



# 2020 Project Support II

## GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

New to CAC? Start here!

First-time applicants may only apply to this program, Project Support II.



Lake Erie Native American Council

**Eligibility Check Due:**  
**MAY 30, 2019 BY 4:30 PM ET**

**Application Due:**  
**AUGUST 1, 2019 BY 4:30 PM ET**





Dear Applicant,

**Thank you for your interest in the 2020 Project Support II grant program.** Cuyahoga Arts & Culture's [mission](#) is to inspire and strengthen the community by investing in arts and culture. CAC is excited to work with you to connect Cuyahoga County residents to arts and culture in our community.

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC) is one of the largest local public funders for arts and culture in the nation, helping hundreds of organizations in Cuyahoga County connect millions of people to cultural experiences each year. Cuyahoga County residents created CAC in 2006 when they approved a tax on cigarettes to support arts and culture. Since 2007, CAC has invested more than \$182 million in more than 400 organizations both large and small, making Cuyahoga County a more vibrant place to live, work and play.

This cycle, both our Project Support I and Project Support II grant programs are open to applications. **If you are a first-time applicant, this program is right for you!** If you're unsure of which program is the best fit for your organization, please take a look at the [2020 Grant Program Guide](#). If you're still unsure, feel free to contact us.

**This document contains the guidelines and detailed application instructions for 2020 Project Support II,** which offers grants of up to \$5,000 for 501c3 organizations providing arts and cultural programming to residents of Cuyahoga County. Please keep in mind these two important dates:

- **Submit your Eligibility Check by May 30, 2019, by 4:30 pm ET**
- **Submit your Application by August 1, 2019, by 4:30 pm ET**

We encourage all applicants to start the process early to give themselves and CAC staff as much time as possible in order to help you succeed. CAC will be holding informational workshops during the application cycle and other opportunities for one-on-one assistance. CAC staff is always available to help answer any questions. As public employees, it is our role to support you and help you to be successful.

For additional information please contact a program manager: [Luis Gomez](#) at 216-515-8303 x106, [Heather Johnson-Banks](#) at x108 or [Dan McLaughlin](#) at x101. To learn more about Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, visit [cacgrants.org](#) and [sign up](#) to receive email updates.

We look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

The Cuyahoga Arts & Culture Team



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## Program Overview

### Background

The purpose of Cuyahoga Arts & Culture's 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. Grant applications are reviewed annually through a transparent panel review process. CAC will offer two Project Support grant options in 2019 for projects occurring in the January 1 – December 31, 2020 grant period. This document provides the guidelines and application instructions for the Project Support II program.



*Friends of Euclid Creek has been a Project Support II recipient for the past two years.*

### Project Support II (PS II)

- Grant requests up to \$5,000 for [501c3 organizations](#) based in Cuyahoga County
- Application consists of five narrative questions, budget and support materials
- 1:1 [match](#) required (50% of match can come from [in-kind contributions](#))

CAC will also offer the following grant opportunities for 2020:

- [2020 Project Support I \(PS I\)](#): grants of up to \$25,000 for 501c3 organizations who have received CAC funding in the past.
- [General Operating Support \(GOS\)](#): multi-year core support for 501c3 organizations with a primary mission of arts & culture.

To learn more about the differences between General Operating Support, Project Support I and Project Support II, refer to the [2020 Grant Program Guide](#). Organizations may only submit one application per cycle.

### Key Dates



## Who May Apply

To be eligible for the 2020 Project Support II grant program, applicant organizations must meet all of the following eligibility criteria:

- Have a [permanent and viable base of operations](#) in Cuyahoga County for at least one year prior to May 30, 2019 (as verified in part by an organization’s Articles of Incorporation);

**Permanent and Viable Base of Operations in Cuyahoga County:** applicant organization, branch or affiliate office must have a business address in Cuyahoga County and do at least 51% of its local programs and services in Cuyahoga County for the residents of Cuyahoga County and visitors to Cuyahoga County.

