PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS 2024 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.

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 2 of the Panel Guide.

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

PANEL COMMENTS

Requests of \$5,000 or less are reviewed via independent, written reviews, and many panelists provide comments for the applicants. Below you will find the panel scores and any feedback on your application.

The panelists who reviewed your application are listed on your application feedback page. Panelist biographies begin on page 3 of the Panel Guide. Panelist comments are presented in no particular order.

QUESTIONS?

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Abrepaso Flamenco	1
Achievement Centers for Children	3
Arts in Strongsville	5
Arts Without Borders	7
Babel Box Theater	9
Baseball Heritage Museum	11
Bay Village Community Band	13
Beachwood Arts Council	15
Bedford Historical Society	17
Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio	19
Center for Employment Opportunities	21
Choral Arts Cleveland	23
Cleveland Chamber Collective	25
Cleveland Philharmonic Orchestra	27
Cleveland Photo Fest	29
Cleveland Pride Band	31
Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad	33
Dancing Classrooms Northeast Ohio	35
Folknet	37
Golden Ciphers Youth Development & Cultural Arts Center	39
Good Company: A Vocal Ensemble	41
Graffiti HeArt	43
Greater Cleveland Film Commission	45
Harvard Community Services Center	47
InMotion	49
International Community Council	51
John Carroll University	53
Kings & Queens of Art	55
Mantles and Makers	57

MidTown Cleveland	59
Museum of Creative Human Art	61
Naach Di Cleveland	63
NAMI Greater Cleveland	65
No Exit	67
North Pointe Ballet	69
Ohio City Incorporated	71
Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation	73
One South Euclid	75
Parma Area Fine Arts Council	77
Parma Symphony Orchestra	79
Poise Entertainment Education Company	81
Polish Village Parma	83
Radio on the Lake Theatre	85
Restore Cleveland Hope	87
Ridna Shkola Cleveland	89
Shaker Arts Council	91
Shore Cultural Centre	93
SOS: Strengthening Our Students	95
St. Clair Superior Development Corp.	97
Studio Institute	99
STV Bavaria	101
Suburban Symphony Orchestra	103
Tender Hearts Crusades	105
The Foundry	107
Trobár Medieval	109
Upcycle Parts Shop	111
Ursuline College	113
Wake Up and Live's Actor's Studio	115

West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development	117
Western Reserve Fire Museum & Education Center	119
Westlake Chinese School	121
Windsong, Cleveland's Feminist Chorus	123
Women in History	125



Organization: Abrepaso Flamenco

Project Title: Comunidad Flamenca

Panelists: Anel Arriola, Astrid Caruso-Lynch, Caity Cook, Sheryl Doades, Levon Williams

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$4,270

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The description of the concentric circles and the detail on which these are described is very helpful in understanding and visualizing who the organization's community is. It's very meaningful to see that the organization has developed different events throughout the year that engage the different rings of community that they engage. Another meaningful item is to see how they take feedback and apply it to their continuous annual programing.

I appreciate that the organization is thinking so holistically about the different public benefits provided by the various aspects of their programming.

The applicant successfully details the overlapping communities they hope to serve with this project, from the circle of those deeply involved and connected to flamenco to the wider community of Cleveland residents, who would benefit from learning about and connecting to flamenco as a means of understanding a history and culture.

I appreciated the organization's approach to community, considering its relationships to those already engaged and identifying those who are not currently engaged as part of its circles. The application identifies a strong focus on community programming and efforts to be inclusive, accessible, and inviting to current participants and the broader public. Throughout the application the organization identifies ways of meeting the community where they are in relation to the art form as well as geographically and financially.

Appreciated how the "concentric circles" approach of community is articulated here. This is great, very clear, and very intentional in serving all the community circles in ways that align with their needs It is clear from the ways that AF incorporates community feedback that "understanding, respecting, and sharing power with its community" is a priority It is also clear by the multiple modalities of the programming AF offers that it "accessible and inviting to its community and to the broader public"

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

The description of the work makes me want to travel to Cleveland and experience Abrepaso's events.



The organization outlined the importance of ongoing feedback and community conversation in the project narrative. I appreciated the details included in the description about creating a relevant and engaging project; they tied back into the organizational history and highlighted aspects of the project supporting and promoting diverse and underrepresented artists.

This section clearly articulated "identified opportunities to promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging" by promoting the work of women artists within the flamenco artform.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

The AF team seems well poised for success having a clear vision for what they seek to accomplish, a team that has collective experience to accomplish the program's goal, and structure that incorporates feedback from the various communities AF seeks to serve. Kudos.



Organization: Achievement Centers for Children

Project Title: Adaptive Music and Movement Programs for Adults with Disabilities

Panelists: Diego Barbosa- Vásquez, Dominique Feloss, Maria Lafelice, Linda Ryan, Michael

Smith

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$4,270

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Yes: Thank you for taking the time to clarify your community target and how they are involved.

The applicant has a great public benefit, notably their adult services team, which provides an environment for developmentally disabled adults. Their main priority and strategy is to offer services for those who have disabilities. They service many children and continue their services into adulthood, which shows significant value in follow-up methods, as well as general impact.

The ACC is providing an enriching experience for individuals, at no cost to the participants.

shows public benefit for a specific population where existing resources are scarce (creative programming for disabled adults); organizational capacity demonstrated by pre-existence of this program, funding is to continue its operations

Simply by its ongoing commitment to producing programs for a vulnerable and underserved community, ACC shows inclusivity and accessibility. This program itself strengthens the bond between participants, their caretakers and families, and the region's artistic community.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Somewhat: Based on the information provided, I couldn't determine the depth of the artistic or cultural process involved.

Music and movement sessions seem to have great impact on the participants, stating that their physical abilities tend to improve, as well as new skill acquirements. Overall, the goal of the organization shows significant dedication to creative expression with diverse recipients. I will say that the broadness of the goal isn't the best, however they do explain that the goals vary due to consideration of inclusivity.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Somewhat: The big numbers are clear, and it seems you had enough capacity, but the specific project budget is not clear enough in detail about the amount of hours and fees for the people involved.

It is apparent that they have a solid team for each aspect of the program, including a significantly experienced program manager.

