. Strong demand does NOT mean it is relevant to a diverse audience. That is not the data point to use to demonstrate this value. More precise measurement of audience diversity, geography, feedback and surveys in future might provide stronger evidence of this claim.

The application shows a strong revenue basis that does not make it entirely clear that outside funding is needed to allow for 80 free tickets to be distributed to community members who would otherwise not be able to participate. There is no explanation as to how the decision on ticket pricing was reached.

Applicant is offering 80 free tickets but does not provide context for how this relates to the total number of attendees (not including artists). This would be helpful information to determine true benefit.

Would be interested to know how much program costs, and who and how they decide gets the complementary tickets (especially if there is an expected reach of 1,000 participants). There are already program partners, but would be interested to know if there are any goals for expansion.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Weak evidence was provided of artistic vibrancy. The artistic presentation is out sourced to a third party vendor and no evidence is given as to how this vendor is chosen, how they are from diverse backgrounds, or how the programming is informed by community feedback and participation to ensure it remains fresh and relevant.



## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

This project represents a unique experience that may not be available elsewhere. The railroad as an organization (beyond the project) does appear to have great public benefit.

Strong overview of artistic themes and activities. Would be interested to learn more about the actors and hiring processes for these artists.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

CAC funds are to be used to underwrite the cost of tickets to community groups, but a lack of specific evidence as to who or how these recipients will be chosen. This is weak evidence for an appropriate investment of public funds.

I would like to see further discussion on if the actors are paid.

Clear outline of who will be working on which part of the project.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Dance Evert

**Project Title:** EVERT EDUCATION

**Panelists:** Noah Dixon, June Kim, Dana Manyothane, Alicia Olivio, Laura Weiss

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

The community of students served is not clear; I suggest that the applicant write their answer with the question tip ("A community may be defined by geography (place), identity (attributes), affinity (what we like) or other connection") in mind. I appreciate their dedication to "attracting and engaging diverse participants;" specifics would have been helpful to know. It seems that the community is limited to students in schools, and would not benefit the wider public.

Evert Education focuses on Arts-Integrated programming in schools and community. Some programming is free and some has a fee - I'd like to know more about how those paying a fee were determined to do so. I would recommend further description of the programming. I'm not clear if this programming is happening in the classroom? Outside of school time? etc. The goals and methods are admirable, but I'd like to be able to fully visualize what these classes are (are they full-on dance classes or something else? How are subjects such as math and science incorporated into these experiences?). I'm also not clear on who is participating in these classes. Is an entire class taking part in it? Do students have to sign up after school? The video sample did help to illustrate the organization's programming.

This project meets all three funding criteria and seems like a valuable source of arts in STEAM education. I would have liked to hear more about the project within the application and what their educational programming is like, but appreciated the supplemental materials.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

The proposed project involves creating tailored programs for students who struggle with traditional classroom teaching methods. Students will engage in dance instruction incorporating science, math, and art elements. The program will conclude with a free community performance, providing valuable feedback to the organizers. The proposed project involves creating tailored programs for students who

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

struggle with traditional classroom teaching methods. Dance Evert will engage in dance instruction incorporating science, math, and art elements. The program will conclude with a free community performance, inherently providing valuable feedback to the organizers. The included video of past instruction is quite helpful in seeing and understanding the mission of this project, and I found it heartfelt to see the engagement with and by the students.

I think having a better understanding of the classes themselves would help me to better understand how this is a relevant and engaging project. I would recommend sharing further about what happens through these classes and also sharing more about the logistics (what style dance? Age? Etc.)

### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Despite Dance Evert's clear strength as an organization, I found myself confused by their application regarding what the specific 'project' they are applying for. Most of the application's responses seem very broad and pertain more to the organization as a whole rather than a specific project.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Darl Center for the Arts

**Project Title:** International Fiber Arts Festival 2025

**Panelists:** Noah Dixon, June Kim, Dana Manyothane, Alicia Olivio, Laura Weiss

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

A creative project highlighting fiber art and artists from around the world. Impressive use of building, inviting community members. Project meets all three funding criteria.

Specifics around fees for different aspects of the programming would have strengthened the application. It is noted that the exhibits are guaranteed to be free. This section could also have been strengthened by detailing clear goals for outreach in the community the Darl Center is located in, as it is not clear whether the applicant understands the community it states to serve.

An International Fiber Arts Festival will celebrate Art Quilts, Post Card Quilts, and a wearable art runway show. Some programming will occur at the Center and some will take place elsewhere. Exhibits will be free; classes will have a fee. The event aims to bring together artists, craftspeople, and the public at large. States that the Center is in one of Cleveland's poorest areas; aims to encourage residents to attend - how are they inviting people into this event? How are they engaging with individuals who are not currently aware of the Center? It seems that there are genuine relationships that have been built with area neighborhoods. There are several mentioned community partners. I would encourage the organization to continue building these relationships and involving the public in the planning and ideation phases of the event.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

I would have liked to have learned more about the workshops and exhibits, since those seems to be the aspects of programming most accessible to the general public.

There appears to be broad awareness of how quilting has a place in many different cultures and heritages. I'd like to know more about how different cultural traditions in quilting plays into the planning for this event - how will they be highlighted? How will they be taught? etc.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

The applicant provides a detailed and organized plan for an International Fiber Art Festival which estimates up to 1000-1500 to attend. The applications lays out a clear budget and establishes specific partners and artists they would work with on this event.

The International Fiber Arts Festival project is unique in its artistic offerings to the Slavic Village neighborhood and surrounding communities. Major renovations to the Darl Center for the Arts have made this neighborhood treasure available to community artists, non-profits, youth groups, and musicians. Darl Schaaff's proposal for the Fiber Arts Festival was communicated in detail and was easy to follow. The ability to complete this project is evidenced by the organizers producing a similar event in a different state with intact contacts and resources from that event. A diverse team community of artists, former volunteers with arts events, supporters, and a trained production team have been recruited. Production of the event that includes a runway show is doable. The budget for the Festival is reasonable, and the CAC grant request is less than 10% of the overall cost for this program. This proposal is exciting and should electrify arts offerings in Cleveland.

A committee is mentioned - made up of artists, former volunteers with arts events, and supporters. I would recommend considering how community members could serve on this in the future. Seems to have a well thought out team for planning and execution. Clear measures of success.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Deutscher Musik Verein

**Project Title:** Jagerfest 2025

**Panelists:** Jordan Adams, Keya Crenshaw, Claudia Gage, Jeff Garrett, Courtney Young

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$2,255

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

The applicant has identified their intended community through all three aspects of geography, identity and affinity. They have also identified through what and who they can connect with and beyond their community for true inclusion and diversity. They also understand their narrow focus but have reflected on what it looks like to expand even within their niche.

I'd like to know more about the fee-based tickets - what are the price ranges? Do you have an opportunity to have free and/or donate at-will tickets?

Yes, this program shows public benefit by using deeply defined cultural knowledge of their specific community (German cultural groups) and by strategically marketing the event to broaden the reach of the organization to more diverse populations.

Jagerfest, celebrating German music. Open to all, fee based. Partnerships with nonprofits celebrating German culture as well. Working on increasing engagement.

This is a really cool idea and has a lot of public benefit: to uplift German culture, food and music.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

I love that they have engaged with their internal community members to gauge how the event can be relevant and engaging and how it can be implemented in the project activities.

As a very segmented organization, how do you intend to make sure other communities don't feel left out? Utilizing social media more is great, but how will you adjust your messaging to include more communities? How can someone of a different background engage meaningfully with the programming? What value will it have for them?

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

Yes, this application shows artistic and cultural vibrancy through plans to increase engagement and challenge audience expectations.

Feedback informing programming choices. Tying in contemporary music with German "flair." Coming up on 30 yrs., past experiences affirm organization's ability to create a relevant and engaging project.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

The delegation of roles and responsibilities has been thoroughly planned. Execution and implementation of the project has been thoroughly considered. The budget is solid, feasible and within the CAC expectations of requests. They have considered and identified where exactly the CAC funds will go without the specific expenses exceeded the requested amount.

The organization and board appear well positioned for success. Engagement seems sound.

Yes, this application shows organizational capacity based on history and clear goals for increased social media engagement.

Highly qualified team. Evaluative practices in place. Appreciated optional information.

Had a lot of questions about this application. Namely, -- The performances are fee based. What are the fees and is there just one fee or are those fees different depending on the audience member (i.e. students are free for example). -- There plans to diversify their marketing to other populations are scant. -- They seem to get a lot of their income from ticket sales. If ticket sales are low, they will have to go into reserves. What are their plans for diversifying their income sources?

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio

**Project Title:** Diversity Through the Arts

**Panelists:** Jordan Adams, Keya Crenshaw, Claudia Gage, Jeff Garrett, Courtney Young

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

The applicant identifies its community through geography and affinity. They are very clear about who this programming will serve. They are also clear on how and through whom they will connect with their intended community through.

Free programming for youth and families, expansion of age groups supported, and presenting programming around the city, are excellent ways to ensure inclusion and accessibility.

Yes, this program shows public benefit through the organization's JEDI work and partnerships with community organizations.

Esperanza? One-line description could be helpful. Project description, well done. Longstanding partnerships with numerous orgs and entities provide feedback for adaptive and changing needs.

Very high. Really liked reading how data supports their work. See: "A profound need exists for youth programs that promote equity and inclusion. Research illustrates positive outcomes for students who experience such education. Benefits include positive attitude changes, improved critical thinking, increased interest in improving the wellbeing of community members, enhanced ability to detect prejudices, and greater openness, understanding, and cultural competence (<https://tinyurl.com/mvh25228>). Moreover, despite the recent controversy of opponents equating JEDI education to critical race theory, the majority of Ohioans support discussions of race and racism with kids. A recent survey of Ohio parents, conducted by Baldwin Wallace University, found that more than three quarters of respondents support teaching about the impact and history of race and racism in the United States (<https://tinyurl.com/yjcd3eep>)."



## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

They have identified how the arts serve as a platform to support their cause and programming outcomes.

The introduction of these concepts to these specific age groups sets them up for success later in life. Asking the children to create from their lived experiences and communities also allows them to learn to think in new, more substantive ways.

Applicant organization entry lacks specifics with regard to artist, instructor, or feedback. Through its mission and previous programming, it is evident the organization will continue to create relevant and engaging project(s).

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

They have an established staff person with experience and expertise who is committed to designing and implementing robust programming as what is described. The budget is solid and feasible. They are prepared to seek funding elsewhere if not awarded the grant.

While what participants will gain is included, measurements for how they will gain this knowledge aren't included. I encourage the applicant to develop ways to survey and measure how participants feel and interact (or wish to) with the programming. The team appears poised for success.

Yes, it is clear that the organizers have the capacity and skills needed to execute this project. This grant provides excellent, detailed research supporting their goals and findings. The budget is detailed and realistic.

Objectives clear with measurement(s) for success.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** East Cleveland Farmers' Market Preservation Society

**Project Title:** Creating an Urban Food Forest

**Panelists:** Jordan Adams, Keya Crenshaw, Claudia Gage, Jeff Garrett, Courtney Young

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$1,880

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

This application somewhat shows public benefit. The community is well-defined and the use of libraries mean that the program is accessible, but I am curious to know more about how the community's input was used to create this program.

Applicant organization's food forest project would fall under "natural sciences." ok Community(ies) are defined by name, but may benefit from additional details. Partnerships with libraries equate to a diverse participants.

The community, its need and how it is intended to meet is identified and shared. The educational component of this is pertinent to not be lost.

High public benefit. Teaching community members how to grow food and maintain a garden. The classes are also held in libraries.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

I felt that the description for artistic & cultural vibrancy was a little short and lacked information on the project.

Applicant organization does not address response to, "How will your organization create a relevant and engaging project?" other than inviting input and post survey.

More information is needed here.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

This application showed some organizational capacity, but I would recommend including more details on the evaluation methods and a more defined plan for what will change in the program if funds are not fully received.

Qualified team. Great supporting material images.

The team seems equipped but more success measures need to be identified. The budget is solid, but CAC funds are bit overextended.

The definition for success is very clear.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** Edward E. Parker Museum of Art

**Project Title:** "It's a Family Affair" Intergenerational Art Class

**Panelists:** Jordan Adams, Keya Crenshaw, Claudia Gage, Jeff Garrett, Courtney Young

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,005

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The org is clear about the community they serve based on geographic location and those interested in arts education and the overall quality of life benefits.

Continuing to offer free classes to students is a great way to build community support and offers inclusive learning.

Yes, it is clear that this organization is deeply committed to making their activity accessible for the diverse public that lives in their community. This is evidenced by the wide variety of marketing efforts, fee-free courses, and diverse makeup of classes.

CAC has assisted with keeping event free of charge in previous years. A brief one or two line description of the "family, neighbors, families and friends who live in East Cleveland, Cleveland, and the surrounding suburbs" could be beneficial. Connecting via openness, to all.

Curious as to whether the venue is ADA compliant.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

The list of ways arts vibrancy is brought about is appreciated. However, a bit of detail beyond the brief description would have been great to see.

This section could have been more thoughtful and informative. For example, discuss the types of projects, the teachers, how this benefits the community.

Yes, this application shows artistic vibrancy through the care shown to participants, the compensation given to instructors, and the opportunity for students to display their work at the end.

A somewhat vague entry from applicant, general in nature.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

It is great to see the expert individuals that will make up the robust team. Even though not every role is currently filled, it is good to see the roles needed are identified. The success metrics identified are solid. Budget is solid and CAC funds appropriately allocated.

While these can be effective, I think there could be more nuanced options for marketing and metrics. The organizational leadership appears poised for success.

Yes, this application demonstrates organizational capacity. The budget is reasonable and well-thought-out. My only recommendation for future applications would be to include a bit more detail on what expenses might be removed if funding was not received.

Highly qualified team. Evaluative practices in place.

Appreciated seeing Board contributions in the income.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** Empowering Epilepsy

**Project Title:** Empowering Through the Arts - Art Therapy Class

**Panelists:** Brad Carlin, Lenore Herbst, Sara Little, Alexandra Opsahl, Ami Scherson

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

Strong evidence of highly qualified arts and cultural professionals serving a specific community with deep knowledge in a way that is widely accessible.

This project clearly benefits the community. The method of connecting with the community seems somewhat limited currently (flyers in waiting rooms).

Though the program is centered around those with epilepsy, the event is open to everyone to participate and is free. Accessible programming.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

A connection with another larger art group or artist might be considered in the future to increase impact.

Grant outlines the type of art projects participants will be working on based on a topic. Connects to the communities they serve and considers accessibility needs for these individuals.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Strong operational capacity is clear though the well-defined goals for measuring success of the program.

Individuals building programming are licensed professionals who are able to build sessions centering participants needs.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Euclid Beach Park Now

**Project Title:** 20th Annual Remembering the Sights and Sounds of Euclid Beach Park

**Panelists:** Jordan Adams, Keya Crenshaw, Claudia Gage, Jeff Garrett, Courtney Young

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of “No” scores from the panel.

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

No specific community is identified about who this event is for. We are only given what we already know of the neighborhood and location of the organization and the event. The plans described to connect with the community are only vague promotion.

This application somewhat defines the public benefit. Free admission and parking does make the event accessible to the public. I would have liked more information about the community the organization serves, as well as more information on how the organization is involved in and seeking input from the North Collinwood neighborhood.

North Collinwood neighborhood groups are included in implementation of event. Applicant organization states project is inclusive with regard to attendees, but unclear with regard to demographics of the North Collinwood community. Entry could benefit from additional information requested in criteria (more info)

The public benefit does not seem that high. Though interesting, this seems rather specific to a small community.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

No plans for artistic and cultural vibrancy are described. Only further plans of promotion. From the description provided I am unsure of what the project activities will entail and how the org will ensure they take place.

I would have liked to see more details about the event itself.

Applicant does not fully address criteria.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

I am unsure of the team's true capacity. We are only provided with the a contact list of the board of directors. We are not given their role on the board or their specific contribution to the event. The project budget exceeds their overall operating budget and no true income (monetary) sources outside of the grant are provided. The expense section of the budget is not extensive either.

Understanding the event is “new” the organization should perhaps consult with a grant writer to help create a more robust application as this one fails to meet the criteria or fully answer the questions.

I also would have liked to see more details about the team organizing the event and their history/qualifications. I also would advise creating a more detailed budget and outlining plans for what to do if funding is not received.

There are additional methods of measuring success beyond attendance. The project has a long history, but application may not be conveying enough information to review. Supporting materials could benefit from images of event (car show, displays, participants, etc.)

The only measure for success is how many people attend. Moreover, outside of in kind support, this is the only grant and source of income this org has.



## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Euclid Symphony Orchestra

**Project Title:** Spiritual Echoes: A Black History Month Celebration

**Panelists:** Jordan Adams, Keya Crenshaw, Claudia Gage, Jeff Garrett, Courtney Young

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

The community originally and historically served by the ESO is identified and shared. The intention to expand beyond this was well shared too. The ways in which it has and will allow this program to foster inclusion both racially and generationally is articulated well.

Sounds like a great event, but I tend to caution organizations in presenting Black programming only during BHM. How are you engaging these groups outside of February? While it is understandable why ticket prices exist, offering free/reduced/or donation at-will prices would allow for greater inclusivity or different communities.

Yes, this application shows public benefit through its plans to be inclusive and engage diverse populations. Plans are also mentioned to market the concert more purposefully and reach out to potential audiences.

Concert performances feat. Black composers in conjunction with Black History Month. "The program will be marketed to a diverse prospective audience. "statement could use additional info/backup. Grant award and "financial picture" will assist applicant organization is determining admission. Applicant organization does not have detailed demographic data, but states their audiences match national standards. This may not be indicative of the applicant's community. Applicant states it may increase appeal through content and artists...and it's working.

Very high public benefit. Excellent programming.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

The learning and evaluation opportunity after a pilot concert shared to be super beneficial in carrying this through. They are dedicated into making sure that the promotional efforts match this to make it successful.

Excellent job using previous feedback to inform your future planning.

Yes, this application shows artistic and cultural vibrancy with its commitments to include paid professional musicians and to provide the audiences with detailed program notes to contextualize the performance and add to education and appreciation for the art form.

Thorough planning (including feedback), is a key feature. Detailed program notes specifics in accordance with the compositions performed.

High artistic and cultural vibrancy.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

The team of paid staff and volunteers seem to be well equipped to carry this venture out. Success metrics are well identified and attainable. Budget is a bit unbalanced. CAC funds are a bit overextended beyond the funding available and requested.

Organization seems positioned for success.

This application shows a strong and detailed organizational capacity, with a willingness to learn from the pilot event. The budget portion acknowledges that grant funding (both CAC and OAC) are currently unknown and provides plans to adjust accordingly without compromising the artistic quality. Highly qualified team. Seeking to reduce admissions, remove financial barrier, increase access.

-- The proposal says that "the primary measure of success will be attendance at the event." Other feedback loops are conducted informally and internally. Could they have other ways of collecting data? What other metrics may be useful for them to track?

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Far West Center

**Project Title:** Supporting Recovery from Mental Illness through Creative Arts

**Panelists:** Jordan Adams, Keya Crenshaw, Claudia Gage, Jeff Garrett, Courtney Young

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

FWC clearly presented the problem, how they identified needs and co-created a solution with the community they served. They identified their community they serve by identity and the community serving by affinity. They also explained how art is inclusive in nature and can transcend differences. However, I would have loved to have learned how they can increase the lower percentage communities through this project for their overall org, if possible.

Offering free, accessible programming is a great way to ensure inclusion. Additionally, allowing visitors to purchase the art creates streams of income for the creative, which, in turn, can contribute to overall holistic growth.

Yes, this program shows a benefit to their community. Displaying the artwork in a variety of publicly accessible buildings (libraries, community centers, churches, and senior living center) also benefits the public through the presence of art and increases public awareness of the services, which may be helpful to others who view the art.

Unclear as to what a "Tri-C student" is, and could be described (although might be referring to three "C," local college students?). Free art therapy-based programming through partnerships and shared spaces.

Very high public benefit: a very vulnerable population due to mental health and economic challenges is exposed to art for healing and community building

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

I appreciate that they reiterated how this program is a direct reflection of the clients wishes. I also love the exhibits that would be offered. However, I would have loved a bit more detail in the techniques that would be taught but also how those techniques may correlate directly to a challenge a client faces.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

Creating art in a non-clinical environment allows participants to be more open and promotes freedom of creativity. Also, having a gallery showcase creates pride, hope, and something to look forward to.