- Be a [501c3 organization](#) as verified by [GuideStar’s Charity Check](#) service;
- Have produced or presented [arts or cultural](#) program(s) open to the [public](#) within the previous two years prior to May 30, 2019;

**Arts or Cultural:** defined in the [Ohio Revised Code, Chapter 3381](#) (CAC’s enabling law) as “including, but not limited to, literature, theater, music, dance, ballet, painting, sculpture, photography, motion pictures, architecture, archaeology, history, natural history, or the natural sciences.”

- Be incorporated and authorized to do business in Ohio as verified by the [Ohio Secretary of State](#).

CAC strongly encourages applicants who are from communities that have been historically excluded or marginalized.

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.

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture also recognizes that some marginalized communities may not be listed here and encourage 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.

### Who May Not Apply

The following types of organizations are not eligible to apply to the 2020 Project Support II grant program (this list is not exhaustive):

- Organizations that are not in good standing with CAC and/or in compliance with previous grants;
- Organizations that are serving as [fiscal agents or fiscal sponsors](#) for an organization or program;
- Religious institutions without a separate [501c3 organization](#) that specifically administers non-sectarian public programming;
- Private non-operating foundations;
- Units of government;
- K-12 schools, including parent-teacher associations and similar groups;
- Individuals
- Fundraising organizations, such as “Friends Of” groups who do not conduct their own programming

Additionally, organizations receiving General Operating Support or applying for a Project Support I grant from CAC are not eligible to apply for Project Support II funding in the same grant cycle.

**Note for colleges and universities:** Colleges and universities are eligible only for activities that clearly serve the needs of the community and are designed to involve a broad audience. Activities that are credit-producing or are oriented primarily to collegiate students and the academic community are not eligible.

### What is a Project?

A project is a specific, connected set of activities, with a beginning and an end, explicit goals/objectives and a predetermined cost that does not equal the organization’s total annual budget. Projects may be one-time events, such as a festival or exhibit, or a defined series of events, such as a roster of classes or a series of productions. Projects with multiple components must show that there is a cohesive theme that ties the project together.

#### Pre-Screening of Applications

CAC staff will pre-screen applications before moving them forward to panelists for review. If the submitted project does not meet CAC’s definition of a project (above) or [arts or cultural heritage](#), or if the application appears to be a request for general operating support, CAC staff will deem the project ineligible for funding. The application will not be reviewed by the panel and your organization will be ineligible for funding in 2020.

### Application Review Process

All eligible applications are evaluated by a panel of arts or cultural professionals from outside the region in an **online panel review process**. **There is no in-person panel**. Panelists will review and score applications independently and provide written feedback.



Panelists are chosen to represent a cross-section of professionals qualified to provide expert knowledge of specific arts or cultural disciplines, as well as for their management experience, professional knowledge of the sector and prior panel experience. CAC staff and trustees take every effort to ensure that the panel is diverse in terms of race, gender, age, and discipline. All panelists receive an honorarium for their service.

CAC staff members provide eligible grant applications and support materials to panelists approximately four weeks prior to the panel review meeting to allow panelists sufficient time for their evaluation. During the panel review meeting, **the panel will evaluate all eligible applications based on CAC Funding Criteria: Public Benefit; Artistic and Cultural Vibrancy; and Organizational Capacity.** For more information see the [Funding Criteria](#) section.

CAC staff monitors the online panel review but does not score or provide opinions on applications. Staff will manage all administrative and logistical actions necessary to conduct a successful panel review: provide panelists all documentation necessary to evaluate applications effectively; train panelists in matters of CAC policy and procedures; and provide all available objective information regarding an applicant to the panel.