The experience of the planning team is relevant and well-versed.

ACC has well-articulated goals for a set number of participants, which aligns well with the budget the organization provi



Organization: Arts in Strongsville

Project Title: A Day at the Chalet

Panelists: Anel Arriola, Astrid Caruso-Lynch, Caity Cook, Sheryl Doades, Levon Williams

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$3,415

PUBLIC BENEFIT

This sounds like a great event. A question I have is, do different cultures get featured each year? How is it decided which culture to feature? How does that connect with members of the community. I am curious about the demographics of the families who attend this event.

The public benefit demonstrated through previous success, accessibility, and a multifaceted programming lens is strong.

The applicant clearly articulates this project's history of engaging multiple generations and subsets of the Strongsville community. I particularly appreciated the note about providing free shuttles to the event from the RTA Park'n'Ride, a move that helps ensure the event is accessible to a wide range of attendees.

Applicant provides evidence of community partnerships in project planning and implementation. The focus appears primarily on that planning and implementation; the limited detail referencing engagement and opportunities to listen and respond to the community makes it difficult to fully gauge public benefit from the participant perspective.

Appreciated learning about the free shuttles to the event that are provided by RTA Park n Ride to ensure the event is as accessible as possible. This is what inclusion and equity look like in practice. Appreciated that the arts engagement will include multiple cultures.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

It's nice to ready about how " A large portion of our attendees are children who first come to A Day at the Chalet as young children and continue to come year after year — many whom ultimately become volunteers" This is a great sign of a very good and engaging event.

I would advise the applicant to use more recent examples (video, photo) in their supporting materials.

This section could be strengthened by providing more detail about how you might create a process/structure for receiving feedback from the various communities AIS servers, particularly those communities that are underrepresented.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

I'm curious about the inventory analysis. I'd like to learn more about it and know how effective is on measuring completed projects vs participation as children may participate on a project but not finish it as they might jump to other activities.

Appreciated the very clear goal to measure the amount of crafts completed this year, and clearly articulating how that will be measured. Appreciated clear articulation on how CAC funds will be used if awarded and a clear plan for what will need to be changed if not awarded.

cuyahoga

Carts & Culture

strengthening community

Organization: Arts Without Borders

Project Title: Cinderella - A Kathak Night

Panelists: Diego Barbosa- Vásquez, Dominique Feloss, Maria Lafelice, Linda Ryan, Michael

Smith

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$3,415

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Somewhat: It is not clear for me the specific community you are trying to reach.

I see the value in AWB's existence in the community - being a BIPOC led organization with a mission to introduce a classical Indian dance to children and adults alike is refreshing and unique. In number 11, I see there being a part involving active participation from the community vendors, high school, and students in the local area. I do wonder about accessibility for those in the audience or participants. Is there a way that people with disabilities can participate?? Is the venue in accordance with the ADA?

The project provides an opportunity for the public to be introduced to a dance form that they may not already be familiar with, in a familiar format (retelling of a fairy tale).

Through this project, Arts Without Borders is building relationships between the region's South Asian community and the region's majority-white population, amongst others. There is not an abundance of evidence that would demonstrate further public benefit.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Somewhat: Based on the information provided, I couldn't determine the depth of the artistic or cultural process involved.

Unfortunately none of the support materials worked. The first pdf was blank except for the word "website" which was not linked. The second document didn't open at all, and the third would not load the video. So I cannot form my opinion about their artistic and cultural vibrancy based on visuals. Based on the written responses, I can determine that there's a focus on students being part of the planning process, which is amazing to hear. I think that the organization has a great dedication to the youth as well as a longing to widen the audience for Kathak.

highlights Kathak dance for enrichment of local South-Asian community as well as cross-cultural learning for other participants/attendees

This reviewer would have liked to see a more explicit description of how AWB is identifying and undertaking efforts to promote DEIB through the project.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

No: I am hesitant about organization capacity as the overall total budget is very close the the full project itself. Also, having metrics only based on the number of attendance won't give you enough information about the core goal you are trying to achieve.

The artistic director has a great background and participants seem to be in extremely capable hands. I would have liked to know a bit more about the executive team, names and descriptions specifically, so I can get a better understanding of who is involved with the management of production and services. Maybe providing a short blurb of at least one individual on the team would give me a sense of the makeup of executives.

AWB plans on 400-500 tickets sold and noted later that historic ticket sales come in between 300 and 400. There has not been much description of the strategies AWB will employ to increase ticket sales by 25 percent.

cuyahoga
arts & culture
strengthening community

Organization: Babel Box Theater

Project Title: Kassandra

Panelists: Anel Arriola, Astrid Caruso-Lynch, Caity Cook, Sheryl Doades, Levon Williams

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$3,415

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Unfortunately, I don't see the BBT defining community. The answer to question 10 is broad. Since the project is about a transgender person and even entry fees may be waived for Trans people who have economic issues, I would like to know more about this community or for them to be more clearly acknowledged in this section.

The public benefit of this project is not totally clear to me, as I am not sure exactly who the community/audience is. In one place, the community is defined as low income

I appreciate the note that the production hopes to work with local artists and actors, as well as the emphasis on partnering with local LGBTQ+ organizations.

The applicant provides ample detail about the work it is seeking to produce and their goals to involve local, underrepresented and diverse artists and to educate and challenge their community. As an outside observer, limited detail related to identifying the intended community and partner organizations made it difficult to fully gauge the public benefit.

Appreciated the comprehensive responses regarding how Babel Theater considers engaging community. It is clear that there is intention to be inclusive and engage the transgender community (amongst other communities) in meaningful ways.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

It is clear that this project will "build the capacity of arts & culture professionals helping them to thrive" and will "identify opportunities to promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging"

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

The budget for this organization is listed as \$0, and the income for the project is projected to be \$7,000 but the expenses far exceed this. How will you make up the difference? If this is from ticket sales, there should be projections for how many tickets you plan to sell and what the fee structure is. Additionally, the goals and evaluation for the project are not terribly specific.

The provided budget led me to question whether the organization has the capacity to see this project to completion.

