



cuyahoga
arts & culture
strengthening community

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture Support for Artists

Call for Partners



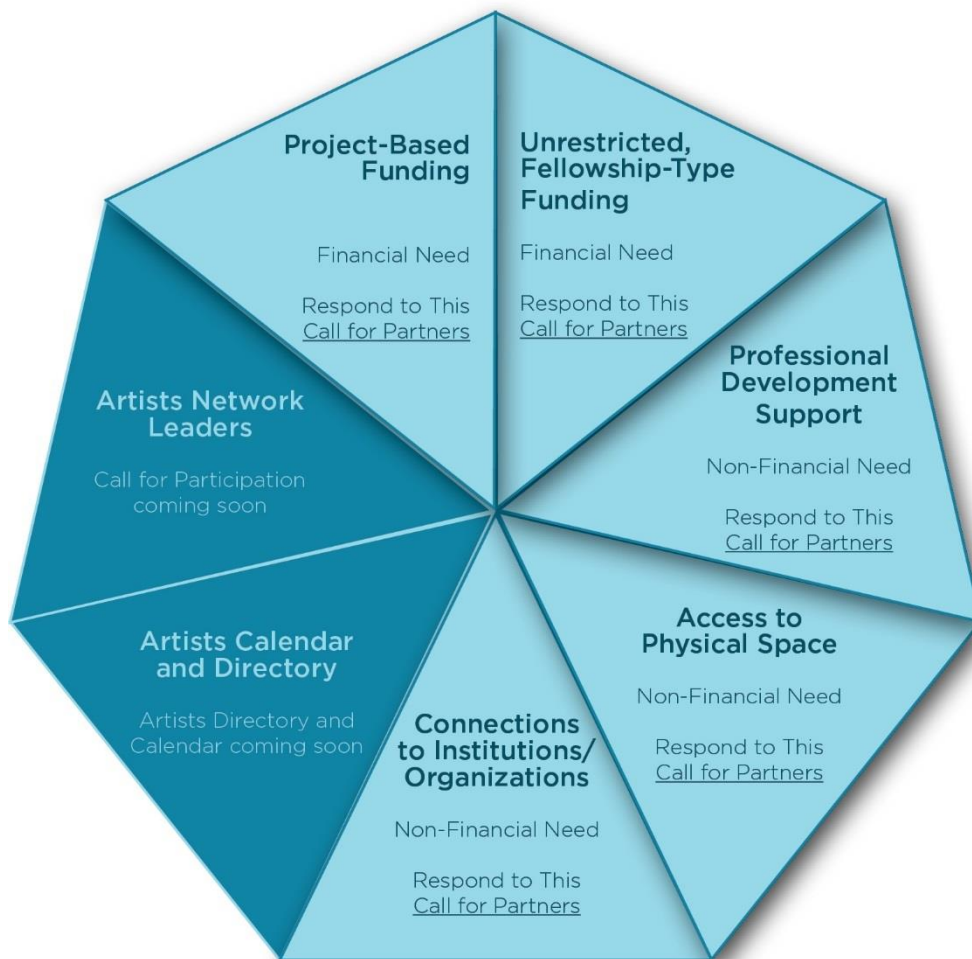
Photo | McKinley Wiley

Due Thursday, July 12 by 4:30 PM

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC) seeks to partner with multiple nonprofits to support Cuyahoga County artists. Partners will receive CAC funding to provide programs, funding and support to meet the needs of Cuyahoga County artists and residents. We are looking for nonprofit partners to offer one or more of the following services/programs for artists:

- Project-Based Funding
- Unrestricted, Fellowship-Type Funding
- Professional Development Support
- Access to Physical Space
- Connections to Institutions/Organizations

Why work with partners? By law, CAC can only make grants to nonprofit organizations. This call for partners as an initial step to identify organizations who meet criteria and have an interest in working to support Cuyahoga County artists and residents. Submissions to this call will be reviewed by a panel including local artists, and selected partners will work with CAC to co-create a full proposal for funding in late summer/early fall 2018, for implementation in Q4 2018 and 2019. See the timeline on page 5 for details.