## Grant Recipient Requirements

### Grant Agreement and Compliance

If your application is approved for funding by CAC's Board at its 2019 November meeting, CAC will prepare a letter with the grant amount and grant agreement for each grant recipient. CAC staff will be available to meet with new and returning grant recipients to review the grant agreement requirements. To be considered an active grant recipient and receive funding, recipients must sign a grant agreement. All funded activities and grant expenditures must occur during the grant period, January 1 – December 31, 2020.

### Events Calendar and Credit Requirements

Funding from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture comes from a tax approved by residents of Cuyahoga County. CAC asks that organizations receiving Project Support partner with CAC throughout the grant cycle by communicating with their grant manager at CAC, posting events and job opportunities on CAC's website, connecting with CAC on social media, and saying thank you to the residents of Cuyahoga County for their support. Grant recipients are required to post events (and encouraged to post jobs) to CAC's online events calendar, [ClevelandArtsEvents.com](http://ClevelandArtsEvents.com).

The [Events Calendar and Credit Requirements](#) document outlines how to partner with us effectively. Grant recipients that do not comply with these expectations may be subject to a 10% reduction to their final grant amount.

### Grant Requirements

All grant recipients that receive a 2020 Project Support grant must submit a final report online within 60 days of the completion of the project. In addition to a final report, CAC staff may conduct site visits during the project period. Reporting guidelines and instructions will be posted online in advance of deadlines. Reports consist of a narrative, financial documentation and support materials. Grant recipients that submit a late final report, or do not submit a final report, may receive a reduced or revoked final grant amount.

### Maintaining Good Standing

In order to receive CAC funds, a grant recipient must maintain its good standing with CAC during the grant period. A grant recipient is in good standing if it:

- Fully and completely meets all requirements as stated in the grant agreement for the duration of the grant period;
- Accurately represents its organization and its activities in all documents submitted to CAC. This includes, but is not limited to, the eligibility check, application, final report and all other reports and forms; and
- Continues to meet the [eligibility criteria](#).

A grant recipient not in good standing with CAC will be officially informed of this status in writing.



*International Women's Air & Space Museum is a current PS II recipient.*

## Application Process

The following is an overview of Cuyahoga Arts & Culture’s Project Support II grant program application process. News, updates and events (including technical assistance workshops and webinars) will be posted on the CAC website and distributed via email. Sign up at [cacgrants.org](http://cacgrants.org) and opt-in to receive *CAC Grant Information* to learn more. **We highly encourage all of our applicants to add CAC’s URL and staff email addresses to your email safe senders list, address book, or contact list to continue receiving important information from CAC.** CAC will not extend any deadlines if our emails are sent to your spam or junk mail. **We strongly recommend that you begin your eligibility check and online application well before the due date** to familiarize yourself with the system and to address any technical concerns.

### Key Dates



### How to Apply

#### For New Applicants

➤ **Meet with CAC Staff**

First-time applicants to CAC grant programs are highly encouraged to schedule an informational meeting with CAC staff before the eligibility check deadline (May 30, 2019). To schedule a meeting, please contact one of our [program managers](#).

#### For All Applicants

➤ **Attend a Workshop**

CAC will offer a variety of technical assistance workshops/trainings in advance of the application deadline. Information regarding such trainings will be posted on the CAC website and all applicants will be notified by email. While workshops are not required, CAC strongly encourages and invites all eligible applicants to attend.

## Application FAQ's

### ***What is an eligible project?***

Proposed projects must be arts or cultural activities open to the public. The funded activities must originate and be completed during the grant period, January 1 – December 31, 2020. The project must be open to the public and conducted in Cuyahoga County. Organizations may only apply for one project per funding cycle. **College and university projects must involve and show support from the general community beyond the students, faculty and staff.**

### ***What does CAC mean by arts and culture?***

The [Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3381](#), CAC's enabling law, defines arts and culture as "including, but not limited to, literature, theater, music, dance, ballet, painting, sculpture, photography, motion pictures, architecture, archaeology, history, natural history, or the natural sciences."

