



Written Panel Guide

2024 Project Support Panel Review – Grant Requests up to \$5,000

Fall 2023

The purpose of the Project Support (PS) grant program is to promote public access and encourage the breadth of arts and cultural programming in our community by supporting Cuyahoga County-based projects. During the panel review, arts and cultural experts from across the country (who are educated in CAC’s funding criteria) discuss and score applications.

The written panel review is for Project Support applications requesting up to \$5,000 in funding. 2024 applications requesting more than \$5,000 are reviewed via a [live panel process](#) on September 20. All scores and comments are posted publicly at the conclusion of the panel process.

Applicants

Abrepaso Flamenco
 Achievement Centers for Children
 Arts in Strongsville
 Arts Without Borders
 Babel Box Theater
 Baseball Heritage Museum
 Bay Village Community Band
 Beachwood Arts Council
 Bedford Historical Society
 Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio
 CEO
 Choral Arts Cleveland
 Cleveland Chamber Collective
 Cleveland Philharmonic Orchestra
 Cleveland Photo Fest
 Cleveland Pride Band
 Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad
 Dancing Classrooms Northeast Ohio
 Folknet
 Golden Ciphers
 Good Company: A Vocal Ensemble
 Graffiti HeArt

Greater Cleveland Film Commission
 Harvard Community Services Center
 InMotion
 International Community Council
 John Carroll University
 Kings & Queens of Art
 Mantles&Makers
 MidTown Cleveland
 Museum of Creative Human Art
 Naach Di Cleveland
 NAMI Greater Cleveland
 No Exit
 North Pointe Ballet
 Ohio City Incorporated
 Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation
 One South Euclid
 Parma Area Fine Arts Council
 Parma Symphony Orchestra
 Poise Entertainment Education Inc
 Polish Village Parma
 Radio on the Lake Theatre

Restore Cleveland Hope
 Ridna Shkola Cleveland
 Shaker Arts Council
 Shore Cultural Centre
 SOS: Strengthening Our Students
 St. Clair Superior Development Corp.
 Studio in a School
 STV Bavaria
 Suburban Symphony Orchestra
 Tender Hearts Crusades
 The Cleveland Foundry
 Trobár Medieval
 Upcycle Parts Shop
 Ursuline College
 Wake Up and Live's Actor's Studio
 West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development
 Western Reserve Fire Museum & Education Center
 Westlake Chinese School
 Windsong, Cleveland's Feminist Chorus
 Women in History



Panel Review Process

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

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

Scoring

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

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

Panelists will use the following scoring framework to score each application:

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

Yes: the applicant has provided strong evidence that the funding criteria are met.

Somewhat: The applicant has provided fair evidence that the funding criteria are met.

No: The applicant has provided weak evidence that the funding criteria are met.

Final Score and Funding Recommendations

Scores are calculated by combining the score of all three panelists. Applications that receive majority of “Yes” or “Somewhat” are recommended for funding. CAC will calculate final scores and notify all applicants via email the week of October 30. Grant amounts are pending board approval at CAC’s Board of Trustees meeting on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 4:00 pm.

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



Meet the Panelists



**Anel Arriola, she/her
Phoenix, AZ**

Anel E. Arriola is the grants and systems manager at the Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture and a practicing mixed-media artist and storyteller. Her experience encompasses project management and community-based academic research. She holds a Master of Arts in Creative Enterprise and Cultural Leadership from Arizona State University.



**Diego Barbosa-Vásquez, he/him
Bloomington, IN**

Maestro Diego Barbosa-Vásquez is a Colombian-born Opera, Orchestra, and Ballet Conductor. He is the General Director of the Ostrom Opera Camp/Laboratory and Music Director of The Americas Chamber Orchestra. Referenced as "Musical Genius" and "synonymous of energy, knowledge, and confidence of high artistic quality" by the international press, he is Official Ambassador of Colombia, and has gained international recognition through his performances across the globe, by representing Latin America in conducting competitions and conferences.



**Astrid Caruso-Lynch, she/her
Seattle, WA**

Astrid Caruso-Lynch currently serves as Constituency Relations Officer at the University of Washington School of Music in Seattle, WA. Originally hailing from the Philadelphia area, she spent many years living in the Midwest, most recently in Indiana, where she completed a Master of Arts in Arts Administration at the O'Neill School of Public & Environmental Affairs at Indiana University. Astrid brings a wide range of arts experience, having worked as a professional musician as well as in nonprofit marketing and communications, administration, and development.



**Caity Cook, she/they
Philadelphia, PA**

Caity Cook is a dramaturg and arts administrator based in Philadelphia, PA. Caity has worked with not-for-profit theatres including Pig Iron Theatre Company, Cleveland Play House, Manhattan Theatre Club, and WP Theater. She is a writer, critic, and dramaturg with a focus on new play development and an interest in exploring gender, identity, and sexuality on stage.