Yes, this programs shows artistic and cultural vibrancy. The application mentions that feedback from program participants is incorporated into programming. Additionally, the opportunity to display works publicly increases the artistic vibrancy for those involved.

Serving persons coping with mental illness through studio works/therapies. Relevant and engaging programming reflects the wishes of clients for a setting to encourage their own creativity...self-expression promotes recovery.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Thank you for sharing both the program coordinator and clinical manager's role and experience. The Peer Support Specialist is also a beautiful bonus to this overall experience. The budget was amazingly solid. I appreciate the thoughtful breakdown of where the requested CAC funds would be directed. What a way to reflect on how the program would be scaled and carried out should funds not be received as well. It showed dedication and perseverance in making sure this experience is available to your client in whatever circumstance.

Success measurements are sound and the organizational leadership structure appears well aligned.

Yes, this organization shows team capacity and a reasonable budget.

Highly qualified team. Evaluative practices in place. Great support mats.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Fashion Talks Foundation

**Project Title:** The Runway

**Panelists:** Brad Carlin, Lenore Herbst, Sara Little, Alexandra Opsahl, Ami Scherson

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

Fair evidence was provided for public benefit. This is a very diverse and inclusive project, and though the communities served are broad, they are described too generically to suggest there's deep knowledge or understanding of such a broad community.

The section about defining your community would benefit from a more detailed analysis of demographics. As it is fee-based, what are the fees?

The event invites open auditions for models and designers across the city in accessible venues in Cleveland. Event does have a cost, but is fairly accessible to all to attend. Would be interested in learning specifics about who they hope to serve (such as students from where, talents from where, etc.)

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Fair evidence of Artistic and Cultural Vibrancy. More detail as to how less than 10% of the project expenses are going to pay artists for an event that relies so heavily on a wide array of artists (dancers, models, musicians, hair and make-up etc) Some may be volunteer, or interns, but its not clear how they are making decisions to invest only 2k of 25k project into artists.

This applicant does a wonderful job of brining together like-minded groups, artists, students and organizations across disciplines through their project to increase impact.

There is a lack of detail in how your project is relevant and engaging, and how you will connect with your community.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

The grant outlines how they hope to highlight designers in the city of diverse backgrounds. Would be interested in learning more about the details of the type of fashion, art, and collaborations they hope to seek (though understand that much is dependent on the audition)

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Strong evidence provided through SMARTIE goals and metrics. Strong investment in marketing and awareness building for the event.

Demonstrates a clear plan with measurable goals.

The organization has conducted this event for four previous years, and has shown they have a strong structure for organizing. They have shared a strong internal team with plans for intern support.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** Food Strong

**Project Title:** School Beautification Project

**Panelists:** Rem Cabrera, Karla Centeno, Maria Lafelice, Lisa Much, Elena Velasco

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The project demonstrates a strong commitment to public benefit through meaningful engagement with the community, inclusive practices, and leveraging existing relationships. Including more information on how the project will impact secondary audiences (beyond the students) would have made this response stronger.

The project includes and engages youth from specific schools/neighborhoods, and plans for community celebrations of the mural projects.

Applicant clearly defines the community and how it benefits the public by tying directly to the children and their creations.

The organization identified the clear need for healthy food options developed through community-driven collectively sustainable means. The development of a mural to highlight and celebrate community contribution and youth creativity will bring greater visibility to this worthy program.

Well-articulated with good & helpful details. Involving students in the community has two benefits: their direct participation in a group activity with a targeted result & enhancing learning about fresh foods on multiple levels.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

The response lacks specific details on how this project is relevant for students and other audiences. How do they know this project will be engaging and relevant? Including these aspects would strengthen the alignment with the criteria.

The project engages a local artist, who will be compensated for their time and expertise. The project combines arts education and an important topic of healthy eating. The organization plans to collect and respond to feedback collected in surveys.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

Artistic vibrancy is demonstrated through entrusting youth to define their own aesthetic as they highlight communal wellness and improved nutritional access through their art.

Disappointed that there are no support materials to help us visualize some of the activities. The response to the optional question was very helpful. Couldn't help but wonder about how wooden murals will age if they'll be displayed outdoors.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

There is evidence of strong organizational capacity and planning.

The project description includes a team of support and funding from a variety of organizations. The application includes clear goals. The organizational capacity portion of the application would be slightly stronger if the applicant included support materials such as examples of the artist's past work.

Applicant clearly explains how they will measure success by listing the methods and what they're looking to track. The budgets do not seem to match. The total is \$12,652, but income totals \$13,428. There is significant support within the organization and a strategy for volunteer assigned tasks.

Growth to 13 schools reflects capacity. Good to have connections with schools and community groups. Well detailed budget, although expenses are lower than income. Would have liked to see a breakdown of program coordinator cost/artists). To sustain the complexity of the project obviously takes good management.



## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization: Fostering Hope**

**Project Title: Arts Programming for Childhood Experiences, Health & Wellness, and Community Involvement**

**Panelists: Brad Carlin, Lenore Herbst, Sara Little, Alexandra Opsahl, Ami Scherson**

**Score: Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.**

**2025 Grant Amount: \$4,700**

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

Strong evidence was provided of a diverse and accessible project to clearly defined communities and delivered by qualified artistic professionals.

This applicant serves an important need for the children in foster care while also drawing the community in to supporting that need through the farmers markets, free public art shows, etc. Applicant is also cultivating the next generation of artists and productive citizens through arts and healing, which is commendable.

Very clear program description.

There is a clear public benefit to this program.

The organization highlights the key groups they represent and will conduct outreach to. There is broad outreach and clear outline of the expansive free opportunities.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

The child-directed approach to the program design is very strong evidence of Artistic and cultural Vibrancy.

Very clear outline of arts education classes with a overview of the type of art practices it will focus on.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Evidence would have been stronger with more specific metrics for measuring success.

Clear and specific evaluation tools.

Highlights all individuals working on the project along with the intentions of why these individuals were hired on. Success measurement is clear and direct.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Friends of the East Cleveland Public Library

**Project Title:** East Cleveland Community Arts Mentorship Program

**Panelists:** Noah Dixon, June Kim, Dana Manyothane, Alicia Olivio, Laura Weiss

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,005

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

The East Cleveland Community Arts Mentorship Program seems to be an established after school program that is free and open to the public. The program aims to mentor young musicians within a diverse community. The applicant provides an advertisement plan for the program. It seems like a wonderful program that certainly benefits the public.

Project is compelling and meets all three of the funding criteria. I would have liked to hear more about the project's impact on students and mentors, and more details about who the students are and how this program adds to their artistic education.

The public benefit of the East Cleveland Community Arts Mentorship Project is very straightforward and clear. The project is free and physically housed at a public high school, making it accessible. The target audience is community youth, and it hires local musicians interested in teaching aspiring musicians. The library's multi-media program effectively promotes the program.

This section could have been strengthened by clearly detailing the range of ages served, what "local" means in this context, and what "diverse" means.

Proposal is for after-school mentoring programming taught by professional musicians and artists. Expects at least 35 students to participate. Program is free and open to the public. Two concerts are given at the Theater of the Library. I would recommend sharing more about the students it will serve - what are their ages? (It is housed at a high school, but is it for high schoolers?). What type of music is being taught (instrumental? choral? solo voice?). Do students need experience? I would recommend elaborating further on the overall goals and benefits of this program. While it can be implied as to why students need access to mentorship like this, it is not clearly stated in the application. I would recommend the applicant discuss further what gap(s) the programming is aiming to fill in the community for these students, and how that adds to connection with the community overall. The application is, overall, fairly brief and I'm left wanting to know more about the program's logistics and execution.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

There's very little information about the artistic programming itself. I would recommend the organization elaborate further to share more about how the programming is relevant and engaging.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

I'd like to know more about who serves as the mentors - are these individuals teachers? Are they from local community orchestras and bands? There's very limited information about who is involved in the project itself. The description of measures of success is also fairly limited; I would recommend sharing more specific goals and measures.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** From Me 2 U, Inc

**Project Title:** Thorough Their Eyes: Lens of Self-Discovery (TTE-LoSD)

**Panelists:** Rem Cabrera, Karla Centeno, Maria Lafelice, Lisa Much, Elena Velasco

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

The organization shows evidence that it can meaningfully connect with its community through the project.

The application describes a project that provides an arts-inspired learning opportunity for youth, and a public showcase of the art created to reach a wider audience.

Applicant broadly defines the community, but it is not clear how the 25 participants are selected.

Strategy to reach the public, communicate relevancy, and provide a welcoming space is well articulated.

Positive points: Producing the project in a diverse neighborhood. Involving young people. Accessible for them. Excellent learning experience that should have long-term impact.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

The answer could have included more evidence of how it will reach its goals of relevancy and engagement. What are its strategic plans? How do they recruit speakers?

The support material that describes a sample lesson from the project helped to demonstrate the artistic vibrancy of the project.

Applicant demonstrates a commitment to photography and empowering students. The project through its timeline shows strong merit.

By centering the narratives of youth community members and offering the opportunity to define their own aesthetic choices, this organization touches on artistic vibrancy. The curriculum, however, could use more clarification on how they intend to "reflect" on cultural diversity.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

Photography is an accessible way to bring young people to self-expression throughout. The project is thoughtful in its approach. Are good quality cameras being rented for superior performance for the amount budgeted?

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

There is a lot evidence of organizational capacity.

The application outlines the necessary resources to plan and implement the project. It would be helpful for the budget to include all staff/admin time so that a full picture of the budget is provided. Additionally, the goals listed seem extensive, and it may be beneficial for the project to narrow the focus of the goals.

The budget doesn't equal \$10,000 under expenses, and question 16 totals \$5,500 which is higher than the ask.

Overall there is adequate support and coverage for the project.

Given all of the details and support information provided, it appears this organization and project are very well organized and have the capacity to successfully bring the project to its conclusion.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Front Steps Housing and Services

**Project Title:** Art With a Heart: Creative Expression at Front Steps

**Panelists:** Rem Cabrera, Karla Centeno, Maria Lafelice, Lisa Much, Elena Velasco

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

The organization shows strong evidence of public benefit. Designing the program with residential feedback is a meaningful way to engage their audience.

The project includes art therapy experiences for participants but also organizes a showcase of the art created for a wider audience. It would be helpful if the application included details on how the public event is promoted widely.

The organization is addressing a chronic societal challenge - how to support those who are economically disadvantaged. The program addresses one's need for community, expression, and visibility.

This is an example of a group directly benefiting its targeted community. A worthwhile investment of \$5,000.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

More information on the relevancy and engagement qualities of the project would have been good to include. For example, listing types of art therapy lessons.

The project provides participants with opportunities to use a variety of art mediums for expression. The application described how the organization includes focus groups and surveys to plan the project, involving the participants.

Direct input from the participants and focus groups are a strength.

(Much is provided regarding the purpose and the broad artistic mediums engaged, but not as much about the process of creation. This is an otherwise well-articulated grant and it would be helpful to

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

some context regarding the artistic methodology for the approach taken to foster individual aesthetic expression.

In the case of art therapy, especially for the people who will benefit from the participation, vibrancy is a given just by virtue of their participation.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

More information about key project players would have been good to include.

The organization has qualified art therapists to facilitate the program. Funding has been secured from a variety of sources. The budget seems to be missing art supplies as a line item.

Applicant has a very clear project description and rationale along with strong demonstration of capacity through staff and tactics for measuring success.

This program is not only strongly supported internally by the organization, but boasts staff members with strong credentials.

The certification of viable therapists and the well-known impact of the benefits of art therapists points to the group's capacity to produce this initiative. Planning is clear. Balanced budget with excellent support from the community.



## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization: FrontLine Service**

**Project Title: Art Workshops for Adults Who Have Experienced Homelessness**

**Panelists: Rem Cabrera, Karla Centeno, Maria Lafelice, Lisa Much, Elena Velasco**

**Score: Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.**

**2025 Grant Amount: \$4,700**

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The organization shows evidence of knowing their audience and connecting with them, thoughtfully, through their artist selection and workshops.

The project facilitates artmaking projects for individuals connected with the organization and experiencing homelessness. The application describes a project that has been developed with the needs and interests of the participants in mind. The public benefit of the project would be more clear if additional details were provided about the public display of the artwork created in the workshops, and how that would be promoted broadly.

Applicant clearly defines the community and how it is a benefit to them through the intentionality of care and requests from the participants for it to return.

Public benefit is thoroughly described and their impact honors each individual and the whole.

That the residents "have emphatically requested for these art workshops to continue" is testimony to the value of these workshops. They seem to be structured to be accessible and flexible to address the particular needs of the residents. The fact that the workshops take place in multiple residential buildings is a plus.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

There is evidence that the project is relevant and engaging.

The project engages with a local artist who is experienced and knowledgeable. The artistic & cultural vibrancy would be more clear if the art process for the workshops had more description.

Connecting it to other programs, such as the rocks for the children is very heart-warming.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

Link provided greater understanding of the breadth of art projects engaged with participants.

The particular focus of the program and the people who benefit are sufficient reason to accept artistic vibrancy.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

The organization seems to have the necessary resources to plan and implement the project. However, the budget doesn't include a line item related to expenses for the public display of the art.

Lead and support staff for this project have been clearly identified and their credentials affirm their ability to successfully execute the project.

Guy-Vincent has now developed a 4-year track record with the project. The project itself has been ongoing for nine years. Presumably, there is enough of a template in place by now to support the successful production of this project from year to year. Surprised that more money is spent on food than art supplies.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** FutureHeights

**Project Title:** 2025 Heights Music Hop

**Panelists:** Noah Dixon, June Kim, Dana Manyothane, Alicia Olivio, Laura Weiss

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

This section could have been strengthened by specifying what kinds of diversity are present in the community the applicant serves. As a panelist not from the area, I would have appreciated a more detailed description of the apparent arts scene and diversity. I appreciate the attention to prioritizing diverse selections for performers.

Annual music festival showcasing local talent. Expects 5000 audience members. Event is free. Utilizes a committee to curate the event - made up of musicians, residents, and community members. I think this is a strong way to make sure the community is represented in the planning process. The event emphasizes the strong connection between the musicians and local businesses. Strong sense of collaboration with clear plans on how they connect with the community through the project.

Great project bringing musicians and local businesses together. Would have loved to hear more about what/how many musicians are featured and the selection process. Meets all funding criteria.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

FutureHeights proposes a wonderful event, 2025 Heights Music Hop in this application. The event seeks to bring 'vibrancy and energy to Cleveland Heights' diverse business district by transforming local businesses into dynamic music venues'.

The annual Heights Music Hop contributes to the vibrancy of the Cleveland Heights community, an area of local business districts, by contributing to the local arts scene. Participating artists are paid fairly. The programming all-volunteer committee picks the artists, designs the marketing materials, and assists with measuring the event's success. The committee engagement helps evolve the programming for future music festivals. There are a variety of performances, and the selection process is inclusive and has an open application period. It is a well-thought-out project that has successfully infused music into the area

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

and allowed music artists to showcase their talents. Including the strategic plan helped me understand planning, goal setting, and how the organization will measure success.

Great detailing of outreach and partnerships to make the proposed project happen. This section could have been stronger by giving more detail around how feedback is gathered.

Variety of performances across a variety of genres. Emphasizes fair wages for artists.

### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Intentional involvement of the community in the make up of the planning committee. It would be helpful to know more about the leadership - who is in charge? Or does it all rely on the committee? How many musicians do you anticipate participating? Having this information would give context to the \$15K budgeted for Musicians.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** Gardening in the District

**Project Title:** Quincy Paint Off

**Panelists:** Brad Carlin, Lenore Herbst, Sara Little, Alexandra Opsahl, Ami Scherson

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

Applicant does not provide a clear description of how the students and community will participate in the painting project, what the timeline is or expected end result. More information about the artistic process and how the community/students would be involved in the development of the project would be helpful to understand.

The community revitalization project focuses on adding a mural to their lot fence. Would be interested to see who they include as their audiences and how they can expand upon the audiences they serve.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

Weak evidence was provided as to how the artists were going to engage the community to determine the direction and vision for the mural. Including support materials from the proposed artists would have been helpful.

Would be interested to learn more about who they are including as artists, how they reflect the community, as well as if there is opportunity for the community to get involved.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

More detail is needed in the plan implementation.

Weak evidence was provided for setting and measuring goals. More specific goals outside of a sign-in sheet with address info will be helpful in future applications.

It is unclear why a video/production company would be involved in this project or how the different groups involved in the project might work together towards the final result.

Income sources should more specific. It is unclear what it means when you name your own organization as an income source.

Would like more clarity as to how these team members will work together on this specific project.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** German Central

**Project Title:** German Central Oktoberfest

**Panelists:** Noah Dixon, June Kim, Dana Manyothane, Alicia Olivio, Laura Weiss

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

This project brings so many community members together and is very well organized. Meets all three funding criteria.

I appreciate the efforts to keep entrance fees low based on community feedback about how programming in the venue being too expensive for them. It would have benefited the application to explain what the applicant is doing for outreach to their community.

The German Central Foundation made a strong case that their two-day German Oktoberfest is for residents of German descent to celebrate German culture. Now, the obvious as a reader is that the case of this event welcoming other ethnic groups did not come across as sincere in the grant proposal. The support material photo supported this as the audience looked homogenous. I would have appreciated more details on how this event welcomes everyone to understand, learn, and immerse in German culture. "is a taste of the homeland for other ethnic groups, as well, and we invite them through their churches and their cultural organizations." What does this statement mean? Who is "them"? More details on how this event is open to all Cleveland area residents would make this project request stronger.

Funding will support the German Oktoberfest event. Expects over 5000 in attendance. The event is ticketed (\$8). Brass and polka bands perform, and German heritage groups perform. The group is inclusive of all types of backgrounds, inviting individuals to participate through churches and other cultural organizations. It would be helpful to know an example or two of how the organization is reaching out to those who might not currently know about the organization or the event. Overall, seems to be very engaged with the local community.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

This application does a wonderful job demonstrating the cultural impact of the German Central Foundation and they plan for the German Central Oktoberfest. The festival seems like an important event for the community that expects thousands of participants to attend and collaborations with many artists and organizations.

Longstanding tradition with the involvement of many local German heritage groups. Clear examples of different groups that have been recruited over the years to participate, including a new addition since 2021.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Significant number of volunteers. Project partners have significant experience in running the event. Clear goals.



## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** Golden Ciphers Youth Development & Cultural Arts Center

**Project Title:** D'Jembe and Beyond

**Panelists:** Rem Cabrera, Karla Centeno, Maria Lafelice, Lisa Much, Elena Velasco

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

More information on how engagement strategies will be employed would have made this response stronger. Regarding community, defining artistic community would have also made this response stronger.

The application outlines a variety of activities that are available to the public at no cost. However the public benefit would be more clear if the application included details on how the project is marketed broadly.

Applicant clearly defines the community and how the project and community work together.

The intention for public benefit is passionately articulated and well described.

The involvement in and of the community is apparent.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

More elaboration on the points listed would have provided more evidence of artistic and cultural vibrancy. For example, what fun activities?

The application clearly describes how the organization ensures a relevant and engaging project for their audiences. The application would benefit from including examples of the visual art aspects of the project in addition to the performance photos that were submitted in the support materials.

The central activity is succinctly described.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

The project itself is not clear. A focus on drum circles as an art project would be viable. However, it's not clear how the visual arts tie into this initiative. In addition, more information about what Restorative Justice entails and how participants will use what they learn as energy in life would greatly enhance understanding of this project.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

This section should have included more evidence. For example, what are the roles of the team?

The organization has assembled a team including established community partnerships. However the application does not include any measures of success and there are elements missing from the timeline and budget for the project. Specifically it would be helpful to know how many and how often the activities are being offered; the start/end dates on the application span the full year. Additionally the budget income and expenses lack specificity.

Note that the project dates should not be 1/1/25-12/31/25 per the grant instructions. The planning process as illustrated in question 7 shows organizational capacity along with the many partners. Applicant does not describe how they will measure success (or what metrics they would look at) in Question 12, only a framework they will use. Additionally, a clear list of how CAC funds will be used would benefit the application. The expenses total \$5,000 rather than the total project of \$10,000. Organization seems well staffed as a whole and their founding director has strong credentials. It is unclear how many artists and volunteers are needed, how many they have on their roster, and the frequency and length of sessions.