[Organizations that do not have a primary mission that is arts & culture](#) are encouraged to apply (community development corporations, social service organizations, etc.), as long as the proposed project meets CAC's definition of [arts and culture](#).

### ***How much can I request?***

The request amount may not exceed \$5,000 or 50% of the proposed project's total expenses. Grant requests may only include expenses directly related to the project, which will be incurred during the grant period.

### ***Are there match requirements?***

Project Support II grants are matching grants. Applicants are required to leverage CAC funds to secure additional funds from other sources. This program requires a 1:1 match by the applicant. This means that CAC will provide no more than one half of the projects total expenses. For the purposes of PS II, the value of volunteer labor is set at \$24.69, the most recently [published value for volunteer time](#) for the United States.

The matching funds may come from any source. **Up to 50% of your organization's matching funds can come from in-kind contributions.** Sources of your matching funds include, but are not limited to: foundation and/or government grants, private donations, ticket sales and member dues.

Matching funds may not include other funds from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. **This includes CAC co-funded grants through the Neighborhood Connections program.** Contact CAC staff with any questions.

### ***What are the funding restrictions?***

Project Support II funds cannot be requested for: operating support; fundraising events; religious ceremonies or events advancing or inhibiting a particular religious ideology; or advocacy of specific political causes or candidates.

Restricted uses of CAC funds include but are not limited to:

- credit-bearing academic programs (K-12 and college level)
- activities that are not open to the general public
- general operating support or operating expenses not directly related to your project
- fundraising or benefits
- regrating, scholarships, tuition assistance, awards or cash prizes
- deficit reduction or elimination, trust endowments, cash reserves, penalty or litigation fees, loans, or interest on loans
- capital improvements, facilities or equipment
- religious ceremonies or events advancing or inhibiting a particular religious ideology
- cost of receptions, food and beverages
- agent's fees for programs contracted through commercial agencies
- travel outside of the United States
- advocacy of specific political causes or candidates.

### Step 1: Eligibility Check

**Eligibility Check due May 30, 2019, by 4:30 pm ET**

#### ➤ **Submit the Eligibility Check**

The eligibility check is the first step in applying for a Project Support grant for all applicants and is submitted via CAC's [online application and reporting system](#). CAC uses the eligibility check process to determine whether an organization meets the criteria to submit an application. CAC staff will review applicant documents including articles of incorporation, charity check, and Secretary of State certificate of good standing to determine eligibility. **You do not need to have a finalized project plan at this stage.**

Organizations that do not complete the eligibility check will not be permitted to submit a Project Support grant application and will not be eligible for funding. However, completing the eligibility check does not automatically make your organization eligible to apply for funding. Following the submission of the online eligibility check, CAC will notify applicants via email, to the primary contact on record, whether or not they are eligible.

Recipients of 2018 or 2019 Project Support grant funds will submit fewer items during the eligibility check process.

The following tables indicate what information and documentation is required for the eligibility check.

For 2018 or 2019 Grant Recipients
<b>Verify 501c3 status and Ohio charitable status</b>
<b>FY 2018 Financial Document*</b> • IRS Form 990/990-EZ or Form 990-PF

For All Other Applicants (Includes New Applicants)
<b>Upload documentation of public arts/cultural programs</b> conducted within the last two years. Up to two examples, such as marketing materials or dated photos.
<b>Enter amount of arts &amp; cultural expenses</b> from your organization’s most recently completed fiscal year.
<b>FY 2018 Financial Document*</b> • IRS Form 990/990-EZ or Form 990-PF
<b>Verify 501c3 status and Ohio charitable status</b>

\*If your organization is unable to provide data or documentation from the 2018 fiscal year, please contact your program manager.

➤ **Gain Access to the Online Application**

Once your organization has been deemed eligible, the primary contact on file will receive an email providing access to the online Project Support II application. The earlier you submit the eligibility check, the sooner you will have access to the online application.