**Keya Crenshaw, she/her
Reynoldsburg, OH**

Keya Crenshaw is the founder of Black Chick Media, LLC, a boutique consultancy that supports small business and organizations by providing tools and resources for growth. Not only has she been an arts leader and administrator for over 15 years, but she is also an actor, writer, and yoga instructor. Keya's poetry chapter, "Unbought & Unbossed: Black Womanist Resistance and the Power of Holding Space," was featured in the book, *A Love Letter to This Bridge Called My Back*, which was published in 2021 by The University of Arizona Press.



**Sheryl Doades, she/her
Ellettsville, IN**

Originally from New York and now based in Bloomington, IN, Sheryl has performed in, directed, and taught theatre and musical theatre across the U.S., Canada, and overseas. Sheryl holds her B.A. and B.F.A. in theatre arts and is currently pursuing her master's degree in Arts Administration at the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University Bloomington.



**Dominique Feloss, she/her
Atlanta, GA**

Dominique is the Program Associate for Income, Wealth, and Arts for the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta. Her previous experiences as a library senior, grassroots organizing associate, and horticulturist allows her to view the community through multi-perspective lenses. She continues to service the metro-Atlanta area through assisting to provide grant opportunities to organizations that center advocacy, racial equity, and arts/arts activism.



**Maria lafelice, she/her
Findlay, OH**

Maria lafelice is a freelance consultant dedicated to making art accessible and building capacity with mission-driven organizations. She serves on the Board of Directors at the Collingwood Arts Center, the Artist Services Committee at The Arts Commission, the Board President at Public Works Collaborative, and is the Visual Arts Chair for the Black Swamp Arts Festival. She earned a M.A. and B.A. in art education from Kent State University.



**Karen Maner, she/her
Dayton, OH**

Karen Maner is a creative nonfiction writer and the Director of Grantmaking at Culture Works. Born and raised in Dayton, she completed her MFA at Eastern Washington University, where she served as the region’s Poetry Out Loud coordinator and the assistant coordinator of Get Lit!—a nonprofit that engages the Inland Northwest in the celebration of the written word through educational outreach and community events. Since returning to her hometown, she’s dedicated herself to organizations that unite the community through storytelling, arts, and culture, including the Friends of the Dayton Metro Library, UpDayton, and TEDxDayton.



**Lisa Much, she/they
Columbus, OH**

Lisa Much is currently a nonprofit events, fundraising, and operations consultant. Her background is predominantly in community development, having worked for Ohio CDC Association for nine years, and theatrical stage management. She has a BA in Sustainable Theater Management from Green Mountain College and is currently pursuing her Master’s in Public Policy & Management from the John Glenn College at The Ohio State University.



**M. Pofahl, they/them
Detroit, MI**

M. Pofahl is an interdisciplinary artist and curator based in Detroit, Michigan, with roots in the Southeast United States. They have worked with various art institutions in Detroit, including Science Gallery Detroit, Wayne State University, Project Art Detroit, and Red Bull Arts Detroit. Pofahl is currently the Assistant Curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, where they advocate for work that pushes societal, technological, and conceptual conventions.



Penny Pun, she/her
Bronx, NY

Penny is a New York-based playwright, producer and arts administrator, born and raised in Hong Kong. She has worked at organizations such as Theatre Communications Group and the Dramatists Guild.



Linda Ryan, she/her
Brooklyn, NY

Linda Ryan is a choreographer, researcher, video artist, and facilitator based in Brooklyn, NY. She is currently an artist-in-residence in video art at BRIC. Outside of artmaking, her experience in the art ecosystem is broad and includes arts & cultural strategy, dance medicine, cultural equity, and creative placemaking for the digital world.



Michael Smith, he/him
Wexford, PA

Michael A. Smith is a Program Officer at The Fine Foundation, based in Pittsburgh, PA. Michael received his Ph.D. from Duquesne University, where his dissertation focused on geocriticism, placemaking, literature, and the American railroad. Michael serves on the board of PA Humanities, on the Modern Language Association's Committee on Honors and Awards, and on the Finance committee of the Franciscan Volunteer Ministry. He has served on review panels for The Whiting Foundation and previously worked at the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust in government relations and institutional philanthropy.



Levon Williams, he/him
Reston, VA

Levon Williams is an Equity, Inclusion, and Antiracism Consultant for Nonprofit and Arts & Culture Organizations. He was formally a Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion (DEAI) Senior Fellow for the American Alliance of Museums' Facing Change Initiative, working directly with museum boards to create more inclusive and equitable board cultures. Since 2020 Levon has collaborated with Arts & Culture nonprofit leaders and staff in support of reaching their equity, inclusion, and antiracism goals.