Explaining what the SMART Measurement Tool would be helpful. Not providing a more detailed explanation looks like sidestepping the question. The income line items are unclear. Will t-shirts and canvas bags be sold to raise funds? How will a DJ generate revenue? Will art supplies be sold? Volunteers are generally not paid, but they're listed as a \$1,000 expenses.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** Harvard Community Services Center

**Project Title:** Harvard Cultural Fest

**Panelists:** Brad Carlin, Lenore Herbst, Sara Little, Alexandra Opsahl, Ami Scherson

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

Strong evidence of a deep and specific understanding of their predominantly African American community. The event is widely accessible, free to attend, and widely promoted.

Applicant describes a strong engagement with the community throughout the development and execution of the project from monthly block meetings to community planning committees to volunteer community groups.

This grant clearly presents the scope of the project and the how it serves its community.

The organization's aim is to serve the Lee-Harvard, Miles and Seville communities with an arts and culture festival that best represents the interests of the neighborhoods. The grant clearly shares how they used community feedback to make this festival more accessible and representative of the community.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

Strong evidence of qualified, diverse professional artists engaged in the planning and delivery of the festival.

The music, vendors, and other entertainment for the event reflects their intention of serving the Black/African-American community. They are also intentional about making this accessible to all other intersectional identities.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Strong evidence of thoughtful and clear SMARTIE goals.

Very clear goals and outcomes for the project are presented.

I would like to see further detail on how you plan to measure success.

Clear delineation of staff roles and goals for planning. Demonstrates belonging and need in their community.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Haus of Transcendent

**Project Title:** ArtReach Events (Summer Feast Fashion Show; HOToween)

**Panelists:** Noah Dixon, June Kim, Dana Manyothane, Alicia Olivio, Laura Weiss

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

A creative project that is also very inclusive and community-oriented. Meets all three funding criteria.

Applicant did an excellent job of breaking down the demographics and location of the community that they serve. Explicit mention of training their volunteers in DEI to welcome all.

HOT produces two annual art events. Both are open to the public and include fashion art and drag performances. Tickets are \$20 for each event (participation in a Wellness screening will waive the fee). Strong commitment to creating an environment where artists are celebrated and supported. Provides DEI training to volunteers.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Well-stated the intentions of project. Very artistic and supplementary videos are worth a thousand words.

Artists will be compensated for their work. I'd love to know more about the content of the events, and how the themes of the performances and will be relevant and engaging (I think this is strongly implied, just would like to know more specifics).

#### ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

The Haus of Transcendent provides an organized application that details their plan for two annual arts events which they plan to host (Summer Fest Fashion Show and HOToween). While the application is strong, the budget is a bit confusing because the application is for two events and not one. I think it would be more beneficial to see the budget broken up by event. Otherwise a strong application.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

Kudos to Haus of Transcendent for providing detailed information about how their qualified team will execute the ArtReach program. The team's diverse skills demonstrate their organizational capacity. I am particularly impressed by the clearly outlined SMART goals, proof of the feasibility of a successful event. I also appreciate the detailed goal setting and planning timelines provided. Additionally, the operational budget seems reasonable for producing inclusive events. I am grateful to Haus of Transcendent for providing detailed information about how their qualified team will execute the ArtReach program. The team's diverse skills demonstrate their organizational capacity. I am particularly impressed by the clearly outlined SMART goals, which enhance the feasibility of a successful event. I also appreciate the detailed goal setting and planning timelines provided. Additionally, the operational budget seems reasonable for producing inclusive events.

This section was well-detailed and broken down for easy reading. This panelist appreciated that efficiency greatly!

Clear management team. Very clear goals and objectives!

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Henry Johnson Center

**Project Title:** Art Meets Tech

**Panelists:** Brad Carlin, Lenore Herbst, Sara Little, Alexandra Opsahl, Ami Scherson

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

Fair evidence provided, including more specific details about the community served by the camp (rather than Cleveland generally) would have been stronger evidence of public benefit.

Metrics on the success of past programs would be helpful context for evaluating this project's benefit.

Organization is clear about the planning of the program and direction. As they are providing a arts and tech training program to students, they make sure to have accessible programming. Would like to learn more about recruitment process.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Fair evidence provided. Though the artistic professionals involved are qualified, it's not clear in the budget how they will be compensated. Only \$1k going to pay artist professionals on a 12k project lasting 4 weeks. Support materials did not add much evidence to better understand the artistic and cultural vibrancy of the camp.

It is unclear how this project contributes to artistic and cultural vibrancy. Engaging youth through STEAM principles and opening their eyes to art as a productive and lucrative career is wonderful however "aiming to create more local artists" is not a particularly strong case for support in this category especially since applicant seems to indicate that many students do not complete the program (ex goal of "at least 85% of the youth will complete the program")

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

It would be good to include more specifics and examples, as the concept of the initiative is a little hard to understand.

It is clear that the organization provides a through line and pathways for the success of their students. Would be interested in learning about the specific teaching artists.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Clear goals and metrics, but a limited investment in marketing to draw 275 people to a 4-week camp.

Fantastic and very clear plan, and excellent description of how you will measure outcomes.

The staff and success measures clearly outline their goals for their project and how they hope to serve these participants.



## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** Hispanic Police Officers Association

**Project Title:** Cleveland Puerto Rican Parade EXPO

**Panelists:** Brad Carlin, Lenore Herbst, Sara Little, Alexandra Opsahl, Ami Scherson

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

Applicant clearly describes an immersive celebration that brings the community together. Project is very accessible, including workshops and programs spanning several months which allow for deeper community engagement. More information about the workshops and events presented in conjunction with partner organizations would be helpful to further underscore the public benefit.

Programming is not only free and open to the public, but also accessible to many different communities in Cleveland (as they have public programming across the country).

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

More information about how artists are chosen to participate, by whom, and how the community provides input into this process would have made the application stronger.

The events collaborate with key Cleveland institutions, while tying in local Latinx serving organizations. Intentions around providing bilingual programming is a plus.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

I commend you for clear and measurable outcome goals.

The organizational history did not provide a very clear understanding of how the organization was created. Later, it is unclear if the Cleveland Puerto Rican Parade EXPO committee is an internal committee, or an outside organization. It was necessary to seek information outside of the application to get a full understanding of operations. In general, this application lacked clarity in some areas.

The organization has a strong staff and volunteer group support this initiative. Clear goals for the event and engagement strategy.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** India Fest USA

**Project Title:** 2025 - 16th Annual IFUSA

**Panelists:** Rem Cabrera, Karla Centeno, Maria Lafelice, Lisa Much, Elena Velasco

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

There is not enough evidence showing how the audience will benefit from their engagement efforts.

The application describes a large-scale event that welcomes quite a few participants, volunteers, and audience members. The event is hosting in an accessible location. The public benefit aspect of the application would be stronger if it included how the event is promoted broadly.

Applicant clearly defines the community and shows a strong commitment in uplifting it. Additionally, they explain how it is working to engage with other groups for more diversity

The broad community being served is clear. Though there is mention of a podcast that originated in 2020, it seems that this is still running. How the organization reaches their target group through relationship building to gather the targeted 3000 audience members, artists, and volunteers is not as clear (perhaps only through the podcast?).

The photos provided with the application demonstrate the diversity of people engaged in this project. We see the immediate community and the extension of it, such as the inclusion of flamenco in one of the photos. The mission of the group and its effort to showcase culture from India is laudable.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

The event is a showcase of youth talent and special performances that demonstrate artistic and cultural vibrancy. The application would be stronger in this area of there was a more clear description of all the aspects of the event including the special performances. The budget includes a line for arts & cultural professionals but it's not clear what portion of the event those professionals are involved in.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

This cultural talent show invites a wide variety of artistic disciplines to share - that seems to be the criteria. Since there is a broad approach to the curation of performance and perhaps art vendors, the process for recruitment and event flow would be helpful.

Again, the photos demonstrate the joy experienced by the dancers and musicians who participate. Often, first-generation Indian Americans struggle with a loss of identity and feel alienated in a new country. Through art and music, we aspire to give this community a way to feel connected to their roots, and also provide a platform to the Ohio community at large to understand South Asian culture.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

The application demonstrates that the organization has the team and funding to plan and execute this project. The budget would be more complete if in-kind support (volunteer hours) was included.

The allocation of tasks related to this project seem adequate, though the number of volunteers that would be needed and included is not clear.

Fifteen years demonstrate a long tradition of producing and building the event. Impressive community support. The group appears to have a solid team.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** InMotion

**Project Title:** Music That Moves You

**Panelists:** Brad Carlin, Lenore Herbst, Sara Little, Alexandra Opsahl, Ami Scherson

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,935

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

Strong evidence of clear understanding of their community and how they will benefit from this program.

Clearly demonstrated public benefit to the Parkinson's community through arts participation.

Some more specificity in income source would be ideal "Budgeted Match Funds" is a little vague.

The project serves individuals with Parkinson's and is free/no cost to InMotion clients. Clearly highlights how people can easily register for programming.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Strong evidence of engaging qualified and capable artist professionals. But lacking evidence of how the applicant will invite and attract clients to participate in the classes.

The applicant brings cultural vibrancy to a community that may not otherwise participate. It might be nice to see ways in which the arts within this community could be shared more widely beyond their immediate families.

Artistic and therapeutic methods are clear, and there is strong curriculum shared in the application

#### ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Fair evidence, the budget is not clear in describing how 100% of expenses are for instructor fees, but 25% of income is in-kind volunteer hours. Do instructors donate 25% of their time to the project? More clarity and alignment between income and expenses will be helpful in future applications.

I commend your plan for measuring success.

Clear overview of staff and their credentials, and measures of success.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** International Community Council-Worldwide Intercultural Network (ICC-WIN)

**Project Title:** MOSAIC: Changing Parts and Pieces

**Panelists:** Rem Cabrera, Karla Centeno, Maria Lafelice, Lisa Much, Elena Velasco

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

There is evidence that the organization takes a very thoughtful approach to public benefit. The project is very multifaceted, creating many opportunities for thoughtful engagement.

The project seeks to introduce a wide audience to different cultural traditions and experiences. The organization has established partnerships with libraries to host the project in an accessible location. The public benefit would be more clear if the application described the intended audience/community for the project.

Applicant provides a very community organizing focused answer regarding trust building, which demonstrates a strong ability to engage diverse groups.

Largest network of international organizations embracing more than 120 cultural, ethnic, and nationality groups with distinct identities in Northeast Ohio. A series of 3 multicultural experiences with each program showcasing unique customs and traditions while promoting cross-cultural understanding and a sense of shared community. Events will take place between May and December 2025 and in 3 different locations: east & west sides and downtown. The culminating event will be the MOSAIC International Fashion Show which will incorporate international foods.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

There is evidence that the project will be relevant and engaging through their artists selection and surveys.

The application describes a series of events that include a range of artistic practices and cultural experiences. The artistic & cultural vibrancy would be stronger if the application included more information about the performers and their diverse background.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

While it is understood that the aim is to curate a relevant multicultural event for stakeholders who will contribute suggestions for the event, some specific criteria for the event would help to define the number of acts/performances that would be shared and the materials that would be needed. Ultimately, the language is very broad so it is difficult to understand how this has been conducted in the past and what is changing now. The past brochure uploaded has stock photos of different performance groups, but the current flier only mentions a fashion show to be held in December.

Applicant demonstrates a commitment to working with the community to build the art and focusing on people first, which should ensure cultural vibrancy.

Each event will incorporate storytelling, traditional singing and dancing as well as performances with traditional instruments. The first will focus on the culture & people of the first Americans, as well as those from Europe. The second will shift attention to Africa and Asia; the third on how the 120 multicultural groups of Northeast Ohio preserve/present their heritage.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

A strong team and execution plan!

The budget should reflect a more comprehensive list of expenses including in-kind support and any administrative/staff expenses as part of the planning and implementation of the project. The application lacks details about the team assembled to organize this event.

It seems this question was missed. In another question there is mention of the board and their support, but there is not a list of team members who are helping with this project.

Applicant doesn't describe the team putting together the project in question 11, but provides enough supporting documentation suggesting a strong team. Including the team would strengthen the application.

20 years' experience. Partnering with the Cuyahoga County Public Library Systems for its World in Your Backyard program and will continue to use Library facilities throughout Cuyahoga County. Customizes each event with input from community members. Survey distributed; feedback sought.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** International Women's Air & Space Museum

**Project Title:** 2025 Dinner w/ a Slice of History

**Panelists:** Brad Carlin, Lenore Herbst, Sara Little, Alexandra Opsahl, Ami Scherson

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,005

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

It would be good to see this program (or a version of it) tailored for younger women in particular - it appears to be geared mostly towards adults. This seems to be a missed opportunity.

It would be helpful if the application included what the actual fees are for their services. It would also be helpful to include some information on community demographics.

The dinner hopes to engage community members in the vast range of women's experiences in air and space. Both in-person and virtual programming, and ticket prices are to break even. Would be interested in learning about low/no-cost options they could provide (for example for volunteers)

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

Fair evidence of artistic and cultural vibrancy is provided. Strong evidence would have included more information about how speakers are chosen and how the intended community engages with that process. More detail about how the virtual events are shared outside of the live event (i.e. are they available as a recording?) would provide stronger evidence of a widely accessible program.

The applicant addresses a piece of the cultural landscape that is quite different from other organizations and is worthwhile to support. It would be beneficial for the applicant to return to offering this program free of charge to encourage wider attendance.

Strong historical background and clear sense of programming.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Very strong programming.

The organization collects data about their programming, and clear leadership direction.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Italian Cultural Garden

**Project Title:** Opera in the Italian Garden

**Panelists:** Rem Cabrera, Karla Centeno, Maria Lafelice, Lisa Much, Elena Velasco

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

It seems that community is defined here by current neighborhood geography and not by cultural or ethnic boundaries. It is noted that they work with the area councilman and individually get to know their neighbors. There is much time spent on the feeling they are trying to convey to a generalized group. Statements of support are shared, but there seems to be no quantitative data shared.

The organization has a strong legacy of producing the project; however, more elaboration on who the community is and how it engages with them would have strengthened this response. There is not enough evidence to gauge whether the organization meaningfully connects with its community.

The project includes a series of performances in a cultural garden and seems to draw a large audience for this free experience.

Applicant has a commitment to ensuring the accessibility of the performance and the surroundings as well as demonstrating a strong commitment to the neighborhood through working with the Councilman and neighbors.

Appealing free event for the public with a long history in an attractive setting. I imagine it may be an annual tradition for residents.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

The statement that "music is one" and "art is one" is vague and unclear. The title notes this centers on opera, but there are many movements in opera. Again, the description uses broad language and leans into feeling (ex. "Feeling of fantasy, inspiration, and beauty"), but feelings come from individual perspectives and the notion of a universal accepted definition of beauty is not accurate. What will be shared specifically and the artistic process for development, curation, and execution would have helped.



## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

There needs to be more evidence to show that the project is engaging and relevant to their audiences. The answer indicates the importance of moving audiences but does not indicate how.

The organization recruits a set of performers with diverse backgrounds, and provides compensation for their time and expertise. The artistic & cultural vibrancy would increase for this project if the organization included opportunities for participation/engagement of the audiences.

It seems that hostility towards immigrants is an American tradition! Bravo to the Italians who created this garden and to this group for reintroducing public events in the park after so many years. Quite an eclectic program of music for the example provided; a clever way to slip in education about opera to those who come for the Broadway classics.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

The only specific person that is mentioned is the artistic director. There is mention of a team, but no size. As such, it would seem that the capacity cannot be determined.

There needs to be more information about staff to show how they are qualified to execute the project.

The organization seems to have the capacity to implement the project, as it has an experienced team and a history of success. The organizational capacity would be more clear if the application included goals that align with the SMARTIE format, and if the budget included any staff/administrative expenses. The income of \$12,000 is less than the total budget of \$14,945. I'm assuming this gap will be filled and that this is just a typo, but noting it.

It would be helpful to see a balanced budget, as the income doesn't match the expenses. In any case, the expenses seem reasonable, although the artist fees might be a bit low?

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Jewish Family Service Association of Cleveland Ohio

**Project Title:** "Back to the Future: 150 Years of Creative Connections"

**Panelists:** Noah Dixon, June Kim, Dana Manyothane, Alicia Olivio, Laura Weiss

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

JFSA's therapeutic art program (TAP) serves multi-ethnic clients in Cuyahoga County, which speaks to impact and accessibility. TAP uses local artists and interns for structured weekly sessions. The program culminates into a public event showcasing the participants' work. I would appreciate more on the recruitment of clients and engagement of the entire community addressed by program staff.

Appreciated the mention of the event being open and free to the public due as a response to the socioeconomic makeup of the community that the applicant serves. Good breakdown of demographic makeup of the community; the personal testimony is especially effective. The application section could have been strengthened by explaining how they would be inclusive to the diverse population that they serve, especially as following sections give the impression that this is tailored to a specific group of people, not a broad community.

The yearlong project will explore the artistic interventions of clients' past, present and future timelines. All exhibits will be open and free to the public. I'm not clear on who is participating in the project - the application states "up to 30 client artists" - could you explain further who this includes? (Note: I am able to infer this from later descriptions). There appears to be clear collaboration between the client artists and the artistic staff. The program appears to be serving a clear, identified need for a specific community.

A beautiful project highlighting the artistry of TAP clients and celebrating the organization's long history of service. Meets all three funding criteria.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

This section could have been better by addressing how they've tailored this project for the community with input and feedback from them. This could have been from past events, community liaisons, surveys, interviews, etc. Feels prescriptive, disconnected from community at this time.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

The Jewish Family Service Association of Cleveland has detailed plan for their "Back to the Future: 150 Years of Creative Connections" event. The program would celebrate their upcoming sesquicentennial and it is clear through this application that the organization has done a lot of planning for this event.

Clear staffing; very clear goals and objectives.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** LakewoodAlive

**Project Title:** Front Porch Concert Series

**Panelists:** Brad Carlin, Lenore Herbst, Sara Little, Alexandra Opsahl, Ami Scherson

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

Overall strong evidence was provided for offering diverse and accessible concerts to a clearly defined community.

This applicant utilizes public space and partnerships to great success. There is also a thoughtful approach to diversity on multiple levels.

Excellent community support.

The application demonstrates a full understanding of the community it serves. It is particularly appreciated that the application takes time to present demographic information about Lakewood - from school lunches and languages spoken, to a thoughtful analysis of the financial situation of its residents.

Would be interested in learning more about outreach methods and specific targeted communities. Discusses the Lakewood specific community, but would be interested in learning about how the programs inform the communities they serve. Does clearly outreach places and spaces that this program will be.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

In future applications more specific evidence of how feedback from audience surveys has been incorporated into future programs would be helpful to demonstrate how the program is evolving based on community input.

Applicant is clearly contributing to vibrancy within this community especially through it's ability to bring different types of music directly to the community at no cost.

Strong outline of artistic programming and goals for the concerts. Diverse range of music.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Nice plan for measuring progress and impact.

Clear overview of individuals working on projects and organization.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Larchmere PorchFest

**Project Title:** Larchmere PorchFest 2025

**Panelists:** Noah Dixon, June Kim, Dana Manyothane, Alicia Olivio, Laura Weiss

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

Larchmere PorchFest is an innovative way of bringing the community together for a free, family-friendly event featuring music by local artists of all sorts of genres. It makes music accessible in a comfortable environment. I appreciate four committees comprised of people living in the Larchmere neighborhood who handle different aspects of the event for ease of planning. The event is inclusive as it engages many people who live, work, or otherwise have other ties to the Larchmere neighborhood. The event has grown to include different activities such as poetry and kids activities, which increase its value to the event's art and culture offerings. The supporting materials are so helpful in understanding the benefits to this multi-cultural community.

PorchFest is a family-friendly event open to the community featuring musicians from a wide variety of genres. The event will take place throughout the Larchmere community on porches and in local businesses. Expects 5000 people to participate. Event is free and open to the public. Community is at the forefront of their planning. Work closely with residents and businesses. They involves community members into the PorchFest leadership. Merchants share feedback. Residents are able to participate by being a "Porch Host." Seems to be very actively engaged!