CAC's Support for Artists includes multiple components. **Grounded in equity** and **supported by a network of artists**, these components will come together to create an ecosystem of support for Cuyahoga County artists.

Our Commitment to Equity: CAC and its partners will strongly encourage applicants who have been historically marginalized or underrepresented. Priority funding goes to artists that foster artistic expression deeply rooted in and reflective of historically marginalized or underrepresented communities.

Informed by the Grantmakers in the Arts' "Racial Equity: Statement of Purpose," these communities include: African and African American; Latino/a; Asian and Asian American; Arab; Native American; Pacific Islander; lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer; transgender and gender variant people; people with disabilities; and women. Cuyahoga Arts & Culture also recognizes that some marginalized communities may not be listed here and encourages applicants to articulate and provide supporting evidence about the marginalization of any community or ethnic/people group not named above. Marginalized communities do not include fringe artistic disciplines.



Qualifications

Partner organizations must:

- be a 501c3 nonprofit organization (exempt from federal taxation);
- have demonstrated experience providing arts or cultural programs or services to artists or residents;
- share in CAC's commitment to equity;
- be nimble, open to change/learning/feedback;
- have a collaborative spirit and demonstrated commitment to co-creation;
- have meaningful relationships with Cuyahoga County residents; and,
- align with CAC's broad definition of arts and culture, as outlined in [ORC 3381](#).

This call is open to both current and past CAC grant recipients (both General Operating Support and Project Support) and nonprofit organizations that have not previously received funding.

Background: A team of volunteers was formed by Cuyahoga Arts & Culture in June 2017 to recommend types of support CAC should provide to meet the need of Cuyahoga County artists. View the [recommendations](#) and CAC's [three-year workplan](#) to deliver support for artists in Cuyahoga County. A key component of this background work was discussing and defining a commitment to equity.

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture has budgeted \$800,000 for a range of artist support work between January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2019. In budget projections, CAC plans for a consistent investment in individual artist programs in future years.



Photo | McKinley Wiley

Call for Partners

CAC seeks nonprofit partners (including current CAC-funded organizations) to deliver funding and support that address the following needs of Cuyahoga County artists:

Financial Needs:

- **Unrestricted, Fellowship-Type Funding**
CAC seeks to re-imagine individual artist fellowship support, in partnership with nonprofit organizations, to provide meaningful unrestricted dollars to artists.
- **Project-Based Funding**
CAC will partner with nonprofits to provide project-specific support for Cuyahoga County artists to carry out their work and bring ideas to life. Ideally short, concise applications accepted on a rolling basis.

Non-Financial Needs:

- **Access to Physical Space**
CAC seeks partners who can activate existing spaces and/or create physical spaces for artists to connect, collaborate and create. This includes partnerships to activate under/non-utilized spaces, and programs to connect artists to spaces they may not know of or have access to.
- **Connections to Institutions/Organizations**
CAC will partner to foster connections between CAC-funded nonprofits and individual artists in Cuyahoga County. Creating space for collaboration, partnership and access. Reducing perceived barriers, building shared language.
- **Professional Development Support**
CAC aims to identify partners who offer existing programs or resources to empower artists, help artists grow, and connect artists to other artists, residents, and opportunities in Cuyahoga County.

Note: Partners may provide or develop programs /services which address one or many of these needs. CAC intends to work with more than one partner to address these needs and provide support.