It is clear from the application that team members of the Babel Theater will be considering how their processes and structures will ensure a culture of belonging where everyone can thrive. Especially appreciated the note that transgender people will included in the offstage talent as well as onstage.



Organization: Baseball Heritage Museum

Project Title: The Cleveland Mustard Wars: The Origins and Impact of Spicy Brown Mustard on

Baseball Culture

Panelists: Diego Barbosa- Vásquez, Dominique Feloss, Maria Lafelice, Linda Ryan, Michael

Smith

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$2,735

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Somewhat:It is not clear for me the specific community you are trying to reach. Also it is not clear, if the exhibition will only be available only for one day?

This museum seems to be popular locally, and is definitely unique in the displaying of baseball artifacts of the global majority. I find this to be a viewed as a positive influence on the community in general, as they seemed to respond to what the community wanted and engaging with diverse populations.

The application would benefit from more details related to ways in which the project will be inclusive and engage diverse populations.

application makes effective case for public benefit; reviewer has some concern about funding sources from the mustard companies & the balance between public benefit vs. brand advertising

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Somewhat: Despite the fact it seems interesting to think in food and its cultural connection, as it has private interest (on the Mustard Companies side), seems to be more a marketing activity for these companies than for a deep artistic experience itself... I encourage to secure that, even with private interest (that is ok in art because is part of the society), a project using public funds must be balanced in a way the public gets the most of the benefits as in this case is putting 50% of the full budget of the project.

I'm actually not sure how aligned baseball and mustard is with arts and culture, but a museum exhibition is a public visual arts venue that showcases cultural vibrancy throughout a period of time. With that in mind, seeing that there will be a panel discussion including a mustard maker (culinary arts) may be able to make the case. However, I do see a lack in engaging a diverse team of arts and cultural professionals to carry out the project. The answer provided for question 13 is very broad, I would have loved to see specific connections demonstrated between artistic and cultural vibrancy and the project.

Though the project may attract a diverse audience by the nature of the museum, there is a dearth of evidence provided in the application that would prove how this event has been created alongside the community or how it would build capacity of the arts sector and its creators.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Somewhat: It is clear the organization has enough capacity. However, having only attendance as a metric. Please refer to artistic and cultural vibrancy about how the use of budget is related with the artistic goal too.

The museum seems to have some strong staff in terms of museum and historical studies. I do like that Vince in involved with the literary arts. I would have liked to see maybe a handful of visual arts specialists involved in the project.

This reviewer would have liked to see more explanation of the costs associated with "research" and "curation of exhibit."



Organization: Bay Village Community Band

Project Title: Bay Village Community Band Summer Concert Series

Panelists: Anel Arriola, Astrid Caruso-Lynch, Caity Cook, Sheryl Doades, Levon Williams

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$2,735

PUBLIC BENEFIT

For some reason the "Instrument petting zoo" made me think of children. However, children are not specifically mentioned or defined within the community question (#10).

It is clear that BVCB has a strong presence in their community and an ongoing relationship that includes dialogue and incorporating feedback to more effectively serve their community.

I appreciate the decision to make all performances and events free and locate them in accessible venues so that audiences of all backgrounds are able to engage with the music and their fellow community members.

The applicant provided strong evidence that they are listening and responding to community feedback and looking at ways to engage their community through interactive programming. The applicant details that this project seeks to expand the organization's geographic community and build new relations, as well as continue to support physical and financial accessibility of performance venues and organizational membership.

This section could be strengthened by intentionally including more community voice in decision making about the concert series. It is clear that BVCB has some mechanism for feedback in place, so leveraging that mechanism to include community voice beyond music genre selection could make a significant difference.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Appreciated learning about the ways BVCB has worked to eliminate barriers to participation in the band. This could be further strengthened by intentionally seeking musicians from underrepresented communities to be involved as musicians and in the decision making process for the Summer Concert Series and the community band itself.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Would have liked to have seen more detail as to how many guest performers will the \$1500 be divided by within the provided budget.

The budget is not terribly specific, but given the organization's successful history of running this series, I trust that they have a good sense of their income and expenses.

Appreciated that your "one goal" is very clear and follows the SMART goal protocol. This could be strengthened by including the "IE" elements (inclusive and equitable) by being intentional about diversity outside of the music the BVCB plays. Consider how to further racially diversify the band and/or the band's leadership. Appreciated the very clearly articulated budget goals for the project.



Organization: Beachwood Arts Council

Project Title: Sunday Sounds

Panelists: Anel Arriola, Astrid Caruso-Lynch, Caity Cook, Sheryl Doades, Levon Williams

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$4,270

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The applicant demonstrates a clear plan for reaching out to community partners. I also enjoy the mention of coordinating receptions and interactive workshops to coincide with the performances, which can help foster connection between the attendees and artists.

I appreciated the applicant's transparency related to how the organization is working for its board to better reflect its community and increase the diversity of artists represented in their programming, effectively working to share power with its community.

Appreciated the inclusion of outreach to affinity groups to target more racially diverse audiences to the Sunday Sounds program, the acknowledgment that in the past BAC has not been as racially diverse as desired, and the steps that BAC is currently taking to address that issue at the board level and by hiring more BIPOC artists.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

working with local representatives to match performers to identified groups is great. Is there any other type of reflection process to ensure programming is relevant? In the past how successful has it been to work with local representatives? Are people normally easy to engage? I would like to know if you've done this in the past, how successful it has been. Thank you for the video links in the support materials.

It is clear that BAC is making an effort to better reflect the community they serve, collect and implement feedback, and assess their progress. I appreciate that consideration is being given to both audiences and performers as a presenting organization.

Appreciated that BAC is taking clear steps to "identify opportunities to promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging" in the Sunday Sound project.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

The goal to hire more diverse performers is too broad. Something helpful would be mentioning the # of "diverse" performers you had last year and setting a goal for how many more performers you will have this next time. Also, define what you mean by diverse. Do you mean diverse in age, race, gender, or music, instruments, cultural?

I appreciated seeing the highlights of specific team members who will be working on the project and the details of their prior experience.

The budget is well-presented.