A fun project all impressively organized by community members. Would have liked to learn more about the music/art/food that is featured during the festival, and what the selection process is like. Meets all three funding criteria.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

I love the proposal for this event. It seems like a great idea that would have a wonderful artistic and cultural impact on a neighborhood and could potentially draw a large audience. They've presented a great application and I believe this will be a successful event.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

The section could have been strengthened by specifying what aspects of the PorchFest are targeted for "refreshing." Additionally, there's no mention of how outreach to the community would be conducted, whether via email, social media, in-person gatherings, etc.

Notes that they are aiming to recruit new community members to bring in new voices into the planning. I'd like to know more about HOW they will achieve this (I think it is an important goal!). I'd also like to know more about the musicians that are involved - how do they become engaged with the project? What types of music are highlighted? How are you "matched" with a Porch Host? I think knowing more about this would add to my understanding of how the project is engaging overall.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** LGBT Community Center Greater Cleveland

**Project Title:** Speak Out Stage at Pride in the CLE 2025

**Panelists:** Brad Carlin, Lenore Herbst, Sara Little, Alexandra Opsahl, Ami Scherson

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

Strong evidence of public benefit through the many partnerships and meaningful engagement with community members, other organizations, and stakeholders.

Applicant shows a strong ability to connect with the community especially through the use of focus groups which are used to create a steering committee made up of LGBT Center staff, board members, and community and corporate leaders as well as advocates from more than 15 LGBTQ+ organizations.

Strong collaborations and community support.

This application shows a clear connection between the organization and the community it serves.

Program serves a wide range of attendees during pride month. There is a vast range of programming centered around activism in the LGBT community that is accessible as it is intentionally free.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

Applicant does a great job of providing a welcoming space for the community to share their varied experiences through many mediums.

The application would benefit from some more detail and specifics about the Speak Out Stage. Examples of past speakers and topics might be helpful.

The organization intentionally works with intersectional queer BIPOC identities that represent the communities they serve. They also are clear about their programming, and who they hope to include.



## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Would appreciate more detail and the use of measurable outcome tools.

Organization has wide capacity, though interested in learning more about specific individuals who are key parts of the team. In addition, they have very vast collaborative partners.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Little Italy Redevelopment Corporation

**Project Title:** Little Italy Summer and Holiday Art Walk

**Panelists:** Rem Cabrera, Karla Centeno, Maria Lafelice, Lisa Much, Elena Velasco

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

The organization has a strong legacy of producing the project; however, more elaboration on who the community is and how it engages with them would have strengthened this response. There is a lot of mention about the merchants, but there needs to be more information on the participants. Additionally, it would be good to know how the working group was selected, how they reflect diverse perspectives, and how the selection is inclusive.

The project occurs in an accessible neighborhood, and is open to the general public.

Applicant clearly defines their community and demonstrates working with them to create these events via the planning committees and community input.

Broad public benefit is implied through the engagement of local merchants who, according to the budget breakdown, pay a membership fee to participate with Little Italy Development Corp (under income source). The number of individuals reached is estimated to be 1000, though no metrics or specific data is supplied.

Art Fairs are accessible ways to involve the public with looking at and, more importantly, buying art. Local businesses generally participate, as they do here. The result is usually very neighborhood-based and very beneficial for neighborhood businesses. This event takes indoors, in galleries/businesses, with "outside" artists in one venue (assuming "outside" means artists from outside the neighborhood? Cleveland?). Does this approach limit the number of artists who can participate (rather than having a street ---a larger event but arguably more expensive to produce)?

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

There is evidence of artistic and cultural vibrancy.

The project celebrates the cultural history of the neighborhood, and spotlights the artistic legacy.

Applicant works with artists and local businesses to create a culturally vibrant event.

Those who contribute to the cultural and artistic creation of the art walk are broadly identified. The map from the 2024 walk was helpful, though more description of cultural strategy to draw in audience/community engagement would clarify this application.

The link to the well-done Little Italy site didn't include the art walk in December, although there was a reference to an Artisan event. Trust that the vibrancy is evident given the event's long history.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

More information on key players who implement the project would have been good to include.

The organization seems to have all the necessary resources to plan and implement the project.

Details on specifically how the applicant will measure success (meaning what they are looking for and would call success) would strengthen the application.

The size of the team is not specified. Distribution of labor for the event is not articulated.

Planning seems to be well-organized and the group has enough experience in 35 years to have developed best practices. Photographs to further provide outsiders a sense of the participation would have been welcomed.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** LYLESART

**Project Title:** ARTOGRAPHY, Community Photography Project

**Panelists:** Brad Carlin, Lenore Herbst, Sara Little, Alexandra Opsahl, Ami Scherson

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "No" scores from the panel.

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

Defined community, and intended outreach was described in general terms, more specificity would have been strong evidence of Public Benefit.

It was unclear how many individuals are participating in the arts education workshops and public exhibition portion of this project. The applicant describes very high level goals and philosophies but it would be helpful to know more about the actual process of creating the art, those involved, the teachers and the steps they are taking towards the final product. This information would make it easier to determine the true public benefit. The applicant describes how the "project is designed to address the lack of advantage in underserved communities in Cleveland" but no information is provided as to how that is accomplished.

Would be interested to learn more about how individuals are recruited for the program. It is clear that the program wants to utilize photography to connect with participants, but would like more details about the methods and practice to connect with those audiences.

What an inspiring community engagement plan.

This application is clear, concise, and shows the way in which the project engages the wider community.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

The evidence provided was fair. It's not clear how they will connect the intended community to the cameras placed in public places, or how the classes recruit or identify participants for the project. Lacking detail throughout.

Would like more clarity around the type of art forms or specific cultural elements used.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Unclear as to who will be project lead as well as the organizational structure/budget/long term goals.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Malachi Center

**Project Title:** CRAFTERNOONS

**Panelists:** Noah Dixon, June Kim, Dana Manyothane, Alicia Olivio, Laura Weiss

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

The 'Crafternoons' programming proposed by St. Malachi Center is specifically geared towards low-income families and members of the unhoused community. Their application provides thoughtful responses on how they plan to put on this event in a way that will have a great impact on the community.

Very meaningful project that is in service of the organization's mission. Meets all three funding criteria.

Crafternoons programs are accessible to low-income and unhoused people in the Ohio City and The Flats surrounding area. Impressive is that several Malachi Center staff are former program participants, which offers safety, trust, and a sense of belonging for current participants. The participants will learn to sew on a sewing machine and crochet. The Crafternoons project is poised to provide "engaging and welcoming" place for underserved and communities of color to engage in meaningful art and sewing projects. Everyone is welcome. The grant proposal could be stronger with supplemental video or pictures of the Crafternoons activities.

This section painted a clear picture of the folks within the community served, although there could have been mention of an estimate of individuals in it. There is a clear sense of the trust and partnership the applicant organization has with the community served.

CRAFTERNOONS (crafts in the afternoon) is an arts program geared toward promoting Art as a great way to relieve stress, along with a sewing component. Anticipate 10-25 participants per session. All programs and free, focusing specifically on low-income families and members of the unhoused community. The program is centered on developing relationships with those the Center serves. The program is really meant as a welcoming point into the further services the Center might be able to provide. Goals of self expression and improving mental health through crafting are clear.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

Clear partnerships with other organizations to lead the arts workshops.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** May Dugan Center

**Project Title:** May Dugan Center Arts Showcase

**Panelists:** Brad Carlin, Lenore Herbst, Sara Little, Alexandra Opsahl, Ami Scherson

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

Strong evidence of clear, detailed understanding of , and engagement with their stated community of seniors.

Organization demonstrates strong research and understanding of community.

The financial information provided would exclude this organization from consideration. If -however - this is a misunderstanding that can be cleared up, then the application itself is both compelling and worthy of support.

MDC clearly indicates their target population and they hope to support these individuals through their artistic and cultural programming for the Arts Showcase

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

Strong evidence of detailed and rigorous approach to art therapy workshops with qualified professionals.

Support materials would have been helpful in understanding the outcomes and impacts of these programs.

Based on the populations they serve, they are very intentional about providing programming that includes therapeutic elements for seniors. Would like to learn more about what specific programs and artistic practices these individuals will be preparing.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Applicant appears to have high-quality therapists and mental health leaders to support execution of the project.

Team and organization directly informs the type of work and populations they hope to engage with (i.e. licensed social work, music therapists, etc.). Shows they have the capacity to execute programming.



## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Midnight Art Club

**Project Title:** Midnight Forum Complex

**Panelists:** Rem Cabrera, Karla Centeno, Maria Lafelice, Lisa Much, Elena Velasco

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

More elaboration on who the community is-- artistic and participatory-- and how it engages with them would have strengthened this response.

The project includes plans to install temporary public art at a local park, which is an open and accessible location. The public benefit of the project would be more clear if the application described how audiences and/or neighbors of the park might engage with the work or be involved in the process. The organization would benefit from establishing community partnerships.

Applicant could be clearer in how they define the community. Currently it seems like the entire city of Cleveland instead of a specific place or affinity. For example, to cross-pollinate with all of these neighborhoods, how will they promote to ensure that?

The public benefit is broadly estimated, given its outdoor, and podcasts are serve recruitment efforts. Some parts of the application were missing and incomplete.

Providing eye-catching public installations enhances public spaces. Even if these structures aren't entirely utilized as described, they're worthwhile additions as public art.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

More specifics about the programming such as content and artist selections etc., would have made this response stronger. It's hard to gauge relevancy without specific plans.

The weblink to the organization's website provides visual images of past installations which are very visually engaging. The artistic & cultural vibrancy portion of the application would be more clear if there was a detailed description of the proposed activities around the installation and the artists who will be involved. It does not appear that the artists or facilitators of the events related to the installation are compensated for their time and expertise contributed to the project.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

Applicant doesn't seem to describe how they are building an artistically vibrant project by CAC definition - centering the community and growing from feedback for example.

The structures are striking. Whether or not they function as incubators for public participation isn't made clear enough to be entirely convincing. That is, the intent is there, but whether they succeed as proposed isn't clear. Nevertheless, as installations, they are worth the investment, in and of themselves.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Answer is sufficient, though more information about each person and their background would have been good to include.

The organization has a strong team and a concept for the project has been established. The organizational capacity in terms of finances is not clear, since the budget for the project matches the CAC grant request nor does the budget indicate other sources of income. It was not clear in the application if the installation and programming at the park has been approved by the City Landmarks Commission.

Applicant didn't provide an organizational history, which would strengthen the application. More detail is needed on the metrics such as how to measure revenue for a free event. Applicant is requesting the full project amount from CAC, which is not advised.

Names of the artistic staff are shared, though their specific disciplines and professional history is not shared. The length of time needed to assemble and then strike the project is noted, though how the teams operate is not as clear. It is assumed that there is enough organizational capacity.

A bit of confusion about the budget. These applications have been authorized by CAC staff to move forward, but here, the request is equal to the total budget---no matching funds are identified. Not providing an organizational history is a miss.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Museum of Creative Human Art

**Project Title:** MOCHA Gallery

**Panelists:** Brad Carlin, Lenore Herbst, Sara Little, Alexandra Opsahl, Ami Scherson

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

The evidence of public benefit is fair. Although the project clearly aims to serve underrepresented artists and peoples, however there's little specificity provided to demonstrate this

Applicant describes a great benefit to local underrepresented artists by providing a platform for visibility and recognition. Community workshops are described which increase engagement by offering hands-on experiences that demystify art-making and encourage further exploration among the community

Please make sure to really answer the questions. When asked to define your community, you instead provided something like a mission statement.

Space is accessible and events are open to the public. Would be interested to learn more about how the organization hopes to pursue outreach.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Fair evidence of artistic and cultural vibrancy is given through the qualifications and financial support to professional artists, but the proposal lacks specificity around how many exhibitions, how artists are selected, and how they are engaging with their community to ensure programming is fresh and relevant.

Your writing about recognizing the undervalued nature of artistic labor is particularly compelling!

Would be interested to learn more about specific curatorial ideas, but there is a strong mission and vision that aligns with project goals

#### ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

The project plan is lacking detail and reads more as the concept of a plan.

A strong highlight of the core team and how they hope to work on this project

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Negative Space Gallery

**Project Title:** The Artist Within Us

**Panelists:** Noah Dixon, June Kim, Dana Manyothane, Alicia Olivio, Laura Weiss

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

Wonderful project that eliminates financial barriers to creating art. I would have liked to hear more about who the participants tend to be, and how they market the program. Meets all three funding criteria.

The Negative Space Gallery plans to put on their "The Artist Within Us" program which consists of 9 mini-workshops and 3 community showcase events throughout the year. Participants from diverse backgrounds and abilities experience the therapeutic value of creative expression guided by local artist instructors and trained facilitators. Their application provides a clear plan for how these workshops would benefit the public in an impactful way.

Excellent breakdown of why the event is free, as well as how it's covered by other programming so the public benefit stays regardless of CAC funding. This section could have been strengthened by giving concrete demographics of the community served to better show the applicant's understanding of who they're serving.

Negative Space Gallery's 2025 "The Artist Within Us" consists of 9 mini-workshops and 3 community showcase events throughout the year. Participants from diverse backgrounds and abilities experience the therapeutic value of creative expression guided by local artist instructors and trained facilitators. Free programming. There appears to be a lot of community involvement centered in these workshops. Family themed sessions allow parents to bring adults. Facilitators and audiences represent a wide and diverse population. Aiming to build further relationships for future community events. I would recommend the applicant share a bit further around the methods that they are taking to establish those meaningful relationships within communities - what steps are they taking?

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

Negative Space Gallery's proposed 2025 project has a vast outreach to individuals and families who may have barriers to involvement in the arts. This project offers fair pay to artist instructors as well as paid internships. The Artist Within Us allows everyone to experience creative expression for projects from start to finish in one session. The goal is to offer high-quality art instruction to a broader audience. I would love to hear participants' personal experiences to understand how this program affects their lives and love of the arts.

The workshops aims to offer fair pay to artist instructors and add paid internships for student assistants. I would love to learn more about the post-event evaluation - how are they determining if a workshop or series as a whole was successful? Are they considering methods of feedback from participants?

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Their entire team seems committed to this project - for additional clarity, it would be helpful to understand how large your staff is and how many people you anticipate at each event.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization: New Avenues to Independence**

**Project Title: Integrating Individuals with Disabilities and the Community Through Music**

**Panelists: Noah Dixon, June Kim, Dana Manyothane, Alicia Olivio, Laura Weiss**

**Score: Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.**

**2025 Grant Amount: \$3,190**

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

A truly meaningful project. Meets all three funding criteria.

This section would have been strengthened by recognizing the most progressive identity language for Disabled adults as recommended by Disabled activists. Additionally, the applicant could have given more detail on how members of the general public would receive outreach, whether via social media, community partnerships, etc.

The Integrating Individuals with Disabilities and the Community Through Music program proposes two free musical performances. This organization is dedicated to performing arts for adults with developmental disabilities, offering a sense of belonging and dignity to the participants who reside in one of 10 homes. The community has an opportunity to connect with the performers through public performances. I love that the performers receive public recognition for their dedication and hard work. The audience also takes away something: expanded awareness of the talent of individuals with disabilities.

Funding would support two public musical performances intended to showcase the creativity of the individuals with disabilities that the organization serves. Events are free to attend, eliminating financial barriers. The events have significant impact on two distinct communities - those participating in the performance themselves (who are adults with developmental disabilities) and those who attend the performances. This experience brings these two communities together for a shared experience, creating a positive and inclusive atmosphere that will impact everyone there.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

A full-time Music Therapist is involved with the project, supported by interns. The project includes a choir and ensemble groups. Overall, this is a strong example of how an artistic project can make the public challenge often preconceived notions about individuals with disabilities.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

This application demonstrates New Avenues to Independence, Inc to be an organization that has a long history of successful events and collaborations in the community. Their plan for "Integrating Individuals with Disabilities and the Community Through Music" is clear and detailed and based on this application I am sure it will be a successful program.

Music Therapy Program Director is the lead on this.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** No Exit

**Project Title:** From Cleveland to Europe: No Exit Presents New Works by The Collective

**Panelists:** Rem Cabrera, Karla Centeno, Maria Lafelice, Lisa Much, Elena Velasco

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

Their efforts to make experimental music approachable and their commitment to ongoing audience growth demonstrates a connection with their community; however, engagement strategies can go further.

The organization is hosting their performances in established venues that are accessible to a wide number of people. The public benefit of the project would be more clear if there was more description about audience engagement and the ways in which the organization markets to new audiences. The project's public benefit aspects might be increased with an advisory board or community partnerships.

Appreciate the added details and impact of the social media expert which helped expand and diversify the audience in 2023 with room to grow.

Specific events with past audience demographics are shared.

Collaborations with venues like the Cleveland Museum of Art are great ways to outreach to new audiences.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Free does not mean relevant or engaging. More information on how the music and program engage participants (ex. the content) would have made this response stronger.

The project includes a number of established musicians and composers, who will be paid for their time and expertise. This portion of the application would be stronger if more details related to the background of the artists was included.

The interactive components indicated through the supporting docs adds to artistic vibrancy.



## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

The continued evolution of chamber music is outlined here.

The program book attached as one of the supplemental materials is an excellent way to expand understanding of the group and its impact for outsiders. The bios of the artists went a long way in demonstrating the expertise and background. The overall sense is of a dynamic group that is passionate about the work they do.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Strong organizational capacity.

The talent capacity of the project is clearly described in the application, and the organization has had past success. And the organization plans to receive funding from a variety of sources.

Applicant provides what they will measure for success, but not how. Applicant demonstrates capacity as a staff.

Specifically identified project team members and key staff are clearly designated.

This stood out: "The ensemble was excited by the larger and more diverse crowds (age and POC) for their multi-media concert season titled Surreality in 2023-2024. This was the first time No Exit utilized an Instagram campaign and conducted ad campaigns in local publications, with good results. (Reviews were great too!)" Use of vibrant voice in the narrative. Surviving 14 years is testament to their stability and ability to grow.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** North Union Farmers Market

**Project Title:** Music at the Market

**Panelists:** Noah Dixon, June Kim, Dana Manyothane, Alicia Olivio, Laura Weiss

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

The proposed Music at the Market has a far reach with an expected 535,000 total participants throughout the project. The concerts will primarily use local artists to gain exposure and will be marketed through various media and word of mouth. With five markets operating in the city and at least 5,000 people attending the markets, there is an apparent public benefit to experiencing performing art to a diverse audience. The acceptance of food assistance programs such as SNAP and WIC to serve some of the most vulnerable of the community opens up participation to a broader swath of residents in the Cleveland area. "Everyone can enjoy music while shopping."

Great breakdown of the community served! This section could have been strengthened by further detailing how feedback to enhance inclusivity efforts is gathered.

The Music at the Market project focuses on live music at local Farmers Markets. The concerts are free and occur in the middle of the market. Mentions that they actively hire performers with various backgrounds and partner with local cultural organizations to reach underserved groups - I would love to see an example of this for additional clarity on your work. This environment is certainly a busy one that is inclusive and welcoming to anyone who wants to attend the market. It also might be an unexpected place to experience music and art, which I think is a positive outcome. I would like to know more about how the musicians are featured, and are not simply "background noise" in the market itself. Do the selected artists have impact on who attends the market that day? (i.e. if you really like Polka music, do you come on that one day to experience the market?)

A great way to highlight and compensate a diverse roster of local musicians. Meets all three funding criteria.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

Music at the Market seems like a wonderful plan to bring more culture and diversity to the North Union farmer's markets.

The performers include a wide range of genres. All musicians are paid. It is mentioned that musicians are selected by a committee - I'd like to know more about this process? Is there criteria for who is selected?

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

This section could have been stronger if there were more information around timelines for both the individual market events and the overall proposed project timeline. Additionally, I would have liked to have seen specific target numbers for attendance, social media engagement, performers, etc., to have a clearer understanding of the intended impact on the public.

How many musicians total do you anticipate hiring for the duration of the Market season?

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** Northeast Ohio Marathi Mandal

**Project Title:** Hosting Regional Marathi Convention

**Panelists:** Brad Carlin, Lenore Herbst, Sara Little, Alexandra Opsahl, Ami Scherson

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The brief outlines the project requirements without delving into the intricacies of programming details.

Evidence of public benefit is fair. The applicant clearly demonstrated deep knowledge of their community, and the diversity within it. but a lack of detail about the fees required to engage, and the ways the project would be promoted and communicated to the community prevent the application from having strong evidence of public benefit.

The grant emphasizes the importance of public benefit. For this reason, it would be helpful to be provided with the membership size of Marathi Mandal of Northeast Ohion, to help inform the understanding of the size of the local community that this directly benefits. It would also be helpful to include the goal for local participation in the conference.

