



2026 Project Support Panel Review Guide September 2025

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 process, arts and cultural experts from across the country (who are educated in CAC’s funding criteria) assess and score applications.

All eligible 2026 Project Support applications will be reviewed in a written online panel. All scores and comments are shared with applicants and the public at the conclusion of the panel process.

Panel Review Process

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

CAC staff monitors the online panel 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?

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

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

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

Final Score and Funding Recommendations

The minimum score threshold for funding will be determined based on the amount of funds available and total request amounts. Applicants who demonstrate weak evidence that the funding criteria are met will not be recommended for funding. CAC will calculate final scores and notify all applicants via email. Grant amounts are pending board approval at CAC's Board of Trustees meeting on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 4:00 pm.

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

Applicants

10K Movement
Achievement Centers for Children
America Asian Pacific Islander Organization
America SCORES Cleveland
American Hungarian Friends of Scouting
American Slovenian Polka Foundation
Arts Renaissance Tremont (ART)
Association of African American Cultural Garden
Association of Asian Indian Women In Ohio
Babel Box Theater
Baldwin Wallace University
Beachwood Arts Council
Bedford Historical Society
Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging
BigHearted Blooms
Brecksville Theatre
Broadview Brecksville Heights Community
Chorus
Brooklyn Heights Service Clubs
Building Heights
Canalway Partners
Case Western Reserve University
Catholic Charities Diocese of Cleveland
Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District
Center for Employment Opportunities
Cesear's Forum
City Club of Cleveland
Cleveland Arts Education Consortium
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland Composers Guild
Cleveland Contemporary Chinese Culture
Association
Cleveland Grays Armory Museum
Cleveland Inner City Ballet
Cleveland Leadership Center
Cleveland Neighborhood Progress
Cleveland Philharmonic Orchestra
Cleveland Rape Crisis Center
Cleveland Repertory Orchestra
Cleveland School of the Arts Board of Trustees
Cleveland Shakespeare Festival
Cleveland TOPS Swingband
Cleveland Treatment Center
Cleveland Uncommon Sound Project
Cleveland Winds
Cleveland Women's Orchestra
Club Dominicano De Cleveland
Colors+ Youth Center
Community Cup Classic Foundation
Community Life Collaborative
Connecting for Kids
Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad
Darl Center for the Arts
Deutscher Musik Verein
Downtown Cleveland Inc.
East Cleveland Farmers' Market Preservation
Society
Edward E. Parker Museum of Art
Empowering Epilepsy
Environmental Health Watch
Euclid Symphony Orchestra
Far West Center
Fashion Talks Foundation
Folknet
Food Strong
Fostering Hope
Friends of the East Cleveland Public Library
From Me 2 U, Inc
FrontLine Service
FutureHeights
Gardening in the District
German Central
Golden Ciphers Youth Development & Cultural
Arts Center
Greater Cleveland Film Commission
Greater Cleveland Neighborhood Centers
Association
Harvard Community Services Center
Haus of Transcendent
Hellenic Preservation Society of Northeastern
Ohio
High Art Fridays

Hispanic Police Officers Association
Historic Gateway Neighborhood Corporation
India Fest USA
InMotion
International Community Council-Worldwide
Intercultural Network (ICC-WIN)
Jennings Center for Older Adults
Jewish Family Service Association of Cleveland
Ohio
Jewish Federation of Cleveland
Jones Road Family Development Corporation
Kings & Queens of Art
Lake View Cemetery Foundation
LakewoodAlive
Larchmere PorchFest
LEAP
Lexington-Bell Community Center
LGBT Community Center Greater Cleveland
Little Italy Redevelopment Corporation
LYLESART
Malachi Center
Mandel Jewish Community Center of Cleveland
Metro West Community Development
Organization
Midnight Art Club
MidTown Cleveland
Museum of Creative Human Art
NAMI Greater Cleveland
New Avenues to Independence
No Exit
No Surf House
North Pointe Ballet
North Union Farmers Market
Northeast Ohio Hispanic Center for Economic
Development
Northeast Ohio Musical Heritage Association
NuPoint Community Development Corporation
OCA Cleveland
Ohio City Inc
Ohio Selfie World Foundation
Old Brooklyn Community Development
Corporation
One South Euclid

Open Doors Academy
Pakistani Cultural Garden
PALS for Healing
Parma Symphony Orchestra
Phantasy Community Foundation
Polish Village Parma
Powerful Long Ladder
Reaching Heights
Restore Cleveland Hope, Inc.
RhythmiCLE Sound Tap Company
Rollin' Buckeyez
Schmooze Ohio
Seat of the Pants
Sew4Service
Shaker Arts Council
SHED Projects
Shore Cultural Centre
Slavic Village Development
Smart Development
SOS: Strengthening Our Students
Stella Maris
Stellar Acrobatic Dance Academy
Tender Hearts Crusades
The Foundry
The Gathering Place
The Harvard Square Center
The Land
The Meeting Place Learning Center
The Student Conservation Association
Thea Bowman Center
Tremont West Development Corporation
Tuskegee Airmen North Coast Chapter
University Circle Inc.
UpStage Players
Ursuline College
VIVA Bavaria
West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development
West Shore Chorale
West Side Catholic Center
West Side Community House
Western Reserve Fire Museum & Education
Center
Western Reserve Land Conservancy

Westlake Chinese School
Westown Community Development
Corporation
Windsong, Cleveland's Feminist Chorus

Women in Film and TV Ohio
YMCA of Greater Cleveland
Youth Challenge