## Step 2: Application

**Application due August 1, 2019, by 4:30 pm ET**

### ➤ **Gather your Support Materials**

Support materials are images, audio, video, links and/or other supporting documents that help bring your organization's mission and programs to life for panelists. They are essential to your application and play a critical role in helping panelists evaluate your organization and gain a better understanding of the proposed project. You may submit up to three support materials with your application. Please refer to the [Support Materials Guide](#) for more information.

### ➤ **Complete and Submit the Application by August 1, 2019, by 4:30 pm ET**

To be considered complete, an application must include all required narrative responses, a complete budget and support materials. See the [Application section](#) for further details.

Late or incomplete applications will NOT be accepted. After 4:30 pm ET applications will not be able to be submitted through the online system.

## Step 3: Online Panel Review

### ➤ **Online Panel**

- The online panel review process will take place in September.

### ➤ **Receive your Organization's Score & your Panelist Feedback**

- During the online panel review, panelists will score each application based on the Funding Criteria, with an emphasis on Public Benefit. Refer to the [Funding Criteria](#) and [Scoring Framework](#).
- Each panelist will score and comment on each application. CAC staff will compile these comments, make them available to applicants and upload them to the CAC website as a learning tool for future applications.
- Any application that demonstrates evidence that it meets each of CAC's three funding criteria will be recommended for a Project Support grant at full funding or partial funding.
- CAC staff will notify all applicants of their final panel score and whether or not they will be recommended for funding via email in October.

## Step 4: Application Results

### ➤ **Attend the CAC Board of Trustees Meeting to Learn your Grant Amount**

- Panel scores and grant amounts will not be confirmed until the November CAC Board of Trustees meeting. This meeting is open to the public, and applicants are encouraged to attend.
- The grant amount and total number of Project Support II grants will be determined by the following factors: the amount of funding allocated to the Project Support grant program (I & II); the panel score for each application; and the total request amount of all applications eligible for funding.
- These are general guidelines and are subject to change based on the total CAC funds available to the Project Support grant program in any given year. It is possible that all of the allocated Project Support grant funds could be awarded to those applicants receiving higher scores and applicants with lower scores will not receive funding.

### ➤ **Appeals Process**

CAC will only consider and review appeals that are evidence-based and due to materially significant CAC **processing errors** that could have compromised an applicant's grant proposal. This does not include information that was in excess of the application's space limitations or information that was submitted after the application deadline. Any requests for appeals must be filed with the Executive Director within 10 working days after the conclusion of the panel review. Requests received after 10 days will not be considered.

**Please note:** The panel's analysis and scoring of applications are **not** subject to appeal and therefore will not be considered for appeal by the CAC Board of Trustees. Neither grant awards nor grant award amounts are subject to appeal.



## Funding Criteria and Scoring

### What are Funding Criteria?

The Funding Criteria are the principles that anchor the Project Support application: Public Benefit; Artistic and Cultural Vibrancy; and Organizational Capacity.

### Why Funding Criteria Matter

Panelists will use the Funding Criteria to evaluate and score the application. Your organization's commitment to Public Benefit; Artistic and Cultural Vibrancy; and Organizational Capacity should thread through your entire application, including the narrative, financials and support materials. By demonstrating this commitment, organizations of any size and discipline can achieve an exceptional rating in each of the three priority areas.

Panelists will evaluate and score the application using the following criteria:

#### **Public Benefit**

***CAC defines public benefit as an organization's ability to meaningfully engage its community through its project.***

An organization meaningfully engages its community by:

- Demonstrating that it understands, respects, works with, and responds to its community
- Using knowledge of its community to drive its work
- Building meaningful relationships with residents and community partners
- Being accessible and inviting to its community and open to the public

#### **Artistic and Cultural Vibrancy**

***CAC defines Artistic and Cultural Vibrancy as an organization's ability to create a quality project that inspires and challenges its community.***

An organization inspires and challenges its community by:

- Engaging a diverse team of arts and cultural professionals, qualified to complete the project
- Inspiring its community to think creatively and/or differently
- Incorporating a process of reflection that ensures fresh programming

#### **Organizational Capacity**

***Cuyahoga Arts & Culture defines Organizational Capacity as an organization's ability to successfully plan for and manage its project.***

An organization successfully plans for and manages its project by:

- 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 project goals, measure progress and evolve
- Having clear plans to implement the project and achieve stated project goals
- Setting a budget that is realistic and appropriate for the project; demonstrating a clear plan to reach the match requirement

## Scoring Descriptions

**Yes:** Yes, evidence is provided throughout the application that the funding criteria are fully met. The applicant's responses are clear and address the questions in the application. The support materials are clear, highly relevant and lead to a deeper understanding of how the criteria are met.

**Somewhat:** Some evidence is provided throughout the application that the funding criteria are met. The applicant's responses are sufficient and address the questions in the application. The support materials are relevant but provide only some understanding of how the criteria are met.

**No:** No, evidence is not provided throughout the application that the funding criteria are met. Responses are unclear and/or do not address this funding criterion. The support materials may not be relevant and may not provide additional understanding of how the criteria are met.



*Slovenian Museum and Archives has received PS II funding since 2018.*

*Photo by Andy Wrobel*

## Application Questions

If your organization is deemed eligible through the eligibility check process, CAC will notify your organization via email and provide access to the online 2020 Project Support II Application. The application questions are available in this section, and as an editable Word document [here](#). The application must be submitted online using CAC's online application and reporting system, [FluidReview](#).

**The application has six sections:**

- Organizational Overview and Financial Snapshot
- Project Basics
- Application Narrative
- Project Budget
- Support Materials
- Statement of Assurances

### Organizational Overview and Financial Snapshot

The organizational overview and project basics give panelists a glimpse into your organization and the basic details of your proposed project.

- **Mission statement, organizational history and contact information.**

*This section will be pre-populated from your FluidReview Organization Details, but you may update or correct any information here.*

### Financial Snapshot

- **Enter your organization's total budget (expenses) for the 2019 fiscal year.**

*This is NOT the project budget. Enter the amount of money you spend to operate your entire organization during the year.*

- **Enter your arts and cultural budget (income and expenses) for the 2019 fiscal year.**

*If your organization's primary mission is arts and cultural, this will be your full budget. If your organization's primary mission is NOT arts and cultural, this will be your arts and cultural income and expenses ONLY.*

### Project Basics

Use the fields in this section to provide basic project details.

- **Project Title** (Up to 100 characters)

*This should be the title, not a summary of the project.*

- **Project Summary** (Up to 500 characters)

*Briefly describe the project in a sentence or two.*

- **Community Served and Art Form**

*Select the primary community your project serves and primary art form used for your project. CAC recognizes that some projects can serve multiple communities and/or make use of multiple art forms.*

**Primary Community**

**Secondary Community (optional)**

**Primary Art Form**

**Secondary Art Form (optional)**

- **Total Project Expenses**

- **Amount Requested from CAC**

*The requested amount cannot be more than 50% of the proposed project's total expenses.*

- **Project Dates**

*The start and end dates should not be the entire grant period. All events must begin and end within the grant period (January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020).*

- **Public Event Location(s)** (Up to 750 characters)

- **Total number of expected participants and/or audience members**

- **Will the event/activity be free or fee-based? How was this decision made?**

## Application Narratives

The narrative is an important part of your application. It is your opportunity to communicate to the panel the specific details of your proposed project. Keep in mind that panelists are from outside the region and likely not familiar with your organization and/or community. It is important that you communicate all relevant information necessary for a person unfamiliar with your organization to fully understand your project. Before starting your responses to the narrative section, review the [Funding Criteria](#) section.