The program is open to the public, the the key population are people who speak or are interested in Marathi language

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

Marathi culture is likely lesser known in the community so bringing these cultural traditions to light is a benefit to artistic vibrancy. The project also serves to strengthen and bring together the people within the Marathi community.

Clear cultural programming and broad range for children and families.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Strong evidence qualified team, and of clear goals and measuring success for the project.

The organization is clear about their mission and vision, and addresses the broad range of their work through staffing capacity. Budget indicates thorough planning.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** Northeast Ohio Musical Heritage Association

**Project Title:** Lake Erie Folk Fest 2025

**Panelists:** Rem Cabrera, Karla Centeno, Maria Lafelice, Lisa Much, Elena Velasco

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

There is evidence of strong public benefit.

The project includes multiple opportunities for a variety of audiences to engage with folk music, including many free opportunities. The organization has established partnerships to increase the public benefit of the project.

Applicant has expanded its reach through intentionally being inclusive through location and marketing which is great.

Information provided demonstrates broad reaching benefit for the community.

"Area's largest gathering of traditional music makers" speaks to the public benefit produced by the group. Employing/paying for 75 artists per year is another indication of public benefits. The musical events go beyond entertainment into education & awareness of different cultures and musical traditions.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

The organization has created a dynamic program that offers different audience groups opportunities to engage.

The project includes a range of musicians and experiences in a variety of formats for audiences to enjoy. The artistic & cultural vibrancy would be more clear if more details were provided about the performers and instructors recruited for the project.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

Producing an array of traditional musical forms (drumming, Tuvan throat singing, Eastern European dance tunes and Appalachian ballads) provides the public with a kind of living museum of different forms of musical expression from around the world.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

There is evidence of strong organizational capacity.

The organization seems to have the necessary resources to plan and implement the project. The organizational capacity would be more clear if in-kind (i.e. volunteer time) donations and the time of the ED were included in the budget.

Applicant demonstrates capacity through a dedicated network of partners and volunteers. It would be helpful to see if there is a difference between volunteers and organizational staff. That said, it does appear to have enough support for the project.

Strong partnerships! Evidence of growth is a sign of sound management, both in terms of programming and staff/board. Free daytime events, ticketed evening performances. To their credit, the group has taken advantage of the 1000 characters allowed in the responses to illustrate a broad picture of the event; very beneficial for outsiders.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** OCA Cleveland

**Project Title:** Cleveland Asian Festival Performances 2025

**Panelists:** Rem Cabrera, Karla Centeno, Maria Lafelice, Lisa Much, Elena Velasco

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

More information about how they will engage with their audiences, such as what strategies they will employ, would have strengthened this answer.

The application demonstrates strong community connections and partnerships to ensure the project is available to a broad audience.

Applicant lists many organizations representing many different communities to create a diverse event that can engage many communities.

The stakeholders and collaborators listed demonstrate both a wide reaching and a defined demographic who benefit from this project through its preservation and celebration of breadth of Asian American cultures.

Organizational purpose: to serve the continually growing Asian Pacific American community of Northeast Ohio. Promotes cultural heritage of all Americans of Asian Pacific Islander descent. More than 40 years history.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

The organization integrates community members and volunteers into the planning and implementation of this project. The project showcases a variety of culturally vibrant performances; the support materials and weblinks are helpful in demonstrating the vibrancy. The organization intends to use funds from the grant to provide stipends to performance groups. However based on the number of performance groups listed and the expense line for "art & culture professionals" it is not clear that the performers are being paid fairly for their time and expertise.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

The event embodies the definition of vibrancy through the range of diverse Asian-American artistic disciplines shared in past events.

Produces the annual Cleveland Asian Festival with live cultural performances just before the Memorial Day weekend. A total of 16 hours of performance during both days with two outdoor stages celebrates the range of pan-Asian cultures in the region.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

A strong team to organize and execute the event.

The organization seems to have all the necessary resources to implement the project, including community support. The budget would be more holistic if it also included in-kind support (i.e., volunteer time).

Applicant explains the process of measuring success well through surveying onsite and after. Additionally, the decades of experience within the executive committee demonstrate capacity. Clear responsibilities for specific committee members are noted. While this does not specify the number of event workers (compensated or volunteer) are needed, the co-producers of the festivals have the recruitment of that support noted in the job overview description. It seems as though they have a strong sense of the delegation and event execution.

A volunteer community takes a year to plan and execute the Festival. Planning Committee members come from an impressive range of cultural and citizen groups in Cleveland. Planning for future events is helped with feedback from surveys collected after the event. Co-producers have more than 15 years executing the Festival.



## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Ohio Selfie World Foundation

**Project Title:** "Selfie Stories: Capturing Community Through Art"

**Panelists:** Brad Carlin, Lenore Herbst, Sara Little, Alexandra Opsahl, Ami Scherson

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

Strong evidence of a widely accessible program including the use of multi-lingual marketing materials.

Strong evidence is provided that the applicant is striving for inclusivity and efforts to engage diverse populations in the project through their marketing, the use of advisory boards and volunteer training. As stated by the applicant, these efforts will go a long way towards creating an inclusive and "community-driven" outcome.

Great descriptive goal and objective plan.

This application would benefit from a basic description of what happens in a workshop. There could also be a bit more specificity in 'Define your community'.

The project clearly demonstrates the populations and individuals they would like to serve both as participants as well as patrons. All programming is accessible, as it is free to the public.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

Strong evidence of engaging qualified professional artists to lead workshops and administer the program, including training in cultural sensitivity and inclusivity.

The project ensures all artists will be paid for their work and has specific steps to reach a broad audience. Would like to learn more about the specific artistry of this project

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Very commendable plan for measuring success.  
Income sources should ideally be more specific than 'other'.

Organization is clear about the individuals working on this project and how success will be measured to best influence future planning.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Pakistani Cultural Garden

**Project Title:** Pakistani Cultural Garden One World Day 2024

**Panelists:** Noah Dixon, June Kim, Dana Manyothane, Alicia Olivio, Laura Weiss

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

I really appreciated the detailing of the various groups that volunteers and participants for this event will be coming from! I was curious about learning more about the diverse cultures showcased in One World Day besides The Pakistani Garden. This section could have been strengthened by detailing how the applicant organization listens to the community, whether through word-of-mouth feedback from the community regarding past events, or from surveys shared on social media.

Event is free and taking place in a public park. The event will include drummers in the community offering lessons on playing the Dhol, a traditional Pakistani drum. The event will also include traditional music, poetry, and classical folk tales. The event is centered in showcasing the diverse cultures of the area. The organization shares that new ideas from their advisory board has led to a more open process for volunteers. There appears to be partnerships with schools, literary organizations, and other artists.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

I was moved by the Pakistani Cultural Garden's mission statement and plan for their One World Day event. They provide details for an engaging event

This applicant did a fantastic job of showing how they will be creating cross-disciplinary works led by skilled local artists, bridging cultural storytelling and accessible theatre performance.

There seems to be a lot of interactive elements of this event, including the drumming, music, stroytelling and more. I'm a bit confused on the overall structure of the event - what is the flow? What is the focus? How many performers are involved? What is the role of the "professional artist" who is also serving as an instructor? I trust that the organization has a clear plan (with 6 years of experience with One World Day), but I would recommend elaborating a bit further here to really illustrate what is happening on the day of the event.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

I would have liked to hear more about who their audiences are and what their outreach strategy is. Further, I am curious about who they hire as the artist instructors, what that selection process is like, and whether the organization prioritizes fair compensation of their artists, instructors, and musicians.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

One World Day is a significant event in Cleveland. The Pakistani Cultural Gardens has been a part of One World Day, produced by The Cleveland Cultural Gardens, for six years. The budget for the programming is reasonable, and there is no concern that the program's execution will be successful. The Pakistani Cultural Garden has gained talented people from the community who contribute to the project. They can garner in-kind donations that augment monetary income to help maximize limited resources.

The timeline of the project could have been clearer, although the steps taken to implement the project seem solid.

The application doesn't clearly share the makeup of the team who will execute the project. I would recommend sharing more specifically who is in charge of various elements. With 6 years of experience, it seems like they likely have a clear idea of how things will run, but as an outsider, it would be helpful to understand who is in charge of what.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Parma Symphony Orchestra

**Project Title:** Guest Artists to Perform with the Parma Symphony Orchestra

**Panelists:** Brad Carlin, Lenore Herbst, Sara Little, Alexandra Opsahl, Ami Scherson

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

The evidence of public benefit to the volunteer musicians from working with visiting professional artists is strong, but the benefit to the wider community is weak. What specific added value would the guest artists bring to school children?

You are excelling in curating a diverse and engaging concert season while effectively reaching out to a broad audience, including all schools in the greater Parma area, to ensure inclusivity and appeal across various communities.

There is a wonderful amount of detail included in this grant application. There could however be more detail about the repertoire performed, and ways in which the orchestra connects with the local community. The application could perhaps include what challenges or successes the orchestra has had in bringing in audiences from local schools.

Parma Symphony has accessible ticketing, while also partnering with local educational institutions such as high schools and colleges.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

The evidence of Artistic and Cultural Vibrancy is weak. The applicant does not mention why the guest artists were chosen/invited or why an emphasis on returning guest artists rather than creating opportunities for the orchestra to work with new/different artists. No information given about how the community was engaged or participated in how the programming is being selected. Generic language that guest artists will come from diverse backgrounds is not strong evidence of CAC's value of belonging.

The applicant could have provided stronger evidence of how the guest artists (and chosen works) will contribute to the vibrancy of the orchestra and greater community. Details on what has been done in the past or what is planned so far (even if not confirmed) would have been helpful.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

Would be interested in learning about specific programming for the season, but intention of soloists and working with local musicians is there.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Evidence of organizational capacity, as given by experienced leadership and reasonable financial plans was fair. Application lacking detailed and specific goals

Core team working on programming serves the community well (including orchestral members and patrons). A nice intention to match CAC grant through individual donation

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Reaching Heights

**Project Title:** Summer Music Camp

**Panelists:** Noah Dixon, June Kim, Dana Manyothane, Alicia Olivio, Laura Weiss

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

This section could have been stronger if the applicant had addressed how they would be inclusive and engage diverse populations; I considered the CU-UH socioeconomic demographic to not be enough context. What are the backgrounds of the students vs. the professional musicians? Are these students given transportation to be guaranteed participation? And so on.

Reaching Heights Summer Music Camp is a week-long music immersion experience for up to 100 youth musicians ranging in age from 10-15 years old. The organization is taking steps to make this program entirely free (traditionally has been fee-based). This step removes financial barriers and increases accessibility. The camp serves not only the students, but also serves as a learning opportunity for the counselors, who receive mentoring and performance opportunities. The applications notes that the community it serves is largely economically disadvantaged.

Wonderful opportunity for students to keep up their music during the summer. Curious what their tuition fee/average scholarships are, but applaud their goal to making the program tuition-free. Meets all three funding criteria.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

The applications shares that the camp is something of a safe space for students. I would love to know more about the repertoire that the students study in their time at the camp. How might the camp consider non-Eurocentric composers and repertoire in this setting?

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Reaching Height's application provides a detailed history of their organization and plan for their Summer Music Camp which gives me confidence that it will be a successful event that will positively impact the participants of the camp.

Reaching Heights is staffed by professional music staff. This program allows high school volunteers to grow team skills and serve as role models during extracurricular activities. The grant proposal needs more specific details on measuring success for the Reaching Heights project and the statistical data collected for DEI goals. Setting SMARTIE goals would be an excellent start to developing how to structure goals for the program other than the week-long camp culminating in recitals and a concert. The income budget is ambitious if getting individual donations, but it is achievable if a robust donor base exists. There is a focus on diversifying funding sources. Clear organizational structure.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Restore Cleveland Hope Inc.

**Project Title:** Follow the North Star

**Panelists:** Rem Cabrera, Karla Centeno, Maria Lafelice, Lisa Much, Elena Velasco

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

More specifics on their community (i.e. demographics) would have been good to include.

Applicant defines its community, though some of them are tourists. They seek to increase inclusion through a variety of marketing means.

The project's public benefit would be better demonstrated if the application included a more detailed definition of the organization's community. The application describes a few partnerships that support marketing of the event to wide audiences, but would benefit from more information on how the project is inclusive and engages the audiences.

The project is open to the public and receives visibility through various platforms, including the National Park Service. Its reach and service is vast.

That the house was saved from demolition and transformed into a learning center is an impressive achievement in itself. The website provides teaching resources and other worthwhile reasons to visit. Keeping this history and these stories alive are critical. These factors reflect their organizational capacity. No question that the organization provides vital public benefit.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

More information on how the project is relevant and engaging to their audience would strengthen this response. For example, how are fresh presentations developed? What is the content?

The application describes a variety of past programming that indicates cultural vibrancy. The application would benefit from a more clear description of the project rather than the general operations of the organization.



## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

Specific examples of past artistic programming and engaged practitioners demonstrate vision. It is noted they are seeking to collaborate with new artists, who are yet to be named.

The entire purpose of this building is about preserving and respecting history.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

There is evidence of strong organizational capacity.

The organization has a roster of qualified individuals supporting the work, and funding from a variety of sources. In reviewing the budget, it seems that the amount of support (minus pending CAC grant) exceeds the expected expenses of the project.

Staff credentials and total number of staff seem appropriate to the size of the venue and purpose. Tracking of numbers of participants is mentioned. Additional support materials demonstrates ability to conduct project.

There's an extensive team supporting this endeavor. Note: Budget expenses are smaller than revenue by about \$9,000.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** RhythmiCLE Sound Tap Company

**Project Title:** RhythmiCLE Sound Tap Festival (RSTF)

**Panelists:** Rem Cabrera, Karla Centeno, Maria Lafelice, Lisa Much, Elena Velasco

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The organization has thoughtfully addressed elements that will provide public benefit. The answers are also very clear and easy to follow.

Applicant clearly defines the community through multiple lenses, which is interesting and thorough. The methods (offering free classes, collecting shoes, etc.) help ensure access to the public.

This strongly serves its current community and has the capacity to grow its community.

The organization plans to host a series of activities including some open to the public and one at no cost to county residents. However the application does not indicate how the programs and scholarship opportunities will be marketed widely.

Public benefit and artistic/cultural vibrancy are two sides of the same coin. Preservation, passing on traditions, teaching history---all are definite benefits.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

A very thoughtful response that addresses the criteria.

The project strongly identifies the art form both for the preservation of the art itself and as a vehicle for embodied remembrance of its development in the Black arts community. Ensuring that the proper credit for the roots of this dance form through its practice is strategic and the project is well conceived.

The application describes how the organization seeks to fill a gap in arts programming in the area. The project's artistic & cultural vibrancy would be more clear if the application included information about the background of the instructors. Additionally it would be beneficial to include how the activities are responsive to the needs/interests of the participants.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

Tap dancing is dazzling when done with expertise and finesse. Consider the Nicholas Brothers! It's a distinctive art form that should be preserved. Teaching a new generation of dancers to appreciate tap is a wonderful goal.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

There is strong evidence of organizational capacity.

\$12,500 is listed as the budget, but the actual budget seems to be \$12,300. This is not a problem, just a note.

It seems that the director has colleagues to turn to for advice and mentoring, and will be able to join for the program itself. The planning will be supported through the volunteer network. It seems this is a bridge stage for growth for the organization.

The organization has assembled a team of volunteers and mentors to support the project. The budget seems to be missing some key details that would better demonstrate the organizational capacity, specifically in-kind donations, marketing expenses, scholarships, etc. And the organizational capacity would be more clear if the goals were more specific and followed the SMARTIE format.

The cost of producing this project is \$12,300, rather than the \$12,500 noted in the application. Revenues either come to \$7,500 or we can assume that the total is \$5,000 from Kaulig Giving, \$2,500 from Key Bank and \$5,000 from CAC, totaling \$12,500. It took some effort to understand how the project is structured. Two large dance studios will be used presumably for lessons over three days. A live tap & jazz music jam will take place at a local coffee shop or venue (how many audience members can fit into a typical coffee shop? How many musicians will take up space?) But there's also a potential partnership with a venue with two other groups. A full length show will be at the Breen Center: featuring RhythmiCLE Sound, master teachers and attendees---does that mean students from the previous three days (three days of classes aren't enough to turn out tap dancers, are they?) or audience members? Assume scholarships, while laudable, will reduce potential revenue. Are there enough tap dancers in town who can loan enough shoes of appropriate sizes to meet the demand? How many artists will be hired---the three mentioned (Barrett, Arnold, Caston)? Artists traveling to participate will have to pay for their own travel, right? Can all of this be covered by the \$12K+ budget? Is this the first Festival being produced by this group? Do these questions reveal a need to shore up the organization's capacity?

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Roberto Ocasio Foundation

**Project Title:** A Roberto Ocasio Foundation Latin Jazz Intensive

**Panelists:** Noah Dixon, June Kim, Dana Manyothane, Alicia Olivio, Laura Weiss

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

A compelling project teaching latin jazz to high school students, and an opportunity for other young musicians to come together. Meets all three funding criteria.

Great breakdown of the community's demographics, as well as geography. This section would have been stronger if there was more attention dedicated to the more public aspect of this programming, which would be the concert.

The proposal focuses on a Latin Jazz intensive for high school students from diverse backgrounds. Expect 350 to participate. Free to member's of the hosting school's band. The event is in celebration of the Foundation's 20th anniversary. Wide community - says they serve "all of Northeast Ohio." Aims to engage the community through a free concert. I would like to know more about HOW they will engage with individuals - how are you welcoming individuals into this event? It seems that the host school will be the primary focus and their students would receive the most benefit - how do you decide which school will be host? Is there criteria other than spacious music room and performance space? Overall, there seems to be strong benefit to the students to gain experience with Latin music and style.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

The "Roberto Ocasio Foundation Latin Jazz Intensive" is a public concert dedicated to the historical and performing aspects of Latin-jazz music. The event seems like a wonderful opportunity for artists and community members to engage with rich cultural traditions which the Roberto Ocasio Foundation plans to provide.

How can one not address the artistic and cultural vibrancy of this proposal? The engagement of area high school students from diverse ethnic and neighborhoods to learn and perform Latin music, especially Latin jazz. "Latin jazz is a rare offering, so we are unique to teach it." Bobby Sanabria, 9x

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

Grammy-nominated drummer/percussionist, composer, and arranger as the lead for the Roberto Ocasio Foundation Latin Jazz Intensive, is impressive. This proposal is well written to emphasize the artistic value and connection to the jazz form and what it brings to the community and students for all aspects of the intensive leading up to the concert. (Next time, include a video as part of your supplemental information; I had to go digging :-)

Wide range of sessions focusing on Latin-American rhythms and style. The program offers exposure and access to Latin music and historical programming that might not be otherwise taught during the school day.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

There is an incredible and skilled team behind this project. I would have appreciated more detail surrounding target numbers for measuring success.

How many musicians/educators are involved? I think having a sense of this would be helpful to understand the scope of the event. This would also help to give context to the \$4500 budgeted for Arts Professionals. The "Other" in the Expenses line is fairly high comparatively - what does this include?

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Rollin' Buckeye

**Project Title:** Creative Skate

**Panelists:** Brad Carlin, Lenore Herbst, Sara Little, Alexandra Opsahl, Ami Scherson

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

Fair evidence is given for the public benefit from this project. The program is widely accessible, and the applicant demonstrated knowledge of a diverse community, however the proposal lacks detail on how they will engage this community in the project through marketing and promotion of the event.

This program provides a wonderful benefit to the students involved but also to the wider community who can participate by watching and learning from the students final production.

Very clear and well thought out collaborations.

This sounds like a wonderful project that truly serves the community, but when asked to define the community, you did not include any demographic information. Since this project takes place in a specific neighborhood, it would make sense to include this information. Good luck!

I would recommend expanding the scope of this project, as the ideas and plans are strong. They mentioned that their expected participants are thirty people, though increasing the number of people expected would be nice. With enough marketing and reach, 100-150 might be a reachable number

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

This application shows strong evidence of artistic and cultural vibrancy through the fresh programming combining artistic practice and expression with physical fitness, also through the qualified professional artists engaged in the project.