Selection Process

Qualified applicants will be reviewed by an independent panel of experts, including at least two local artists and one CAC staff member. After a thorough review of completed “Call for Partners” materials, panelists will meet to discuss and score the applications based on the following criteria:

- **Public Benefit: 35 Points**

CAC defines Public Benefit as a partner’s ability to meaningfully engage artists and residents through its programs or services. This may include:

- Demonstrating that it understands, respects, works with, and responds to the needs of artists/residents
- Using knowledge of its community to drive its work
- Building meaningful relationships with Cuyahoga County artists/residents
- Being accessible and inviting to artists/residents

- **Commitment to Equity: 25 Points**

CAC defines equity as operating with an awareness of legacies of privilege and power, and working to address its effects on opportunity, access and resources. This may include:

- Building relationships with artists that foster artistic expression deeply rooted in and reflective of historically marginalized or underrepresented communities.
- Demonstrating a capacity to strongly engage and support applicants who have been historically marginalized or underrepresented.

- **Organizational Capacity: 25 Points**

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture defines Organizational Capacity as an organization’s ability to partner effectively, collaborate, and successfully plan for and manage its operations. This may include:

- Recruiting and retaining an engaged and diverse board, staff, and/or volunteers who are qualified to complete the project
- Planning as a team to set goals, measure progress, evaluate outcomes and evolve
- Having clear plans to work with CAC to achieve stated project goals
- Setting and managing a budget that is realistic and appropriate for the program

- **Programmatic Vibrancy: 15 Points**

CAC defines Programmatic Vibrancy as a partner organization’s ability to create quality programs or services that address the needs of artists. This may include:

- Engaging a diverse team of arts and cultural professionals, qualified to complete the project
- Thinking creatively and/or differently, and inspiring others to do the same
- Incorporating a process of reflection that ensures responsive programming

Top scoring applicants will be invited to submit a complete proposal to Cuyahoga Arts & Culture to address the stated needs of artists outlined on Pages 1 + 3.

Timeline

Mid-May	Call for Partners announced
July 12 (4:30 pm)	Call for Partners deadline
Aug.	Panel reviews and scores submissions Selected partners will begin to develop proposals with CAC
Sept. 12	Selected partners recommended to CAC's Board of Trustees
Oct. 2018-Dec. 2019	Selected partners finalize agreements with CAC Co-created programs and services take place

To respond to this call for partners:

Please submit the [call for partners form](#) online by 4:30 pm on Thursday, July 12, 2018.

Questions? Contact Jake Sinatra at jsinatra@cacgrants.org or 216-515-8303 x103.

Not a nonprofit but want to get involved?

Please contact Roshi Ahmadian at rahmadian@cacgrants.org or 216-515-8303 x109 to learn more about CAC's **Artists Calendar and Directory**. While we are required to partner with nonprofits by law, there are many opportunities to connect to this work and help build an ecosystem of support for Cuyahoga County artists.



Photo | Cody York, Sparx City Hop

Call for Partners – Online Form

Please complete the following fields and questions online at cacgrants.org/CFP by 4:30 pm on Thursday, July 12, 2018.

- **About Your Nonprofit**

1. Organization Name
2. Mission Statement
3. Nonprofit Status
4. Brief Organizational History
5. Website
6. Primary Contact Info
7. Do you currently receive funding from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture?

- **Support for Artists**

1. Which financial or non-financial needs of Cuyahoga County artists (listed on Pages 1 + 3) is your organization equipped to address? (Select multiple)
2. Briefly describe your organization's past experience with supporting artists and/or residents in response to these needs. (Up to 1,000 characters)
3. In response to these needs, what program or services do you want to provide to artists? (Up to 1,000 characters)
4. How much would it cost (your best estimate, including overhead costs)?

- **Partnership**

1. Please outline how you meet the qualifications listed on Page 2. Please include at least one example and a reference, including contact information. (Up to 1,000 characters)
2. Share an example of how your definition of and/or commitment to equity has influenced your work or programs. (500 characters)
3. Who are the key leaders on your team and their expertise as it pertains to supporting artists? (1,000 characters)

- **Supplemental Information**

1. Audited Financial Statements (most recently completed fiscal year)
2. Optional: Biography/Resume/CV of key leaders
3. Optional: Other supplemental materials that would help us to understand your organization or work.



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Learn more at cacgrants.org/CFP

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