We recommend that you prepare your answers offline in a word processing program and copy/paste your responses into the appropriate text box in the online application. Please note that your application can be saved at any point and you may return to the application to continue work.

**1) Define the community that you will serve through this project. How will you work with this community to carry out your project?** (Up to 1,000 characters)

***Tip:** A community may be defined by geography (place), identity (attributes) or affinity (what we like). The best way to demonstrate your project's public benefit is to demonstrate that you know, respect, work with and respond to your community.*

**2) What will you do? How will you do it?** (Up to 2,000 characters)

*Tip: Include an overview of project activities and how the project will be carried out. Consider what, where, when and how.*

- 3) **This question is about public benefit: describe how your project engages your community in a meaningful way.** (Up to 1,000 characters)

*Tip: CAC's definition of [Public Benefit](#) can be found on page 12.*

- 4) **Set one project goal. In addition to completing the project, what goal does your organization want to accomplish within this project?**

**Goal:** (Up to 500 characters)

**How will you know you have accomplished or made progress toward your goal?** (Up to 500 characters)

*Tip: This goal should be specific, measurable and be related to why your organization is doing this project. If awarded funds, you are required to report the status of this goal with the final report.*

- 5) **Who will be involved?** (Up to 1,000 characters)

*Tip: Specify the roles of any staff/volunteers, board members and/or other project partners. Specify any arts or cultural professionals/expertise.*

**OPTIONAL: Is there any additional information about your project or organization that may be helpful to an outside panelist reviewing your application?** (Up to 1,500 characters)

*Tip: CAC recruits all panelists from outside of the region. What might be important information to share with someone who is unfamiliar with Cuyahoga County or your work?*

## Project Finances

**Complete the following questions about your project's finances in the Online Application and Reporting System.**

- 1) **How will you spend CAC funds?** (Up to 500 characters)

*Tip: Indicate how CAC funds will be used. See [list of prohibited uses](#) of CAC funds on page 8 of guidelines.*

- 2) **How will you raise matching funds?** (Up to 500 characters)

*Tip: List the sources and amounts you'll use to raise the matching income for the rest of the project budget.*

**3) Use this field to further explain your project finances.** (Up to 1,000 characters)

*Tip: Detail anything that may require additional information. Consider adding information about any in-kind sources here.*

### Support Materials

Support materials bring your project to life and play a critical role in helping panelists evaluate your application. CAC encourages applicants to carefully select items that are clear, recent and relevant to the proposed project. Support materials may include images, audio files, videos, hyperlinks and/or other supporting documents.

Please consider using web-based support materials *instead* of uploading large files. You can share links such as a YouTube video or online photo album. Submitted links still count toward your maximum allowed. **Panelists will not review materials in excess of the three optional support materials.**

See the [Support Materials Guide](#) for more information on selecting, uploading and/or linking to support materials.

**Please note:** CAC does not own, collect royalties on or hold copyrights to artistic products resulting from its grants, nor will it take any action on behalf of the grant recipient to protect the grant recipient's intellectual property rights. CAC does, however, have legal authority to reproduce and use submitted documentation (electronically and in print) of such artistic products for educational, promotional, official or noncommercial purposes.

All applicants must upload or provide links to the following:

- **Upload Support Material(s)** - At least one, but no more than three, item(s) of your choice that brings your project to life and demonstrates the funding criteria.

### Statement of Assurances

After completing the support materials section, your organization will electronically authorize the application by completing the Statement of Assurances. An authorizing official will certify that they are authorized to submit the application on behalf of the organization and that the information submitted in the application is true and correct to the best of their knowledge.

## Glossary

**Arts or Cultural Heritage:** defined in the Ohio Revised Code, Chapter 3381 (CAC’s enabling law) as “including, but not limited to, literature, theater, music, dance, ballet, painting, sculpture, photography, motion pictures, architecture, archaeology, history, natural history, or the natural sciences.”