The applicant describes a very unique program centered around roller skating, creating art and promoting exercise, a medium as well as outcomes which are likely not provided elsewhere. It certainly adds something positive and different to the cultural landscape.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

The program includes individuals who are integral to the Cleveland skating community, and also collaborates with artists to create a closer tie between dance, art, and skating.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Strong team with experience, reflecting the understanding of the communities they serve.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** Seat of the Pants

**Project Title:** Ohio Theatrical Premiere of AMERIKIN, a new play about US Race Relations by Chisa Hutchinson

**Panelists:** Brad Carlin, Lenore Herbst, Sara Little, Alexandra Opsahl, Ami Scherson

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

Strong evidence of engaging specific communities with a deep knowledge of their potential barriers to the art. Strong evidence of fostering inclusion and belonging through multi-lingual performances, talkbacks, and partnerships with culturally specific community orgs.

Great recognition of audience.

Your organization's productions clearly benefit the public. Ticketing prices are kept affordable, and a collaborative spirit shows a thoughtful approach to broad community engagement.

The organization is clear about the organizations they hope to target based on the subject matter, but would be interested in learning about plans of engagement as well as specific populations of their artistic community/affinity.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

Strong evidence of working with diverse artists and the Ohio premiere of the play is seen as evidence of fresh programming.

The applicant has a clear commitment to new work that challenges existing stereotypes and behaviors while also utilizing the community and organizations around them to create lasting impacts through their projects.

Imaginative and resourceful processes.

Though the subject matter of the play is clear, would like to learn more about the specific direction to showcase the performance alongside what they have explained as their process driven model.



## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Applicant describes high-level artists and administrators participating as well as clearly defined goals and measurements for the project.

Would like more information about who their core team is that is leading this project.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Slavic Village Development

**Project Title:** Rooms To Let: CLE 2025

**Panelists:** Noah Dixon, June Kim, Dana Manyothane, Alicia Olivio, Laura Weiss

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

Very thoughtful and inclusive project that encourages neighborhood residents to be engaged in the place they live. Meets all three funding criteria.

Rooms to Let concept is novel in its approach to bringing art experience to the Broadway-Slavic Village neighborhood. The diversity intentionality of race and geography in selecting artists who will participate in Rooms To Let adds to the benefit of the project. It is a free project for all ages in vacant commercial spaces and open land, addressing barriers that may inhibit participation. Artists involved are from or work in the neighborhood. This project seeks to include residents and business owners in a manner that helps build the project every year. The committee model for artist selection allows ownership and builds trust in the project execution. It's a solid concept. Noted is the slow traction on social media for this event (based on likes and shares only); how can Slavic Village Development market this unique event better?

This section could have been strengthened by further defining what "racially diverse" means in the context of this community. The mentioned strategies to connect with the community are unique, although I was still curious about what "race and geography" meant.

Utilizes vacant spaces to build community through art. Rooms to Let is free to the public. The project has direct public benefit by activating vacant land, using art as a community-building tool. The project is committed to artists who specifically live and work within the neighborhood it serves. The project strongly emphasizes community partnerships. It would be very helpful for the reader to see some examples of these partnerships for additional clarity.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

I love the proposal that is presented in this application. The Slavic Village Development plan for their "Rooms To Let: CLE 2025" seems like an awesome opportunity for artists and participants engage in their community in an impactful way.

Like the previous section, this answer could have been strengthened by giving specifics around what diversity means, as well as how they are measuring artists' readiness, freedom of expression, and other qualities. I appreciate this request being specifically for artist stipends!

The project is very clearly thought out and organized. For an outsider though, it would be helpful to have a more specific example of the artistic nature of the project. I'm not entirely clear on the product. There are tons of collaborations happening between artists and neighborhood - but what does it result in? I trust it is something artistically vibrant and I respect the noted freedom of expression too (so the product might not be known yet!), but it would be helpful to have more details. The attached flyer shows someone at a keyboard - so this completely changed by perception of what I thought the project was. Overall, I recommend that this project is supported but the application would be stronger with some clear examples perhaps from past events.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Goals and metrics are clearly stated.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** SOS: Strengthening Our Students

**Project Title:** SOS Afterschool Program

**Panelists:** Heather Beffa, LaShawnda Crowe Storm, Susan Roll, Emily Sollenberger, Anna Tragesser

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

SOS seems to be an important initiative for this community, and the team seems to be exploring the best ways to execute the program. Thank you for a thoughtful and multifaceted explanation of your community. It's not clear what age groups will be engaged. It was difficult to understand what art activities would be offered, and what the students would get out of the experience.

Exposing children to the arts is always important and I like that you are approaching the work from a STEAM format to help students increase their reading and math skills.

The applicant showed they understood the needs of their community by recognizing and engaging a partner with the resources to up-level their services to their community. They also showed sensitivity to the impact of changing (or is it adding?) locations (transportation).

It's clear that this organization is impacting youth in the community by providing great programming. To strengthen the application, I'd recommend the organization provide more specifics about the arts-based programming they plan to offer. It is mentioned generally, and in the project budget there's line items for Art and Music instructors, however unclear what exactly they'll be teaching the students.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

The application is vague about what art activities will be involved aside from an effort to be doing STEAM programming. However, the samples show making clay sculptures with hands and a field trip to MOCA, both of which are very positive.

Professor Weisblat will identify the creative art projects that will support students' specific needs. It would have been helpful to understand more about potential activities, artistic skills, or artistic perspectives that Prof. Weisblat has implemented in the past. It also would have been helpful to hear

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

more about their overall artistic experience and qualifications. Overall, this proposal lacks a focus on artistic vibrancy. There is great potential in arts integration, but this program doesn't utilize a professional artist, and it's unclear how past arts partners (EEP Art Museum and Studio) will be involved in the tutoring program.

I would have liked to see more examples of how you are using STEAM in your work for the students. I like that you are paying for art and music instruction, but am curious about how much of this is actually incorporated into the curriculum overall.

The program pulls from several capable/qualified organizations and institutions. More information about the arts curriculum would add more light on the project.

Clear they have had success with partners and helping with the arts-based programming, but it's unclear if the examples mentioned have already occurred, or if this is part of the plan ahead? More clarity here about specifics for the current project would be helpful.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

The team listed seems to be providing a safe experience for students. It would have been helpful to see an arts perspective represented on the team. It would have been helpful to read more about what "Art and Music Instruction" entails. Who is instructing? How much time are they contributing? What materials will be needed? It would have been helpful to understand how fundraising for the remaining \$10k is expected to go. Who will be solicited? Have you been successful with this campaign in past years?

I like that you adapted your program in looked for other opportunities to deepen your work when working under the Boys and Girls Club did not meet your needs as an organization. It seems you have strong community partnerships, which will lend to the overall stability of the program.

The supporting documents and links validate that this program has been operating for some time. The team listed is qualified and experienced. Adding data on participation levels would strengthen this application.

Clearly have capacity to run programs, and dedicated partners in the work; but with more details around the plan for the arts programming the application will become more clear and relevant.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Spread the Love Foundation

**Project Title:** You Must Learn: A Discussion About Cleveland's Hip-Hop Cultural History

**Panelists:** Heather Beffa, LaShawnda Crowe Storm, Susan Roll, Emily Sollenberger, Anna Tragesser

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

I like that you are intentionally working within the juvenile justice system through your i2i music industry workforce development program. These youth are often overlooked and forgotten, but your program offers an opportunity for the youth to think about life beyond incarceration.

The applicant showed a strong connection with their hip-hop interested community and a value for Cleveland's hip-hop cultural history.

Clear public benefit and project description provided. To strengthen further, it would be nice to know more about any intended outreach or promotional efforts to specific partners or communities to ensure you're reaching your intended audiences more directly.

Have you offered YML in the past? Do you believe 500 might show up, or is this a number that's informed by past attendance? Although it's great to hear that the event is open to all, it would be more helpful to learn about who actually shows up to these events. Without a clear pulse on who is showing up, we don't know how to intentionally be inclusive to folks who aren't in the room.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Excellent plan for sharing hip hop cultural history, because it is multifaceted, with several art forms and so many voices.

Really appreciated the support materials as it gave me a feel for the type of work STLFF does overall. As such, I do hope there will be opportunity for intergenerational dialogue around this topic within the speaker cohort.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

The applicant has shown a variety of ways they will use to create an engaging and relevant project. The supporting documents further illustrated the project vibrancy.

Sounds great -- might be helpful to have a short list or examples of folks/disciplines you're thinking about.

The concept sounds like a really cool angle to learn about Cuyahoga County and create more genuine understanding amongst neighbors. It would be helpful to read about panelists you've engaged in the past, and/or folks you intend to invite to speak in the upcoming series. I'm unfamiliar with Cleveland's notable trailblazing legends, and would love to understand if this is a limited number of big names. I'd imagine there are a lot of ways to explore the culture - music, fashion, entrepreneurship, marketing, photography...

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

It is clear that you will be able to execute this program at a high level.

The project has a strong leadership team. Providing past survey results (support materials or just quoting them) and/or mentioning attendance levels would further support the success of the program and the organizational capacity for delivering the project.

Seems like they have the capacity to facilitate this project. It would be helpful to see more specific goals or success metrics you can measure beyond attendance.

Budget seems reasonable.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Stellar Acrobatic Dance Academy

**Project Title:** Qing Palace Etiquette

**Panelists:** Heather Beffa, LaShawnda Crowe Storm, Susan Roll, Emily Sollenberger, Anna Tragesser

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

I like that you are able to provide a window into the diversity of Cuyahoga County, as well as have adapted your work in the past to create more accessibility for the audience (including the narration of the dance movements overlaid into the music), which further breaks down barriers between cultural groups.

Mentioned places you've performed in the past (which is great!) however where do you plan to perform for the upcoming project? Only the Zoo? Or plans to find other venues? How many students will be participating? what ages? How do you plan to promote/invite folks beyond those already engaged with your classes/students/families? Any other partners or communities you'll be reaching out to specifically?

It's clear that the community wants to have Stellar at its events. The Zhang sisters bring a deep, authentic understanding of Chinese culture and dance. I am pleased to see that there is some income from performance fees, and encourage this group to continue to explore charging a fee from community event organizers. Your artistry is valuable, and these organizations want to see your group succeed!

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Funding for a new dance series - crucial experience for the students, to explore the creation of new work in the context of Chinese history.

Given the art form is primarily performance and sound, I would have greatly appreciated a link to video to be able to fully appreciate the work of your organization and students.

The practice of improving audience experiences is an investment in the vibrancy of the project.



## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

It is clear they are trying to have engaging performances and using what they have learned from previous years. More specific examples and what to expect for the upcoming project would be helpful. There is a lot of mention about the costumes and fittings, and it would be nice to know a little more about the cultural importance of those costumes for context.

This is a unique, compelling and genuine artistic perspective. Artists are in leadership positions. There is a movement toward compensating youth for their artistic contributions, to signal that their skills have professional potential. In some cases, even a \$25 gift card for youth participants is acceptable. This application has demonstrated artistic & cultural vibrancy without this consideration; I offer it as a reflection and a potential to grow in the future.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

It is clear that you will be able to execute this program at a high level. Your connection to your sister organizations also provide stability to the endeavor.

This well established program with its eyes on measuring attendance and media attention is capable of delivering an excellent program.

This organization clearly has capacity to take on this project.

The team is highly qualified. Dancers are well cared for. It's clear that this program is continually improving in response to feedback and experiences. I appreciate the consideration about scaling the performances according to funding level, and the negative impact this could have on student opportunities.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Studio Institute

**Project Title:** Art Partners: An intergenerational arts program for Fairhill Partners and CMHA's Griot Village

**Panelists:** Heather Beffa, LaShawnda Crowe Storm, Susan Roll, Emily Sollenberger, Anna Tragesser

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

I think multigenerational programming like this is highly beneficial for the entire community.

I like that your work is not only providing artists with valuable and much needed community-based skills, but also is rooted in an intergenerational praxis. I also like your framework of building space to foster "communities connecting between and among themselves as well." I like that the supporting organizations and partnerships have reach into the community to continue the work after you are gone.

Studio Institute's partnering brings their extensive experience to the Cleveland area and it allows for custom programming, relevant to the area. The element of being a "listening and learning" organization lends power to Studio Institute and their partners ability to provide what the community needs and can benefit from. The testimonials (videos in support materials) offer further support of the public benefit of Studio Institute's programs.

Very clear -- love this project with multigenerational involvement, and training.

Exceptional public benefit. A target audience is described, and it is clear that Studio understands the target community, yet remains curious to truly get to know the individuals involved. This project builds upon an existing partnership, which is one indicator that it's mutually beneficial. The intergenerational focus, outcomes on self-esteem, communication, and belonging underscore this program as a model for arts-based community programming.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

The video really brought to life the work you do. I look forward to seeing what is created with intergenerational families in the community spaces.

There is a clear connection to many arts partners and building/continuing relationships.

There is a proven model for using artistic expression and group activities to bring families closer together. Appreciate the thoughtful criteria used when recruiting artists, the orientation training, and space for artists to develop their own activities/curriculum based on their practice and techniques. The artistic experience seems accessible, in that the activities are designed to make people feel camaraderie and confidence.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

It is clear that you will be execute this program effectively. In fact, I wish you were in my city. Intergenerational work is so vital, but often overlooked. However, I do want to piont out that several times an underlying assumption exists that residents don't know how to treat each other properly. Statements such as " We will also assess our collaboration by surveying our planning team(s) and Artist Instructors to see how the participants have changed their approach to engaging with one another, sharing feedback, and sharing materials." Or, ". . . our goal is to provide families and caregivers with opportunities for shared arts learning and expression and improve their communication." While I assume this is oversight and perhaps you meant to communicate about art, I would like also point out that artists and organizations need people skills just as much as the populations being served.

Studio Institute's experience with art instruction/programming has made a strong case for their ability to deliver a successful program.

This organization demonstrates they have clear capacity.

Studio Board and its programs have a track record of producing responsive experiences. Not only has the organization provided the structure of the program, but it has demonstrated strong partnership with room for more voices.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Suburban Symphony Orchestra

**Project Title:** Free community family concert

**Panelists:** Rem Cabrera, Karla Centeno, Maria Lafelice, Lisa Much, Elena Velasco

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

The organization knows their audience well and thoughtfully engages them. There is a lot of evidence that they are making an effort to be inclusive-- diversity of artists & participants, programmatic experiences, partnerships-- while creating meaningful exchanges for their community.

The project is multifaceted and includes involvement by youth, and direct engagement with the performing artists. The project will be hosted in an accessible location, and the project is promoted to a broad audience.

Applicant has many creative methods to increase its audience to engage diverse populations that seem to be working.

Provides free symphonic concerts free of charge. Cultivates local talent. Proposes a free concert at a high school, which generally attracts a range of ages. Orchestra members are diverse in age, professions, and neighborhoods. (First application to reference ADA accessibility?)

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Interdisciplinary approach and community-driven sourcing are good methods for creating a relevant and engaging project.

The project is relevant and engaging for the intended audiences.

The instrument petting zoo is such a fun idea that can connect to kids in a creative way!

These free concerts are strategically organized and opened the public, ensuring there is no barrier to artistic access. The concerts reflect input from the community.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

Seventy year old organization. Presents a season of five concerts, with an emphasis on young soloists and with local partnerships, including a school which will involve its entire 200-student community. Students at the high school are 50% from historically excluded communities and 10% low-income. One concert per season is dedicated engaging with local communities. Local K-8 students to develop artwork to project above orchestra during the performance.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

There is evidence of strong organizational capacity.

The application outlines a clear timeline and goals. The organization has the necessary human and financial resources aligned to implement this project. It may be included in production costs, but the budget does not include a supply line for art making materials.

Applicant uses a very detailed SMARTIE goal.

Though only two named staff members are mentioned, the organization notes that volunteer have been instrumental to successful past events, in part by keeping concerts simplified.

Project timeline is thought out. Two leaders have respected backgrounds. Budget balances.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** Tender Hearts Crusades

**Project Title:** Gospel/Soul Music and History Workshop

**Panelists:** Heather Beffa, LaShawnda Crowe Storm, Susan Roll, Emily Sollenberger, Anna Tragesser

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

I like the concept of connecting the historical context with the contemporary music.

Working with multiple partners lends support to gaining a diversity of participants and growing THC's community.

There is a clear project description, and a good understanding of community and who they'll be reaching out to for intended community impact.

Thank you for the thoughtful description of your community, including motivations and shared experiences. It's great to hear that there are so many pillar organizations with which you hope to partner to promote the opportunity. It would be great to learn if you've already been working with them during this pilot phase, and what you've learned about connecting with the community.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

I believe that this project will support people's sense of connection between the present and the history of African gospel and soul music.

The professionals leading the workshop ensure a relevant and engaging program.

Clearly have experts in the field leading this, which is great.

This is a thoughtfully curated experience on an important aspect of Black and African American culture. The industry professionals that you've planned to include seem like perfect fits for this program. Zo Harris and Dr. Baker's tremendous talent will certainly help attract additional talented perspectives to

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

the project, in 2025 and beyond. I assume that the artist fee is \$1,000 to develop and present the session. I think that is appropriate.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

It is clear that you have the community connections and support to effectively execute the proposed project. I like that you pilot it and then tweak the program moving forward.

The project team is very qualified. The commitment to survey 2024 participants and in 2025 add focus groups is the work of an organization able to provide successful programming over the long term.

There is clear capacity, goals and success metrics.

The project plan seems thorough and realistic. Appreciate the pilot approach, and plan to scale in 2025. I commend your tactical evaluation goals-- there could be many ways to "gamify" the pre and post-workshop surveys to make it feel less like a test and more like part of the engaging learning experience. The budget seems realistic, and I believe the quality and scope of this series will continue to attract more sponsors and donors. I hope the team plans for opportunities to cultivate these kinds of partners! I'm wrestling with the word "Crusades," and hope that the leadership of this organization is, too. The crusades were an oppressive religious campaign for many cultures of the world, and this simply doesn't represent the organization's thoughtful approach to developing the next generation. As we all seek to do good in the world, let's continue examining the history of our words and the connotations they hold today.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** The Gathering Place

**Project Title:** Building coping skill in those touched by cancer through TGP's Expressive Arts Programming

**Panelists:** Rem Cabrera, Karla Centeno, Maria Lafelice, Lisa Much, Elena Velasco

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

More information about the programs offered and why would have made this application stronger. There isn't enough information to understand how art therapy, drumming, and horticultural therapy is meaningful for their audiences.

The project provides expressive art experiences for a specific community, that the organization has the knowledge and expertise to support. The public benefit of the project would increase if there was also a culminating or public events associated with the workshops.

The applicant generally defines the community and how it does outreach.

The mission to serve those affected by cancer, both patient and loved ones, demonstrates a specific and significant public benefit.

Any resource that can be provided to people whose lives have been impacted by cancer is valuable. More support materials, and links, would have been welcomed. Programs are free.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

More information on what the project consist of would have strengthen this response. The answer is too general.

The organization provides compensation to the instructors who represent a diverse skill set. The artistic & cultural vibrancy would be more clear if the application included some description of what art process and techniques are used in the workshops.

The applicant provides multiple examples of how it seeks feedback.



## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

While the organization states directly that they seek input from the community regarding programs needed, as an artistic/cultural grant, sharing the specifics about the project is necessary to understand the disciplines engaged. At one point in the application there is mention of a drumming circle led by social workers and expressive artist therapists, but it is difficult to understand the methodology implemented.

Utilizing art and culture for the purposes of healing speaks to the project's cultural vibrancy. Supporting this application is a test of faith as there's not a lot of detail in the narrative about how the program is structured. How often do these sessions take place? Is there a maximum number allowed per session? Does the focus change weekly, monthly, seasonally (drumming or working with plants or creating art pieces as shown in the photos)?

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

More information on organizational players should have been included.

The application demonstrates that the organization has the necessary resources to plan and implement the project.

Applicant lists project dates as the whole year, which is against the instructions. The applicant states it is part of core programming and thus may be offered year-round. Staffing seem adequate. How many professionals/staff members are working on this project? There is no mention of the length of a session nor the frequency, number of staff assigned to a program in process, and it is difficult to determine the specific criteria.

A large budget and more than 25 years' experience are signs of strong management. The group can certainly produce this project. I was struck by the \$1200 payment for contract staff. Even if that was just for one person, it's a small amount to pay someone. Is it for the horticultural therapist? \$100 a month? Seems like the other people who provide the direct services are members of the staff(?).