The "one goal" section could be strengthened by leaning into the SMARTIE goal framework. BAC's desire for and work towards offering more racially diverse programming is clear throughout the application, but here a bit more detail about the BAC goal in more specific terms would be supportive.



Organization: Bedford Historical Society

Project Title: 2024 Speaker Series

Panelists: Diego Barbosa- Vásquez, Dominique Feloss, Maria Lafelice, Linda Ryan, Michael

Smith

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$2,460

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Somewhat: It is not clear the specific community the project is trying to reach. I encourage the applicant to rethink the overall goal of only increasing 10% of members as having more members is something that only befits your organization not the full society as whole.

The museum seems to have a great focus on diversity, equity and inclusion, stating that majority of their community are BIPOC. There was also a comment indicating that the organization is accessible. I recognize the financial accessibility by having the programs free and open to the public. How else is it accessible? Is the building ADA compliant? What are the methods of surveying to collect demographics, and does it include measuring other marginalized groups, such as the queer community, the neurodivergent community, and those who have physical disabilities? I would include those in the description of diverse populations in question 12.

It is clear that the Speaker Series project responds to the interests of the community and expertise of the community members.

As a free program, the speaker series is an accessible entry point into other BHS programs. BHS understands its community and has developed the series to attract a diverse and inclusive audience.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Somewhat: Informal process that does not create clear clues about who selects the speakers and how, making it difficult to figure out the artistic and cultural vibrancy. A more formal process has to be defined to secure real diversity.

The organization emphasizes that the staff, volunteers, and board are dedicated to new and innovative ideas. I would have loved more of a description, perhaps an example of what one of those new and innovative ideas looks like. However, the description of the program showcases a plethora of dedication and interest. In particular, it seems to resonate well with the responsive audience.

While informal surveys are a good start, this reviewer would have liked to see more effort in sharing power with the community to source the speakers and futher prove the speakers' relevancy to the community.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Somewhat: The budget is clear and organized. The organization has capacity.

The organizational plans the entire series with the executive director, store manager, and curator, with the help of volunteers. I wonder what the capacity looks like in terms of workload per person. If you don't get volunteer help, how much is the work shifted? The ED is extremely qualified and showcases the level of professionalism and intention to craft this program.

A strong history of planning and implementing previous Speaker Series with success.

speaker series is pre-existing and funds are intended primarily for speaker stipends, thus increasing equity of the program and honoring the value of the speakers' expertise; would have liked to see more clarity on current demographics of the organization



Organization: Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio

Project Title: Art Cohort & Exhibition at Cuyahoga Clubs

Panelists: Diego Barbosa- Vásquez, Dominique Feloss, Maria Lafelice, Linda Ryan, Michael

Smith

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$4,270

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Yes: The proposal is very clear about the community it is trying to reach and how it participates in the program.

There is no description on how the decision was made for the activity to be free. What was the reasoning, financial freedom for attendees, capacity for coverage, etc. There is clear dedication to the youth of the community, and those who are BIPOC, centering marginalized communities in their programs. I would also have liked to see statistics regarding people with disabilities. What does the entirety of the community look like? Is it accessible to all? I love that there is a clear concentration on the idea that art promotes academic success and promotion of core skill building. This is absolutely a necessity that a lot of children were robbed of during the height of the pandemic, that opportunity to learn in a social setting to build those important values.

programming will benefit the population it serves; organization shows demonstrated commitment to sharing power with the community it serves via youth voice initiative

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio understands its community and the gaps in service related to the arts that exists for its members. It has very clearly demonstrated its commitment to diversity and inclusion through the Art Cohort, and the resulting artwork being displayed at the Club itself is a laudable addition, as it makes the program that much more lasting.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Yes: The proposal is clear in showing with previous examples how artistic reflections will be part of the project.

The intended audience seems to be completely receptive of Art Cohort. Including the description of staff observations was extremely helpful in being able to see the effects of the program through a full-scope lens. The program clearly demonstrates the relationship between the importance of arts and the receiving community.

Building the capacity of Club staff to learn more about art and art making is beneficial to the sustainability of this project.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Yes: Clear goals and clear metrics. Clear budget.

Emily seems to be an extremely dedicated staff member and art specialist, with a plethora of experiences that formulate the excellence described.



Organization: Center for Employment Opportunities

Project Title: Cleveland's Returning Citizens: Exploring Incarceration Trauma thru Art Therapy

Panelists: Diego Barbosa- Vásquez, Dominique Feloss, Maria Lafelice, Linda Ryan, Michael

Smith

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$4,270

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Yes: It is really clear the public benefit.

It seems that the public benefit of this organization is astounding, as they focus on both the previously incarcerated person as well as their family members. I would asset frame the sections explaining demographics. Explain why 87% of the participants are black, making sure to explain discriminatory practices in law enforcement and systemic issues.

A strong public benefit is demonstrated through the fact that the idea for the project as well as the planning has been inclusive of the justice-impacted participants as well as justice-impacted artists in the Cleveland community.

extremely robust application, shows clear public benefit for a program that is being created in partnership with the justice-impacted individuals the program will serve

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Yes: Very clear proposal

Art therapy works wonders, and I am happy to see this being implemented for people who may have come from places where art may not be viewed as a steady, dependable medium for things like therapy or even the workforce.

These Art Therapy sessions hold additional weight due to the grassroots advocacy efforts articulated in this application. This reviewer only wishes the the art therapy providers/instructors--so pivotal to the project, since they are the ones effectively running the program and providing the instruction--would have been brought into the conversation earlier about the program's structure and execution.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Yes: The organization has capacity and has an organized budget.

I see a very well rounded summary of those involved in the project and what their roles are within the organization. I also like that some of the staff have experienced the same thing that the participants are going through - it gives much more depth to the form of therapy presented to participants.



Organization: Choral Arts Cleveland

Project Title: Gabriel Faure's Requiem - Reflection and Renewal

Panelists: Diego Barbosa- Vásquez, Dominique Feloss, Maria Lafelice, Linda Ryan, Michael

Smith

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$3,415

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Somewhat: It is not clear how they want to be more diverse in their choir membership. Also, the proposal doesn't clarify the target audiences characteristics clearly enough.