**Arts or Cultural Organization:** defined in the Ohio Revised Code, Chapter 3381, as “any corporation, organization, association or institution that provides programs or activities in areas directly concerned with the arts and cultural heritage; and is not for profit and whose net earnings may not lawfully inure to the benefit of any private shareholder, member or individual.”

**Authorizing Official:** an official of your organization who has authority to legally bind the organization. This individual has authority to sign all application and grant-related documents.

**Capital:** capital improvements, expenditures, acquisitions and restorations (facilities and equipment).

**Community:** CAC defines community as the constituents (audience, participants, neighbors and beneficiaries) the applicant intends to serve. The strongest applicants clearly define their community and include plans to engage these constituents in the planning and implementation of their mission.

**Criteria:** minimum standards applicants must comply with to be considered for funding. Meeting specific criteria does not guarantee a grant award since all CAC programs are competitive.

**Diverse:** composed of distinct qualities and characteristics; age, color, ethnicity, ancestry, sex, family or marital status, gender identity or expression, language, national origin, physical and mental disability, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, veteran status, citizenship status and other characteristics that make individuals unique.

**Eligibility Check:** the process used to determine an applicant’s eligibility to apply for CAC funding.

**Fiscal Agent or Sponsor:** an incorporated, nonprofit, tax-exempt organization that provides administrative and financial services for projects initiated by unincorporated, nonprofit organizations or incorporated, nonprofit organizations that do not have financial or administrative capability. Unincorporated groups or organizations may not apply to the Project Support program through an organization acting as a fiscal agent.

**In-Kind Contribution:** a gift of goods and services. In-kind goods and services are typically goods and services that your organization would have to otherwise buy if they had not been donated (including donated space, equipment or expertise, etc). The value of the donated supplies or services may be recorded as the amount that your organization would have to pay for similar items.

For the purposes of PS II, the value of volunteer labor is set at \$24.69 per hour, the most recently [published value for volunteer time](#) for the United States.

**Matching Grant:** a grant or gift made with the specification that the amount donated must be matched. Project Support II grants require a 1:1 match. In-kind contributions can account for no more than 50% of your matching income.

**Nonprofit Organization:** organizations that have tax-exempt status under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) but are not private foundations under Internal Revenue Code Section 509 or are among those "operating" private foundations (private foundations that implement programs similar to public charities). These organizations are tax-exempt and contributions to them are tax deductible under such Internal Revenue Code Sections as 170, 642, 2055 and 2522.

**Permanent and Viable Base of Operations in Cuyahoga County:** applicant organization, branch or affiliate office must have a business address in Cuyahoga County and present at least 51% of its local programs and services in Cuyahoga County for the residents of Cuyahoga County and visitors to Cuyahoga County.

**Public Programming:** activities, services, productions, exhibits, tours, lectures, workshops, etc., that are open to the public.

**Qualified Personnel:** Personnel who meet specific requirements or precedent conditions for the position they occupy. Can be measured by educational attainment, experience, certifications, knowledge of community, etc.

**Support Material:** recent, relevant and quality evidence submitted by the applicant that demonstrates alignment with funding criteria and supports written narrative. Includes print, video, audio and visual materials. For more detailed information, please see the [\*Support Materials Guide\*](#).



## Additional Resources

CAC will offer a variety of application workshops, webinars and technical assistance trainings in advance of the application deadline. Workshop dates, locations and registration information will be posted on the CAC website and all eligible applicants will be notified by email regarding workshop details.

Please use the following guides referenced throughout this document for more detailed information to help you throughout the application process:

[2020 Grant Program Guide](#)

[Online Application & Reporting System Guide](#)

[Support Materials Guide](#)

Also consider the following resources throughout the application process:

Past Applications: Applicants who wish to review high-scoring applications from past cycles are encouraged to contact the CAC staff.

Panel Review Results: Applicants may review the [panel results and comments](#) from last year's panel to inform their applications and learn from others.

As always, CAC staff is here to assist you:

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