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** The Harvard Square Center

**Project Title:** 10th Annual fun day festival & Parade

**Panelists:** Heather Beffa, LaShawnda Crowe Storm, Susan Roll, Emily Sollenberger, Anna Tragesser

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

"It is our chance to celebrate our history and ignite pride among residents." This statement resonates with me; it's so valuable to have regular touchpoints in time to make memories as a neighborhood, and for meaningful events to take place where you live.

The arts are always a bridge builder. I was curious when stated, "Community Members of different cultures participating (walking, dancing, singing, drumline performance) from E131st Corlett Ave to E138th Harvard Ave into Gawron Park." Would have liked to understand some the cultures present.

The applicant provided support of the public benefit of their project. Testimonials (video?) and/or letters of support from residents or partners would further strengthen the public benefit of their project.

There is no doubt that this organization is meeting the needs of the communities mentioned by way of hosting and facilitating this festival. There is mention of arts and music within the application, however, would love to know more specifics.

The vision to inspire pride and celebrate history is wonderful, and connectedness often has a direct impact on individuals wellbeing. It would be helpful to describe your community a little more, so that readers who are unfamiliar with the region can see what you see. For example - a demographic overview, what neighbors do for fun, what they love about the neighborhood, and any consistent needs or requests. It would be helpful to directly answer the question, "How will you connect with your community through this project?" It would be great to learn specifically who is part of the planning committee, how people learn about the event, how they typically participate, and if there are any cross sections of the community who don't typically show up.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

I like that you have a variety of art forms present (martial arts, music, dance troupe and arts & crafts). Would have liked to see just a bit more representation given the performative nature in a small video vs simply the photos.

Estimated attendance over the years would further strengthen the relevance and engagement of the project.

As noted above, there is mention of some arts and cultural activities throughout the application -- and seems like musicians/bands are being paid from what is in the budget (great!); but would like to know more. Consider expanding on the arts-based activities, the bands/musicians being hired to perform, and other important cultural goals that you have for your community to strengthen the application further.

I love the idea that this is a consistent opportunity to uplift talent in these communities. This was mentioned briefly, so I would love to hear more about how local talent is used in the festival. It would have been helpful to learn more about the specific arts experiences that would be offered, and the folks who are leading them. What does the interactive arts display include? Do folks get to participate and create, or do they just collect pamphlets and information about arts in Cleveland? The budget lists DJ entertainment/singers and art & craft/entertainment (martial arts). It would be helpful to describe what participants will actually experience with these creative professionals.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

I like that this is a grassroots endeavor born from the neighborhoods' goals.

The collaboration with so many partners speaks to the ability to deliver a successful project.

Given the partnerships and impact the organization has, it's clear they have the capacity to host the festival

Without much detail about the artistic experiences, it's difficult to assess if the expenses are reasonable.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** The Meeting Place Learning Center

**Project Title:** Read Across America Art Show 2025

**Panelists:** Rem Cabrera, Karla Centeno, Maria Lafelice, Lisa Much, Elena Velasco

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

The organization provides strong evidence of public benefit. They partner with their audience and know them well.

Applicant thoroughly defines their community through neighborhood statistics. Keeping it student led ensures public benefit and artistic vibrancy.

The application demonstrates that the organization has a dedication and deep understanding of the students that they serve. However it's not clear how the program will be marketed widely or how the program will be inclusive and showcased in a physically accessible location.

While there is an implied public benefit, given the number of students the staff dedicated to this program are attempting to reach and the simplicity of the program (which is vague), it is unclear what resources are being used for public good that facilitate what is requested.

"Judy's homework help became so popular that she soon acquired the property next door to her home, expanded into that space and became a non-profit in 2012." Working to increase literacy among children is important work! The organization works in a neighborhood with a significant high rate of poverty. Works with at-risk students at the bottom 10% of their class and who are referred by the school. Free event that involves the children and their families. Connecting reading to creating art is a beneficial exercise for the students. is there any evidence of impact on the student's grades or behavior in school? Recognition from the State of Ohio also speaks to the organization's impact and legitimacy.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Combining literacy and art is a beneficial learning activity for young students. The artistic & cultural vibrancy of the project would be more clear if the application included what books were being used and what type of art would be created. Furthermore there's no indication that the team has any art education expertise and/or an art teacher is being recruited.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

There is mention of students creating a piece of art that responds to a book reading during the read-a-thon, but the process for guiding the artistic creation, the mediums engaged, and how the art show will be structured is unclear.

The YouTube video of the Wonka production showed that the children who participated in this event were invested in it and gave it their all. The partnerships between The Meeting Place, the school, and the venue shows

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

There is evidence of organizational capacity.

Applicant provides many details about the staff capacity helping ensure organizational capacity. Application would be strengthened by including the total expenses of \$15,000.

The application has clear goals identified and planned to survey participants. It's beneficial that there is funding from multiple sources, however the budget would demonstrate more capacity if it included all the related expenses including staff time.

There appears to be enough dedicated and culturally aligned staff members who are able to support this program.

The project budget is \$15,000, but the expenses only add up to \$5,000. It would be helpful to know what the \$10,000 remaining is used for. Staff? Teachers? 15 years of experience and enough of an impact to expand the program is testament to the management capacity of the organization.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Thea Bowman Center

**Project Title:** 2025- Summer Youth Arts and Culture Program

**Panelists:** Heather Beffa, LaShawnda Crowe Storm, Susan Roll, Emily Sollenberger, Anna Tragesser

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

This summer arts program provides access to arts education and field trips for an underserved neighborhood.

I love that you are giving students the opportunity to go on field trips to engage the arts and see what the opportunities are for a creative industry career could look.

This program appears to be very engaging and beneficial for the participants. With the participants being recruited and chosen by a small team (question #11)I would want to hear more about how a diversity of participants will be ensured.

There is a clear connection and partnership in community; and impact to the youth directly in these neighborhoods.

This is such a cool experience for kids! Bravo, TBC. Especially appreciate the opportunities for kids not only to have arts field trips and participate in creative activities, but also to be celebrated by their peers and community through shows, markets and performances. Would love to see this program reach more students in the future. Appreciate that the planning team includes a parent, an artist, and youth input. I'm not familiar with MY/COM and how they fit into this project. Since you've been running a summer program for 20 years, I assume that the outreach methods you've listed have been successful in the past.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

I like that you are exposing the children to a variety of artistic disciplines. I do hope that will you consider offering something unique to the discipline of arts that students don't normally get exposed too (i.e. kinetic, glass blowing, weaving, etc," as well as somewhere in your programming an opportunity to talk with a living breathing artist / studio visit to further the goal to "deepen their appreciation for arts and culture.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

Appreciate that the instructors are being recruited/hired from the community as well. To strengthen, would like to know more specifics about the intended arts-based programming for the year. Will it be all the examples mentioned? Or say, only focusing on a mural for the summer?

It seems like a challenge to create engaging experiences for such a broad age range. The criteria listed for selecting the Arts & Culture team is helpful. It's great to see that a large portion of the expenses have been allocated to arts professionals. It would have been helpful to learn more about how you arrived at this number. Does it include supplies for the arts experiences? The marketing/supplies line might be inclusive of arts supplies, but I'm not sure \$1,000 is enough to do much across marketing and arts supplies.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

It is clear you have a deep connection to your community and a wide network of more than 80+ partners. I was very curious about such a short time period for recruitment and if 30 days is too short.

The plan is clear. Examples of past instructors, past feedback and how it was acted upon, and activities would further illustrate the organizational capacity to deliver a successful program. The commitment gathering feedback supports the ability to continue delivering a successful program in the future.

There is clear capacity as an organization. I appreciate the evaluation and feedback examples mentioned to measure success of the program.

Has TBC offered this Arts & Culture Camp in the past? This could be a big project for the Youth Coordinator - are they responsible for running other programs during the summer, too? The collaborative environment described throughout this application is very inspiring. The mid-project "success" checkpoints are a helpful way to make sure the project stays on track. It would be helpful to understand more about what you hope happens as a result of this experience... for example: All students remain engaged all summer; Students try something new; Students continue using their creative skills after Camp ends... Close to 50% of your income is unsecured "other grants." Since you've been doing summer programs for so long, there must be some partners who continue to fund at some level. Adding detail about anticipated or likely funders would inspire more confidence that these funds will come through.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** Trobár Medieval

**Project Title:** Mothers and Sisters of the Veil

**Panelists:** Heather Beffa, LaShawnda Crowe Storm, Susan Roll, Emily Sollenberger, Anna Tragesser

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

I like that through an centuries old tradition you create space to talk about the lives of women through the lens of art, as well as create opportunity to think about building family through the convent. Many of the underlying ideas are also beneficial and present in contemporary society.

The multiple programs for various levels of engagement helps grow the number of participants and the appeal of the program. The academic rigor of the planners speak to the quality of the program.

Clear connection to a very specific genre, and clearly have a lot of expertise and interest to share this with the community.

Thank you for considering the niche interests of your community. I'm sure this helps you plan for effective marketing strategies, welcoming environments for your guests, and engaging programs. It might also be helpful to describe more of the demographic trends in your audience. Understanding this baseline often helps identify potential opportunities for outreach. Thank you for the thoughtful strategy around ticket fees and access.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

I love that music that was written before recorded music was possible is kept alive in projects like this one.

I like the multi-layered approach and "entry points" into the work for the community members to engage where it meets. Bringing the past to life is always fun and helps us to better understand our contemporary reality.



## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

An engaging blend of art and culture, the Trobar program promotes vibrancy and relevance with expert guest performers (and planners), their commitment to increase survey response, and the 2025 program is a sequel/follow-on to a prior program.

Clear they are offering something that is niche in a way, and a few entry points to how to get involved; and based on the information provided, I get a good understanding of what's going to happen.

Artistic leadership has highly specialized areas of expertise and are clearly capable of approaching this program with thoughtful care of the content. There seems to be plenty of parallels between the beautiful and complex contemporary and medieval worlds, and this content could be really engaging to many segments of the community. Especially given increasing attention to the importance, strength and beauty of the woman's role in our society.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

I have no doubt you will be able to execute this program effectively and bring an ancient art form to life.

The team is highly qualified and the awareness of and intent to increase their low survey response rate shows a capacity to deliver a successful program. Discussing attendance levels over the years would further strengthen this application.

There is clear capacity; and I'm glad to see they are prioritizing artist fees in the budget. Since this program has been produced in the past, I'm confident that the planning and logistics are under control. The budget seems logical. It is nice to hear that you're looking for improved ways to get feedback. I understand that the Trobár's organizational goals are to produce medieval music with storytelling and multimedia presentations, so it is easy to quantify success. If the works are created and presented, you've succeeded. Given that these are public funds, it would be helpful to translate the impact of that success for the public. For example - It seems that some folks in your community find inspiration and comfort in the experience. Could you quantify the number of people in attendance (and therefore inspired)? Would you consider who might be in need of the inspiration and comfort offered through your programs, and invite them to the experience? Appreciate that the applicant has expressed a commitment to inclusion regardless of ability to pay, and encourage them to continue exploring who is missing from the audience and why.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** Ukrainian Cultural Arts Association of Greater Cleveland

**Project Title:** 2025 UCAA/Kashtan Spring Concert

**Panelists:** Brad Carlin, Lenore Herbst, Sara Little, Alexandra Opsahl, Ami Scherson

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

Strong evidence of a deep knowledge of the Ukrainian communities of Cuyahoga County with affordable ticket prices, multilingual outreach, and partnerships with other organizations serving the same community. Additional detail, with more specificity, of how the concert will be promoted will make future applications even stronger.

Programming is well thought out and thorough.

Concerts for the project are \$10, keeping it affordable while being able to manage costs for the performance.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

Applicant's project serves a variety of cultural groups and encourages connectedness among the community throughout the planning, rehearsal, execution as well as final concert phases of the project. Applicant is also presenting a project that is likely very unique within the area, which adds to vibrancy.

The overall description of this event is very compelling and paints a picture of a truly inclusive event. The amount of money budgeted towards artists gives me pause, as this does not look sufficient to compensate multiple performers.

Clear outline of music, dance, and art styles centering Ukrainian heritage and how individuals from that identity or interested in those art forms can be part of it.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Organization clearly shows strength in being able to complete the program with excellent follow up and feedback.

Highlights all key members and budget is aligned with goals

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Union Miles Development Corporation

**Project Title:** Taste of Southeast

**Panelists:** Rem Cabrera, Karla Centeno, Maria Lafelice, Lisa Much, Elena Velasco

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,005

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

The response needs more evidence. More information about how their efforts will engage their community would have strengthened this response.

The organization seeks to integrate feedback into the planning process, however given the scope of the project developing an advisory board may be beneficial.

Applicant defines their community specifically through the two neighborhoods they serve, demonstrating knowledge and commitment.

Presents The Taste of Southeast Festival for residents of Union Miles and Mt. Pleasant. Free to the public. Features live entertainment with local artists & performers for adults, engaging activities for kids, diverse food offerings, and resource booths, all centered around arts and culture.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

More information on their strategy would make this response stronger. There is not enough information to gauge if the organization will meet their goals. Answers are too general.

This portion of the application is difficult to assess, since the artistic participants are not identified yet in this part of the process, however it is beneficial that the organization is gathering feedback from the potential audiences and plan to provide compensation to the participating artists.

Applicant demonstrates a commitment to this through constant community input and participation.

There is a broad mention of what will be included for entertainment which are currently TBD, seeking what is "relevant and engaging" (that's quite subjective). But as an event that would reflect and celebrate a neighborhood, more specific description of activities sought would be clarifying so criteria could be understood.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

Will recruit performers, vendors, and volunteers from various cultural backgrounds to showcase the community's cultural diversity.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

The application demonstrates that the staff is qualified to deliver on this project and the timeline seems realistic for planning. For sustainability, it would be beneficial to see multiple sources of financial support (i.e., other grants, sponsorships, etc.).

Inclusion of additional funding sources beyond CAC would strengthen the application.

There are three staff members identified for this project. The event states they anticipate 120-150 attendees. However, as a community event aimed at engaging 2 separate neighborhoods, it seems that the attendee number may be too low and that the organizing staff could need more support. The overall budget as well does not seem realistic.

Resident input collected through a series of meetings. Collaborates with local groups, schools & businesses for sponsorships and resources. Event dates and accessible location within Union Miles & Mt. Pleasant TBD. Promotional efforts will include multilingual materials. Budget income doesn't identify source for second \$4,000. Would have liked to have found a reference to the Festival on the website.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** UpStage Players

**Project Title:** Broadway Theatre Production, title not yet confirmed

**Panelists:** Heather Beffa, LaShawnda Crowe Storm, Susan Roll, Emily Sollenberger, Anna Tragesser

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

Really love the intentionality of how you chose your location to ensure that there was equal access to POC even after suggestions to move. This more than anything is a testament to your values towards accessibility and inclusion.

Numbers that illustrate participant and volunteer demographics/diversity (not just neighborhood demographics) would help this organization back up their statements of inclusivity or encourage them to find ways to be more diverse.

Appreciate the history, and ways they are engaging with students and recruiting from schools -- including those that might be majority people of color represented. Curious to know if there are any metrics or evaluation around the representation in productions? Clear timeline that's been presented to know that productions will move forward; however curious to know when the specific production for the year will be selected?

Thank you for your passionate storytelling-- you've described a committed, flexible, and energetic experience. It's clear that being part of one of these productions can be a formative experience for students. Thank you for providing more detail about Collinwood and Euclid! It would be helpful to understand a little more about the demographics of the students/families that are engaged. This can help build inclusive practices-- when we know who is in the room, we also realize who is missing. Thank you sharing about your proactive outreach strategies. You're not just marketing, but building partnerships and trust.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

Producing a Broadway musical performed by children. Dedicated to making theatre in Collinwood.

I love that the children are exposed to all aspects of the theatre production from the tech to the stage and given an opportunity to meet / hear from a former alumnus to see how theatre can be a part of their adult lives and careers.

The potential connection of the proposed play to current events definitely increases the relevance of the project.

Appreciate that the research and learning mentioned that goes hand-in-hand with the production selected. To strengthen further, it would be helpful to know what the production will be -- or at least some productions they are thinking about, or a short list, to further connect with maybe some of the organizational goals and intentions for further educational opportunities for the students participating.

Really love the way you're building up these students as self-sufficient performers. Thank you for describing the way you contextualize your research and planning in today's current events, and what students can learn.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

Based on what I reviewed, I have no doubt you will continue to put on productions that transform the lives of children.

Measures of success are clear.

There is clear capacity and history of success.

This application inspires confidence that this community does whatever it takes to produce a high quality production without compromising an authentic learning experience for students. Your measures of success are very logical and seem to be operational-focused. It might be interesting to begin exploring slightly deeper impact on students. Since increasing confidence, learning and belonging are such important aspects of the experience, perhaps there is a simple way to begin measuring change. Something to think about. Are staff compensated?

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** VIVA Bavaria

**Project Title:** German Day Cleveland 2025

**Panelists:** Heather Beffa, LaShawnda Crowe Storm, Susan Roll, Emily Sollenberger, Anna Tragesser

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

I like to see that this event has a sustained history in the community it serves, as well as is inter-generational. Based on the music selections, I am curious if there is space in future festivals to start to incorporate contemporary expressions of German culture to further entire broader audience of German culture.

VIVA Bavaria is well connect with many (all?) of their community through partner organizations and seem to understand the location and diversity of their German-based (or German-interested) community.

Clear connection to culture and heritage to bring the community, and appreciate the understanding of the advisory council and the different groups that come together for planning. To strengthen, it would be nice to know a little more about how they reach communities beyond those who are already involved, attended previous events, or have a connection to German cultural groups already.

Thank you for sharing more about the many facets of German culture! It would be helpful to learn more about who attends German Day-- especially curious to learn if there is an age group that is more interested in this experience, and if attendees are German immigrants, folks with German heritage, or just have an interest in experiencing other cultures.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

I appreciate that the project includes multiple musical groups, and interviewing seniors capture the stories of an important cross section of the community

It is clear that the organizations participating have deep roots in the community and will provide a cultural rich experience.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

VIVA Bavaria's commitment to local bands helps increase local support and engagement with their event.

Good examples of what to expect and how it connects to the culture.

It sounds like a very festive and collaborative atmosphere. I can see how this experience fosters belonging and a sense of self-awareness for participants. It would be great to learn more about the 14 German cultural groups in Cleveland that are participating in German Day. I'd like to understand what kinds of artistic/cultural experiences they're contributing. This would also help me understand if the compensation to arts and cultural professionals is appropriate. \$200 could be very low, depending on what's being offered. Thank you for including photos!

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

In general, it is clear that the organizers have deep ties to the German community. The application states, " Federation of German-American Societies of Greater Cleveland." I am curious if VIVA Bavaria will experience a capacity issue in time and if this being explored to remedy in the future.

The project leadership team is highly engaged with partner organizations. The organization's willingness to expand their event space and update their marketing plan show an ability to deliver successful events well into the future. Measures of success are clear with information from past events to "set the bar".

Appreciate the information about listening to the community and attendees for feedback, and making changes to the next year based on what was heard. Seem to have a lot of community planners and folks involved form many years. Clear and mindful budget and use of funds

This event represents an incredible collaboration among many German cultural groups. The spirit of inclusion extends to other German cultures. To deepen inclusion, it might be interesting to consider ways to build cross-cultural partnerships (outside the German groups) to create greater appreciation among many cultural/ethnic groups in the region. Or, consider ways to inspire residents to learn about their heritage and become part of the community. This may or may not be part of the German Day event, but is a consideration for the organization overall.



## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development

**Project Title:** Pop-Ups in the Parks

**Panelists:** Heather Beffa, LaShawnda Crowe Storm, Susan Roll, Emily Sollenberger, Anna Tragesser

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,230

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

It is clear that you understand the complexity of your changing neighborhood. I like the intentionality around creating events and opportunities to meet people where they are in order to increase accessibility.

Customizing the programming and marketing to the very local geographies of the event venue/park speaks well to promoting neighborhood participation and public benefit. Offering a variety of arts and culture activities/performances also encourages neighborly connection and appreciation.

Clear understanding of the community they are serving, and appreciate the efforts made to reach all the residents with marketing and promotional materials.

Appreciate the information about your community, and the recognition that there are many identities represented within. It's great that the events draw different audiences depending on where they are located, and that your activities are responsive to this awareness. Your activities are clearly very public and responsive to community interests.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Some specific artist and art activity examples would be helpful, even ones from past years that may not be repeated. Otherwise, a positive-sounding project.