The public benefit is great as it seems to be financially accessible due to being free and open to the public, as well as the choral group being formed with people of many ages from 18-92. It mentions that the venue is ADA compliant to meet the needs of all audience and singing members with mobility issues. I like to see this highlighted in an application to bring awareness to the different types of demographics that need to be included when we talk about diversity.

Choral Arts has offered evidence of its accessibility (i.e., keeping the program free-of-charge) and inclusivity (by outreach to underserved groups).

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Yes: Artistic development is clear.

The artistic and cultural vibrancy measures up to the expectations of what a free and public choral group looks like. Highlighting the works of a local musician gives opportunity and growth for a young person's network. Highlighting that the project is said to offer and acknowledge the lives of people who have been lost over the past few years as a result of the pandemic.

The Choral Arts Society has provided some evidence that this project would build artistic capacity, that it is relevant to the community, and that through it would be opportunities to promote DEIB, though this evidence is largely circumstantial or implied rather than proven explicitly.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

No: Budget numbers don't match. There is no room for publicity, marketing, or other ways to connect with the community. The full project is almost half of the full year operating budget of the organization.

A great overview of organization staff, who seem to be well fit for their positions. I would have liked to see maybe a few more mentions of who the additional musicians are.

The application would be stronger, if the stated goal was more connected to the project, rather than on overall organizational goal. However, the effort to recruit singers that represent diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds is an important goal.

organization provides specific strategies for increasing recruitment & quantitative metrics to determine the success of said strategies



Organization: Cleveland Chamber Collective

Project Title: Music of America

Panelists: Karla Centeno, Keya Crenshaw, Karen Maner, Lisa Much, Penny Pun

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$4,270

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The organization shows that they are being responsive to their audience through being reflective. The collection of music and voices, and diversification of their offerings throughout the years, shows they the organization is being inclusive.

This organization has shown they understand financial accessibility by offering free shows, but also by understanding the breadth of classical music. This not only brings in the audiences they already have, but opens the doors for new ones.

The organization has adopted an inclusive definition of "classical music" that celebrates the contributions of cultures and composers who have been underrepresented in an often white-dominated, Euro-centric tradition. Additionally, they make performances available at no cost and at a variety of venues, encouraging broad community participation. Their selection of programming indicates they're committed to producing concerts that are relevant to contemporary audiences. They indicate in the goals section and supporting documentation that they track audience demographics and satisfaction through post-concert surveying. It would further strengthen the application to know more about how community feedback informs programming development. I appreciate their goal of increasing audience diversity, but it would be helpful to know the current demographic breakdown and more specifics about who is currently underrepresented and how they will engage those audiences.

Applicant appears to know its affinity-based community and is working on growing it by offering inclusive experiences and responding and changing due to audience feedback.

Thank you for clearly articulating past practices of engaging diverse populations, and what lessons have been learned to improve this year's effort.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

There is evidence of innovation and malleability in their program. It would be good to include more logistical information as it relates to artists. For example, how many artists will they support and what is the impact?

This organization has made it a point to seek out and include creators who tend to be disenfranchised and underrepresented. They are also making sure to include more technology, remain aware of their programming.

The organization is creating programming that explores highly relevant contemporary themes and topics. It's especially exciting to see this being done in the realm of classical music, which by nature often looks to the far past. Regarding the diversity of the organization's team, the narrative indicates the ensemble is in a period of transition. It would be interesting to know more about how they are furthering their commitment to diversity and equity, not only when looking outward (to audiences) but also inward (to staff and ensemble members).

It is good that the organization has been reviewing its mission and stepping back from the ensemble to work with and support diverse artists.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Strong evidence of staff capacity and passion for the work!

The organization is led by individuals who are well versed in music and community outreach.



Organization: Cleveland Philharmonic Orchestra

Project Title: Side by Side

Panelists: Anel Arriola, Astrid Caruso-Lynch, Caity Cook, Sheryl Doades, Levon Williams

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$3,415

PUBLIC BENEFIT

I appreciate the information on the decline in music students

This application details an exciting opportunity to connect with local schools, students, and music educators. This event's plan of providing free and discounted tickets to select members of the community also helps non-participating students and other residents to gain some of the same benefits as the participating students, particularly by introducing them to new possibilities for engaging in a lifelong musical practice.

The applicant details clearly that this project was developed in response to needs voiced by community partners, and that the organization is leveraging its reach, experience, and relationships to engage young artists and build relationships with music education programs. With the details included, I am unclear on the level of engagement or opportunities for relationship-building between the invited youth participants and the organization's musicians outside of the performance/culmination of the project (i.e. the applicant does not clarify whether any rehearsal time is collaborative), and I would recommend the organization consider that in their implementation.

Appreciated clear language regarding the need for such a program in order to expose youth and students to the idea of, and opportunity to participate in community orchestras. This section could be strengthened by finding ways to expand beyond working with one school's music class. There may not be capacity for this at present, but considering ways to expand the project in the future, will significantly strengthen the "Public Benefit" section. As of right now, the public benefit reads as narrow.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Appreciated this section's clear nods to "Building the capacity of arts & culture professionals", "Incorporating a process of reflection to ensure programming is relevant to or created with its community", and "Identifying opportunities to promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in its project.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

I appreciate the clear goal and specifying the number of students whom you expect to experience performing.

This project seems exceptionally well organized, thanks to the clear presentation of the budget, organizational needs and capacity, existing connections between personnel with local teachers, and clarity of goals.

Appreciated the very clear budget outline and the clear goal.



Organization: Cleveland Photo Fest

Project Title: Cleveland Photo Fest 2024

Panelists: Anel Arriola, Astrid Caruso-Lynch, Caity Cook, Sheryl Doades, Levon Williams

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$4,270

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The outreach and engagement strategy seems very well rounded. I appreciate the list of organizations and groups involved.

This project has a clear sense of its community, public benefit, and goals. In the future it would be exciting to see this project benefit the artists/photographers more, as currently they have to pay for their submissions and I do not see it indicated anywhere that they receive compensation if their works are selected.

I enjoyed hearing about the partnerships that the festival formed in past years with the Western Reserve Historical Society's "History on Tap" event, the Julia De Burgos Center, and more. I hope that the event can foster similar connections in the upcoming year!

This applicant's responses were presented well and included relevant details outlining the project's public benefit. I appreciated the detail on outreach through community partnerships to foster relationships with diverse populations and relating that work back to the project goal.

Appreciated the nod to Cleveland Photo Fest 2024 building and strengthening relationships amongst the community. Appreciated learning about the intentional efforts in previous CPFs to engage BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities and learning about the specific community partnerships CPW has built to bring in more BIPOC and LGBTQ+ representation. Appreciated that BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities are asked for input in the organization of the event.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

The applicant illustrated that the organization values and solicits feedback from its community and that they have identified opportunities to foster inclusion and belonging through mentorship within the volunteer team.

Appreciated CPW's commitment to "Incorporating a process of reflection to ensure that programming is relevant to or created with its community". Specifically appreciated the application noting why it's

important, "questioning assumptions", "fostering creativity and diversity of ideas", and "fostering relationships between experienced volunteers & newcomers". Excellent.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

More specifics in the goal setting question would be helpful. For example, "increasing participation" by a x%. Submission fees - will any of these be waived for community members who might not be able to afford them due to financial hardship?

Appreciated how in the "one goal" section CPW clearly articulated how CPF 2023 will be used as a baseline to support CPF's 2024 goal of increasing engagement by BIPOC community members. Appreciated the clearly articulated project budget and clarity on how the CAC funds will be used if awarded. I recognize that there is only a nominal fee of \$10 to submit a photograph, but it may be worth seeking additional funding to provide a set of scholarships for communities you are seeking to engage. This would eliminate this barrier to participation for a subsection of (or multiple) targeted group(s) altogether.



Organization: Cleveland Pride Band

Project Title: PracticeMakes

Panelists: Anel Arriola, Astrid Caruso-Lynch, Caity Cook, Sheryl Doades, Levon Williams

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$4,270

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Thank you for sharing the composition of the CPB leadership and membership. The pre- and post-event sessions really meet that public benefit and sound very exciting too.

The Cleveland Pride Band clearly demonstrates an inclusive and accessible approach to engaging with their community musically and otherwise through their previous successful programming and new engagement efforts through PracticeMakes.

I appreciated the emphasis on connecting with the community both by providing opportunities to learn and grow as a musician and by providing opportunities to create meaningful connections with other LGBTQ and allied community members.

This application clearly communicates the organization's goal of and plan for strengthening relationships between itself and its community. The project gives careful consideration to being both accessible and inviting a diverse population. I appreciated how clearly the organization outlined various points of entry and opportunities of access to programming.

Appreciated that this section of your application highlighted "being inclusive and serving diverse populations"

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

The artistic and cultural vibrancy is felt throughout the application responses. Through reading, I can visualize your programming and the work that you do. It's great to see that you incorporate feedback from members and audiences and allow it to drive your next steps.

Details included showcase that the organization has assembled a diverse professional team, has considered participant feedback in their planning, and intends to uplift and support the artists involved.

Appreciated that the application clearly articulated "incorporating a process of reflection to ensure that programming is relevant to or created with its community.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

The numbers for the group participants would have been nice here. Also what do you mean by "more diverse" ?

Appreciated the clearly articulated budget; and clear backup plan if this program is not funded by the CAC grant.



Organization: Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad

Project Title: Summer Sleuthing on the Cuyahoga Valley Express.

Panelists: Diego Barbosa- Vásquez, Dominique Feloss, Maria Lafelice, Linda Ryan, Michael

Smith

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$3,415

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Somewhat: It is clear that it is a massive event, but if you are asking for public money instead of only tickets, it is important to keep track of the demographics to be sure the society is not subsidizing a project that can be taken by its own in a private way.

Grant period looks like it has already begun and ended, unless the "2023" was a typo. I do think that both the project and the organization have public benefit, and the project itself is unique. I'd love to know the breakdown of the demographics. I see that the organization does not track this information, but I do think this is something necessary in order to assess the actual reach of the program. How do you know who you are serving, in terms of definite, not estimation. Looking at the support photos, I see majority white and (assumed) cisgendered people. I wonder if this is reflective of the demographics of the community as a whole, or the demographics of their typical participants. I also see in the budget and financials section that CAC is the only source of nonprofit income. I'd like to see a diversity of funding resources besides sales and CAC.

The applicant has a clear plan to extend invitations and complimentary tickets to individuals who may not be able to participate otherwise.

funding will be used to offer no-cost tickets on railway, which will offer public benefit to individuals who would not be able to otherwise afford the tickets

"Summer Sleuthing on the Cuyahoga Valley Express" is a demonstrably popular program, and Cuyahoga Valley Preservation and Scenic Railway Association has provided for 80 free tickets to go to people in underserved communities. It is unclear though how much specific outreach is being done to reach these communities or how the program is intentionally inclusive or welcoming of people of diverse backgrounds. The awareness of the need for ADA-complaint railcars shows that the organization knows the potential mobility limitations that are (ironically) a persistent issue on trains.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Somewhat: There is not clear information about artistic or cultural development more than the interaction of different people.

The project is so innovative and unique, and seems like such a memorable experience. I think participants will enjoy being emerged in a thriller that's on a train. I do see that this is fee based, besides some complementary tickets. Not sure if I missed it in the application, but I'd love to know the cost per participant.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

No: Solving a mystery is a good goal for a game, but not for a public funded project In the Arts and Culture. Seems that the project can be taken fully by tickets and there is not a necessity to fund it with public money.

I'd love to know the name of CVSR's director of events, and maybe some specific experiences of that person's history. I'd also like to see a short summary of at least one of the professional actor's involved.



Organization: Dancing Classrooms Northeast Ohio

Project Title: Dancing Classroom Northeast Ohio's (DCNEO) Colors of the Rainbow Team Match

Panelists: Diego Barbosa- Vásquez, Dominique Feloss, Maria Lafelice, Linda Ryan, Michael

Smith

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$2,940

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Yes: It describes the program very clearly

The organization has a great public benefit, specifically looking at the effect of the free and open to the public part, allowing financial freedom of participants and viewers from low-income families. This is also a public benefit because it helps the children with team building and collaborative work. I would've liked to see some statistics regarding demographics, the information given was a bit too broad for me to get a real sense of who they serve.