I really love the variety of art activities that push the limits of what is traditionally offered in community spaces and events (i.e. printmaking, puppets, origami, etc.), as well as couple those activities with more mainstream offerings (i.e. hip hop workshops.)

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

The WPKND practice of gathering and using participant feedback supports the creation of a relevant and engaging event year after year. The use of the feedback in answering question 10 lends validity to the process and strengthens the application.

Great past examples, and think they have a good feedback and evaluation loop to ensure they are meeting the needs and interests of the diverse community.

Thank you for sharing about the feedback you received in the past, and how you're adjusting in response.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

It is clear that you will be able to execute this program at a high level.

Great -- consideration of the neighborhood dynamics, and reaching those who have been historically marginalized is great, and clear they have great partnerships and working toward more to ensure representation.

Thank you for sharing about your vision to accurately represent the changing demographics of the community. Perhaps the pop-ups could evaluate and demonstrate your progress in this area, too. It would be helpful to learn a little more about where the Arts & Culture Programming is going (how many artists/groups, and what are they doing?), so that we can see that fees are realistic.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** West Side Catholic Center

**Project Title:** Expressive Arts Project

**Panelists:** Heather Beffa, LaShawnda Crowe Storm, Susan Roll, Emily Sollenberger, Anna Tragesser

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

I like that you are using the expressive arts to help community members deal with trauma, as well as providing opportunities for program participants to experience arts / cultural activities vis field trips.

The variety of arts activities presented is excellent and offers many options for the community served. The training of staff and volunteers in working with trauma impacted people is a clear commitment to doing the program "right".

Clearly meeting a need in this community and using arts as a way for further healing. To better understand those being served, it would be great to know if anyone from the public can attend the programming listed, or do you have to be a part of the organization's overarching programming. Slightly confused by the use of "client" making it seem like only those associated with the organization can participate. And, perhaps that's OK, but something to potentially clarify further.

Thank you for providing this important experience! Do your clients reside close to the WSCC Resource Center? Since you've been hosting this program for many years, it would be wonderful to learn more about how folks typically participate-- do they pop into activities infrequently, or do they tend to show up regularly?

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Very well described arts programming with lots of expressive options for clients.

The supporting materials you provided helped me to better understand the depth and breadth of your programming, as well as the rich opportunities for cultural connection you provide to participants.

How does the program attract new clients/community members?

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

Recommend sharing a little more about who is facilitating the arts programming. Given the nature of trauma and healing for those participating, do these folks have expertise working with these types of individuals?

It's wonderful to hear that you've had a couple of artistic leaders involved consistently over the years. It's great that you can easily track clients' participation in each session. Might it also be useful to begin tracking the quality of their experience and how they feel the experience supports their wellbeing? There could be many very simple ways of asking and learning this kind of information.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

It is clear that you will be able to execute this program at a high level.

The project team is qualified and experienced.

Clear this is a larger organization that has capacity and understanding to conduct this type of programming.

Thank you for sharing that each volunteer has been prepared to work with folks who have experienced trauma. It would be helpful to learn how many teaching artists are typically utilized in this series, and how much time they're contributing. This helps us understand that the artistic fee is realistic and honors their expertise. Your income and expenses don't match, and it's not clear what in-kind donations are being contributed (supplies? time?)

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** Western Reserve Chorale

**Project Title:** Jubilate Deo by Dan Forrest

**Panelists:** Rem Cabrera, Karla Centeno, Maria Lafelice, Lisa Much, Elena Velasco

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The organization shows an effort to be inclusive; however, including more strategies for inclusion would have strengthened this response. For example, do they have community partners?

The application describes a performance that will be free and open to the public, at an accessible host location. The organization seeks to expand their audiences, and have developed partnerships/outreach efforts to do so.

Applicant has clear plans to engage the public and engage diverse populations.

Current project planning details steps taken to make the event more welcoming to a broader audience by increasing geographical access close to public transportation and through greater diversity in music presented. Performances are free and open to the public. They are also engaging new singers.

Serves Northeast Ohio with free public concerts. Seeks a larger venue to hold the event, preferably with access to public transportation, and to establish partnerships to cross-promote and target a multicultural audience.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

The project includes a large number of performers, and those performers will receive fair payment for their time and expertise. The project highlights a wide range of cultural vibrancy.

Applicant has clear plan to ensure cultural vibrancy through collaboration with other groups and speakers of other languages.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

This choral piece incorporates 7 different languages and will be preceded by a talk about the piece and the multicultural representation. Will feature 120 performers. Ushers may be dressed in traditional garb to reflect the cultures represented in the musical work. Conducting outreach at the beginning of 2025 for new singers. Singers will be coached in proper pronunciation of different languages.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

There is evidence of strong organizational capacity.

The organization seems to have all the parts in place for a successful project including qualified staff, financial support, and past successful programs. The capacity would be more clear if the budget also included the full range of expenses, as line items such as staff/administrative time is not included.

Additional details on specifically how the applicant will measure success would aid the application, such as how surveying the audience happens and what they're looking for.

Artistic Director, Executive Director, and a few support staff are named. Given the number of participants involved in this contained event and volunteer board, it seems that organizational capacity is acceptable.

Organization began prior to 2002 and was stabilized with a leader who served for 17 years. Expanded the group from 70 to 95 singers. Updating the infrastructure helped it to survive the pandemic. A specific timeline exists for producing the concert in March 2025. Appears to have a solid team.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Western Reserve Fire Museum & Education Center

**Project Title:** A Two Part lecture series on Ohio Apparatus Inventors of Ohio

**Panelists:** Heather Beffa, LaShawnda Crowe Storm, Susan Roll, Emily Sollenberger, Anna Tragesser

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

These lectures will be local history and part of the art of storytelling; these honor the lived experience of a community, and add to the feeling that a place is special.

I love seeing the growth of the museum from a grassroots effort with a handful of participants to now having a 1000+ supporters and growing. This more than anything showcases the community's desire for the museum's offerings.

The museum's diverse exhibit committee is a commitment to a broad and diverse community. Marketing the project in a variety of ways increases and diversify's the museum's community.

Overall, I think this is a clear project application; however I'm not seeing the direct connection to reaching beyond their current community mentioned. I challenge them to think about how they might intentionally engage with communities who have yet to be served by this organization.

Appreciate the thoughts behind your program content-- both representing diverse voices and also considering the perspective of firefighter families.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

I like that your programming reflects the feedback you received from community members.

Regular surveys on what visitors want to see means exhibits of greater relevance to the museum's community - Bravo! The examples of suggested exhibits helps illustrate community engagement at the museum.

I appreciate the thoughtful approach to the exhibits and materials need to share these stories.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

It would be helpful to understand more of what the visitors will experience in this series. How many times will it be offered? Will there be content created that will become part of the museum exhibits and/or collection? What kinds of support materials will be created? (See my comment about the expense categories.)

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

It is clear that you will be able to execute this program at a high level and meet the community's needs, as well as enhance historical appreciation for fire inventors and the museum as whole.

The project leadership team is well qualified. Surveys indicate a commitment to long term improvement.

Thanks for seeking feedback about your programs. Give that the majority of your budget is going to production of ads, ad placement, and support materials, it would have been helpful to learn more about what this means. It's interesting to see marketing expenses comprise your two largest expense categories. How much and what kind of support materials will be created?



## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Western Reserve Land Conservancy

**Project Title:** Tree Stewards Training Program

**Panelists:** Heather Beffa, LaShawnda Crowe Storm, Susan Roll, Emily Sollenberger, Anna Tragesser

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

In particular, I respect this project's goal to support reforestation in neighborhoods that have experienced (or are currently experiencing) redlining, systemic racism, and prolonged disinvestment. Reforestation is literally an investment in life, which benefits the greater ecosystem and the city's thrive-ability.

"In Cleveland, environmental benefits are not equitably distributed. Historically discriminatory housing policies negatively impacted communities by fostering disinvestment, leading to disparities in economic, educational, and health outcomes," and "We are committed to addressing these inequities through our Tree Stewards program by recruiting participants from low-canopy city neighborhoods;" I am curious how these two issues are related. In addition, with so much of the curriculum being virtual, how with this be addressed for areas that maybe digital deserts or individuals in these communities that may not have adequate access to the internet? Application indicates, "Each year, our base of trained tree stewards grows larger and more diverse, building a community of people collectively rebuilding a healthy Cleveland tree canopy. We keep close records of our tree stewards involvement in the Reforest Our City program as a whole. This includes volunteer hours, events attended, as well as qualitative records of their involvement in other reforestation initiatives" Would have liked to see a few stats to show this diversity is growing and how participants continue with the work once completing the program.

The applicant is clear that they are recruiting their community from specific neighborhoods and the outline of recruitment locations is helpful. The support materials show their success in 2024. They also show the positive need for their project.

Clearly there is a public benefit to this work, a well planned timeline and program to further the work and impact the overall community.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

Thank you for the thorough explanation of your vision, and the deep impact that trees have in our world. It would be helpful to provide some more background on the community that you serve, or the cross section of the community that you hope to engage in this project. Understanding who you hope to engage gives the reader confidence that you're designing the experience together with them, or at least with them in mind.

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

The project teaches individuals best practices for planting trees, which helps ensure that the trees survive and are healthy. These successes would motivate me to keep planting trees, and the trees would be a point of pride in my neighborhood for years to come. I think that people would be more likely to stay in / move to an area with more trees, which helps build long-term community.

The applicant's budget includes pay for their instructors and no cost for the participants - encouraging quality education for any who are interested. Also, the applicant has made clear that moving into new neighborhoods means more marketing in those areas, a plan they are committed to.

Clear connection to community engagement, and creating a vibrant community

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

It is clear you are able to effectively execute this program and support Cleveland in becoming a more environmentally equitable city.

The resources to do this program appear to be in place and based on 2024 results seem to be effective. The used of Zoom also seems to be an effective, post-pandemic training option.

Clear organizational capacity.

Thank you for the examples of outreach strategies.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Westtown Community Development Corporation

**Project Title:** Literacy Through the Literary Arts

**Panelists:** Heather Beffa, LaShawnda Crowe Storm, Susan Roll, Emily Sollenberger, Anna Tragesser

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

More details about the artist part of the project would be helpful, but the details about engagement with the library are very strong and I vote yes on this application's public benefit.

I love that you are using the library as a space to connect youth with literacy and the arts.

The neighborhood based project encourages connection between the organization and its community as well as community members with each other. Using local libraries as venues makes the project accessible and encourages the community to use the library as a resource and safe space.

There is a clear connection to the needs of the students in the community; and a good understanding of the program offerings and how it was developed.

Love that you're creating lasting belonging at the library, which will continue to support the literacy outcomes this program instigates.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

I really appreciated your supporting materials as they allowed me to understand the breadth and depth of your programs. Bravo.

Using a variety of paid artistic and cultural presentations helps audiences engage with the content.

Great!

Love to see the involvement of Arts for Inspired Learning (a Young Audiences affiliate). This connection assures the arts education component is likely arts integration-based, which is an effective literacy support. Appreciate the conversation and criteria for reviewing past workshops.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

It is clear that you will be able to execute this program at a high level.

Using feedback to improve the project year-after-year is an excellent practice and indicates this organization is committed to delivering a successful project. I am concerned that the CAC grant request of \$5000 is more than 50% of the project expenses (\$8200).

Seems like they have a very good understanding of the community, data, feedback and evaluation loops, etc.

Love to see a non-arts organization leading this program. This speaks to the value of and easy access to these artists. Thank you to WCDC for increasing the access to the power of the arts through this partnership.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Windsong, Cleveland's Feminist Chorus

**Project Title:** The Power of Intersectional Feminism and Gender Equality

**Panelists:** Heather Beffa, LaShawnda Crowe Storm, Susan Roll, Emily Sollenberger, Anna Tragesser

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

The subject of the proposed concert is highly relevant to the chorus and to the community at large.

Using music to ensure these voices and ideas are heard in our communities is vital, especially at the current cultural and political moment.

The current presence of underrepresented groups in the choir, the additional current work around issues of DEI, the non-audition element of membership, and the music of social justice shows the connection this organization has with their community.

Clear connection to mission and uplifting social justice and change work. Appreciate the connection to other partners and collaborators mentioned, continually working to build relationships.

It would be helpful to share a little more about how folks typically hear about your concerts. You mention many near partnerships, but it's unclear what these partnerships are/what you do together.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

I like that you are starting to strengthen your connection to the wider community by working other choirs and women owned/led businesses. Given the art form is primarily performance and sound, I would have greatly appreciated a link to video to be able to fully appreciate the work of your organization.

Project is at the intersection of performing arts and current issues making it highly relevant today.

Good. Work samples helped to uplift this!

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

Community choruses are such a wonderful asset. Thank you for creating joyful and thoughtful participatory music that resounds with your chorus members and their families and community.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

It is clear that you will be able to execute this program at a high level.

There is a long history of work in the community; and have good metrics for success. I might challenge them to think a little more about further evaluation and feedback loops for potentially the audiences and or collaborators.

Thanks for sharing about your organization's structural supports for an inclusive environment. Just an idea - If you're able to offer your concert without ticket fees, you might consider observing any changes in your audience demographics. This could help you continue to learn about what is or is not a barrier for your community, if outreach is working, and/or build a case for increased support from other donors and funders.

## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** Woodland Cemetery Foundation of Cleveland

**Project Title:** Queens of Woodland: Founders, Creators, and Shapers of Cleveland's History

**Panelists:** Heather Beffa, LaShawnda Crowe Storm, Susan Roll, Emily Sollenberger, Anna Tragesser

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$3,760

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

Enlivening and visualizing local women's history through presentations, performances, and panel discussions. Very well researched and a good plan for the project. Highly beneficial to the public.

This project is fascinating and engaging. I love the public history component of the work and have learned so much about Cleveland's history simply by reading it. I love that the work is also being presented in the public libraries for easy access. Libraries also offer the opportunity for the participants to literally turn around and find more information and books about the women presented in the discussions.

Bringing history to life and engaging families and communities confirms the public benefit of this project. Also, hosting the programs at a public library ensures accessibility.

Interesting and important stories to tell, and the public library seems to be a great partner/location for this work. Appreciate the historical aspects and making further storytelling connections to the people in the cemetery.

Woodland Cemetery's stewards are leading an incredible educational vision-- perhaps I'm ignorant of this kind of programming taking place in cemeteries elsewhere-- it seems highly innovative, touching, and worth celebrating. Thank you for the spirit of outreach, curiosity, and proactive education present throughout this application. This inspires confidence that the programs will be responsive and engaging for your community. It would be interesting to hear little more about the demographics of the audiences that have participated with your programs in the past. It would also be helpful to understand a little more about the collaborators/partners listed-- what do you do together? Will any of them be involved in this program?

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

You mention performances, but I would have liked to see this fleshed out a bit. Are these performances music from the time of the women, re-enactments of important moments in the women's lives, one woman plays, etc.

The lectures and outdoor exhibits bring this project's content to adults and the coloring book engages all ages.

To strengthen the application, would recommend including more details about the arts-based activities - who is performing and what are they performing? Who created the coloring books? A local artist? (I see names associated with the work sample) And are the storytellers connected to artists and other storytelling/griots, perhaps?

It would be helpful to learn more about your experience with any past programs, and anything you've learned from participants.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

It is clear that you will be able to execute this program at a high level. Were I closer, I would definitely attend.

The WCF team is experienced and competent and their past work makes a successful delivery of this project very likely.

There are clear ties to organizational capacity and knowledge of the historical figures within the project. Overall, it would be helpful to have a little more detail about the project deliverables to build confidence in their feasibility. Some questions include: Have you secured quotes for the etchings and banners? What will the performances involve (improv in character on site, monologues, etc.?), and have you identified actors?



## PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

### 2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL



**Organization:** YMCA of Greater Cleveland

**Project Title:** 26th Annual Steps & Stages Production

**Panelists:** Rem Cabrera, Karla Centeno, Maria Lafelice, Lisa Much, Elena Velasco

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

There is strong evidence the organization has thoughtfully designed the project for optimal public benefit.

The application demonstrates an understanding and commitment to the community served. Additionally, the applicant indicates that they seek accessible locations for the performances and have a wide invitation for audience members.

Applicant clearly defines their community and the value this program has on them.

The extensive description and definition of community demonstrates how participants - performers and citizen artists - are not the only beneficiaries of this project. While the content and process is designed to support those experiencing or previously suffering from SUD, this can also be a cathartic event for audience members who have been affected by this "dis-ease."

Free performances offered to include diverse communities. Fosters a sense of inclusion and belonging. Involves individuals with Substance Use Disorder and engages them in a self-exploratory & productive project. Public performances derived from the actors' life experiences magnify the struggles of Substance Use Disorder.

#### ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

The application would be stronger in this area, if it included more details about CPT's qualifications and background of the instructors to facilitate this program. The application did not include evidence of feedback from past participants being collected and integrated into the next year's program.

The collaboration and stories arising from the participants themselves ensure artistic vibrancy.

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

The partnership with Cleveland Public Theater, a highly respected regional theater, affirms the healing capacity of the performing arts and that cultural experiences can have long-standing impact. The project is an effective demonstration of the critical role the arts, especially theater, can play in fostering empathy for ourselves and others.

Collaborative arts project between Cleveland Public Theatre (CPT) and Y-Haven, a YMCA program. CPT cast works with CPT artistic staff three times weekly, September to December to create a script and train the actors. Meeting dates increase closer to performance in late January. Most of the actors have never before performed onstage.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

The organization should have listed names and roles of the individuals involved in the project.

The organization has a clear commitment to this project, as operational funds have been used in the past and they seek multiple sources of support.

Additional details on how applicant tracks success, such as specific follow-up with participants, could strengthen the application. \$28,000 is listed as income, but the budget is listed at \$36,205. Given the answer in Question 17, one could assume Y-Haven's operating budget is covering the shortfall, but clarifying that in the income sources could strengthen the application.

Stellar partnerships. The team includes qualified personnel who are members of the creative staff from CPT with input from qualified clinical staff at Y-Haven. Residents of Y-Haven are involved. The actors are Y-Haven residents in recovery from SUD. Impressive point: "At Y-Haven 66% of residents complete 90 days of intensive addiction treatment, while the national average in 2019 was just 26%."

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**



**Organization:** Youth Challenge

**Project Title:** Theater Program for Young People with Physical Disabilities

**Panelists:** Heather Beffa, LaShawnda Crowe Storm, Susan Roll, Emily Sollenberger, Anna Tragesser

**Score:** Applicant received a majority of "Yes" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel.

**2025 Grant Amount:** \$4,700

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

This program serves an important cross-section of the community, children with physical disabilities. The opportunity to be on stage, expressing oneself through a story with one's peers, and to hold the attention of an audience are unique creative moments and can increase self-esteem, confidence, and cooperation with others.

I like that you are building bridges between teens with physical disabilities and those without. This program is a great opportunity to build connections and break down misperceptions. Yes to this, "Participants and volunteers alike learn to socialize with peers of all abilities and think creatively about including everyone."

The numbers of participants and volunteers (wow!) speaks to YC's connection with their community. Their extensive knowledge of and work with children with physical disabilities points to this project's public benefit.

Clear benefit to all of those involved.

Youth Challenge is clearly highly engaged and understands its community of children with physical disabilities and their families. There is proactive outreach with other professionals and support services that the young people work with. This program could be highly beneficial for other youth community theatre programs to learn from. How might community youth theatre use adaptive support so that more inclusive to youth with physical disabilities to participate in their programs?

## **PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS**

### **2025 WRITTEN PROJECT SUPPORT PANEL**

#### **ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY**

Love the collaboration with different artists from this area to provide new perspectives on the work.

YC's survey work with their participants and families as well as volunteers make for continual improvements in this relevant and engaging project.

Appreciate that they are learning the skills around the full production of a show from the start of the creative process to the end when the show is performed.

It would be wonderful to learn anything specific that you've learned from offering this program in the past, and how you're responding to feedback. More information is need about what the contracted artists are doing for the program. \$500 could potentially be a low fee for six sessions, but it's hard to assess without more detail.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

It is clear you able to provide this service and effectively execute a quality program. Keep up the good work.

YC's past experience, volunteer training, and connection with their community means they can deliver this project well.

They clearly have capacity to serve this specific group, train volunteers, and work within the arts community to ensure the project comes to life.

It's fabulous that your teammate Megan has such a perfect perspective for this program.