The organization has worked with a large number of students throughout the CMSD school district and provided examples of success and the benefit to the participant. This portion of the application would be stronger if the organization provided examples of student choice and voice within the project to ensure the project is relevant to and created with its community.

program offers public benefit to student population via social/emotional development

The Colors of the Rainbow Team Match program is available to the entirety of the fifth grade class at participating schools, for free. It has an established (pre-pandemic) history that weighs positively and heavily in its favor, in the mind of this reviewer. As a counterpoint; this reviewer would have expected to see more evidence of how the program responds programmatically to its community's needs.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Yes: It shows the artistic and cultural vibrancy

A ballroom dance residency is a great way to engage students to participate in a creative medium that also allows them to incorporate movement for their health. The dedication to breaking down cultural barriers is clearly seen as it seems to be the main factor of the programming.

As a further point to what was mentioned above, this reviewer also finds it curious why artists fees/teaching artist fees were not built into the budget?

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Somewhat: Budget is clear and the organization has history on that program.

Leadership is well equipped for the level of programming they do, serving more than 26k of students in the Cleveland Metropolitan school district.

The very detailed support materials were evidence of the organization's past successes with this program. To note, the marketing budget for this project seems low and may not support the organization's effort to connect the community and the public with the project.



Organization: Folknet

Project Title: Folknet Concert Series

Panelists: Karla Centeno, Keya Crenshaw, Karen Maner, Lisa Much, Penny Pun

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$3,415

PUBLIC BENEFIT

There is evidence that the organization is connecting with their community and expanding their reach; however, more information on how they reach them would make this proposal stronger. For example, what are their outreach methods?

The organization presents accessibly has they partner with the Benjaman Rose Aging institute to provide music to those unable to come to their events. They state they work in/with underrepresented communities and neighborhoods which is a high public benefit.

The organization aims to create an interactive experience for audience members, which is commendable. It would be helpful to know more specifics about the "Community Sing" events the application references to better understand how community members can actively engage with programming. Folk music, by nature, encompasses diverse cultures and traditions, but more specifics about how the organization is being intentional about building diversity and equity would be beneficial. The narrative indicated that the organization has presented concerts showcasing BIPOC and LGBTQ+ performers; however, it was unclear how representative these examples are of a typical season and whether the performers referenced will be part of this year's project. Providing data points regarding performer and audience demographics would strengthen the application.

The inclusion of the Benjamin Rose letter of support strongly supports connection and responsiveness to the community through accessibility. However, there isn't a lot of detail surrounding how or why other concerts benefit the public or connect to the community.

The application presents a project that is intentional in engaging communities that are underrepresented in the Folk Art community.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

The organization shows evidence that folk as a music genre is relevant; however, more information on how the organization is making folk relevant and engaging would have added more context to this question. Moreover, what efforts are being made?

Incorporating multiple musical genres into the work also creates a more inclusive genre. Great job recognizing and promoting the relevancy of Folk music and what it means as a whole.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

There is clear evidence of a dedicated staff and a good network of partners and expertise for events. Expenses are less than revenue. Wondering where the rest of the revenue for the year goes?

The organization's passion for building understanding of, and through, folk music is evident. I would encourage the organization to identify metrics associated with their stated goals. For example, they indicate they are in regular conversation with audience members and area educators. If they're not already doing so, they could potentially conduct pre- and post-concert surveys to measure increases in audience/student understanding of folk music heritage.



Organization: Golden Ciphers Youth Development & Cultural Arts strengthening community

Center

Project Title: D'Jembe and Beyond Project

Panelists: Anel Arriola, Astrid Caruso-Lynch, Caity Cook, Sheryl Doades, Levon Williams

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$4,270

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Community is very clearly defined and identified.

The public benefit of this project and the community being served is articulated very well.

The applicant clearly identifies the community engaged through this project, provided evidence of strong community partnerships, and identified project programming activities designed to engage, welcome, and support the broader community. This helped underscore the public benefit.

Appreciated how the community Golden Ciphers will primarily serve with this project is very clearly defined. This nods toward a working understanding of the various dynamics of the specific youth communities that will be participating, which I imagine will be key to the project's success. Appreciated the well thought out partnerships for this project. This illustrates deep community connections. Also really appreciate the nod to community participation as opposed to just attendance, which is aligned with the communal nature of many BIPOC communities.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

This seems like a huge amount of programming for the budget, which is fantastic but I'd encourage the organization to ensure that the budget is clearly defined before beginning as there are only \$4,000 of expenses listed but the project is stated as \$10,000 in total.

This proposed project is a powerful series of events for marginalized youth in Cuyahoga County. However, I found that the listed budget was lacking some detail about how funds would be used wand

created some confusion about what the total project is. Fleshing out those details would make it more clear how the organization plans to put together this programming!

Unfortunately, the support materials provide a link to an expired website. However, the applicant provided sufficient detail to gauge the submission criteria.

Appreciated the clear description of the team that will be supporting this project, their respective qualifications, and how the two organically tie together. Appreciated that the response to the one goal section, were very clear and straightforward. Appreciated that GC has a clear plan of what will change if they do not receive CAC funding, but I strongly recommend that they are funded.



Organization: Good Company: A Vocal Ensemble

Project Title: Good Company Contemporary Composers Series: A Weekend with Composer Joel

Thompson

Panelists: Anel Arriola, Astrid Caruso-Lynch, Caity Cook, Sheryl Doades, Levon Williams

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$4,270

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The public benefit of this project is clearly articulated through the clear understanding of GC's audience, and more specifically the audience for the composer series, and the many reasons that Joel Thompson will appeal to and impact this community/audience.

The supporting materials submitted were a great demonstration of the reach of the organization and their past events. The listed plan for partnering with local schools for the current workshop feels actionable for continuing that engagement in 2024.

The organization clearly communicates their intent to engage meaningfully with their community and build and strengthen relationships with diverse populations through this project. The details provided throughout the application show strong consideration of community engagement, partnership with other community organizations, and soliciting and incorporating feedback.

Appreciated how the community the GC serves well defined, with clear nods to where they are looking to expand and engage choral performers and audiences who are underrepresented (performers and audiences of color) in this group that is already composed of an underrepresented community (LGBTQ+). Appreciated how GC has incorporated community voice into its decision to select Mr. Thompson and his art, which focuses on social justice issues. Appreciated the role that community voice (specifically voices of the African American community) will be engaged in the planning and performance of this project. Would have loved to hear more about how this approach is also being leveraged with the student element of the project

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

How does GC chose the themes? Do they take into consideration feedback from the audience?

Appreciated that the scope and implementation of the student element of this project is informed by feedback from teachers and students. Would have loved to hear more about this. This student element of this project clearly meets the "building the capacity of arts & culture professionals, helping them to thrive"

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Very clear SMARTIE goals in this section. Fantastic to see. Clear delineation on how grant funds will be distributed if awarded.



Organization: Graffiti HeArt

Project Title: KOBRA CLE Project

Panelists: Anel Arriola, Astrid Caruso-Lynch, Caity Cook, Sheryl Doades, Levon Williams

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$3,415

PUBLIC BENEFIT

I don't quite see the "sharing power" with community in this application. Sure, there is the call for local artists to "assist with the project," but it's on something that has already been pre-defined. Also, question 10 is not really answered. I don't see community being defined.

It would be helpful to have a more clear definition of who exactly the community is that the organization is hoping to serve with this project - I can infer that it might be residents and visitors of Downtown Cleveland, but I'm curious to see that community defined specifically by the organization itself!

The applicant has clearly outlined the ways in which this project connects with and serves its community across demographics, interests/level of involvement, and skill levels. Great detail is given in regards to the community partnerships engaged and the ways in which this project will support members of the community, helping them to thrive.

Appreciated that 2 local Clevland artists will be selected to participate in the mural installations, but feel that this part of the application could be strengthened by highlighting how those within the local community will be selected, how they will be engaged by the primary artist (KOBRA) and Graffiti HeArt before, during, and after the instillation. Also considering that KOBRA will have 4 hand selected assistants, I feel some parity in the engagement of local, racially diverse, artists (4 local, racially diverse, assistants instead of 2) could be meaningful/impactful. This section could also be strengthened by speaking to how Graffiti HeArt is working to include community voice in the project from its inception to the project's implementation. This section could also be strengthened by denoting how racially diverse artists will be engaged to partake in the instruction and facilitation of the street art workshops.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

This project is an amazing opportunity for collaboration between the local community and featured artists. It will add vibrancy during and after the project's completion for the whole Cleveland community. I especially appreciated seeing the mock up of the mural and examples of the previous

projects by Kobra. It makes it easy to imagine the scale and impact of the project on the currently blank walls.

I was happy to see a plan listed for recruiting local artists to work as assistants on the mural installations. This seems like an excellent opportunity (on top of the student workshops planned) to engage local artists of all ages and skill levels.

Appreciate that local and racially diverse artists will be engaged in assisting with the the mural installation. It is clear that participation in this project will "build the capacity of arts & cultural professionals, helping them to thrive". Because of this, I think the impact can be multiplied by including more local artists.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

It is noted that if awarded the CAC funds will be put towards the primary artists commission. Given the amount of the grant (\$5K) the funds might be better suited as part of the support for the hiring/engagement of local, racially diverse, artists as assistants. Given that Graffiti HeArt has done projects of this nature for a significant period of time, I have no doubt KOBRA's installation will be a smashing success. However, this application could be strengthened by leveraging some of the diverse youth that have attended this program to participate in the planning for this project. (To be clear this would be different than participating as an assistant artist, it would focus on building capacity of diverse youth in public art installation planning)



Organization: Greater Cleveland Film Commission

Project Title: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) Documentary Spotlight

Panelists: Anel Arriola, Astrid Caruso-Lynch, Caity Cook, Sheryl Doades, Levon Williams

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$4,270

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Kudos on having this year's Documentary Spotlight events free. On the response for question 12, it would have been great to name the potential partners to "authentically engage diverse populations," and also share the strategy that you are applying to make these successful partnerships.

I appreciate the emphasis on partnering with local community-centered organizations representing underrepresented populations in the area as a way to work towards creating authentic relationships with these communities.

I appreciated learning how the organization actively builds relationships and shares economic and artistic power within the geographic and professional levels of its community. As an outside reviewer, the details and support materials included helped illustrate where the specific project fits in to expand and strengthen the organization's relationships, engage diverse populations, and ultimately increase public benefit.

Appreciated the clearly outlined public benefit of the DEI Documentary spotlight events. I am encouraged by GCFC's efforts to holistically support underrepresented creators during this specific program and their efforts to incorporate equity and inclusion outside of this specific program. Appreciated GCFC's attempt to eliminate barriers to participation in this program by making it free to the public.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

As you create awareness and build capacity through this documentary film showing, what resources to address DEI (social justice) issues will you have for attendees?

Clear evidence that the organization has incorporated feedback and reflection, and that this project has evolved to increase access and engagement across demographics and socioeconomic status.

The DEI Documentary Spotlight does a fantastic job of "Building the capacity of arts & culture professionals helping them to thrive" and "Engaging a diverse team of arts & culture professionals to carry out the project"

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

The public benefit and previous success of your organization is well documented here; I would just encourage you to narrow down and specify your goals and how you will measure them so this event can continue to grow and meet the goals and mission of your organization most effectively.

I was confused by the "0" amount in the budget for administrative personnel. Later in the application, it is noted that a "small portion of payroll" is allocated for administrative support. If this can be adjusted, it should be administrative support is vital to the success of this project and should be reflected as part of an equitable compensation package.



Organization: Harvard Community Services Center

Project Title: Harvard Cultural Fest

Panelists: Diego Barbosa- Vásquez, Dominique Feloss, Maria Lafelice, Linda Ryan, Michael

Smith

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$3,415

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Yes: The community description is clear and the way the festival will benefit them

This organization and project has great public benefits, with the event being free in response to the demographics that they serve, which is primarily low-income, moderate-income, and senior citizens. It seems llike that will have great impact with an expectation of about 3000 people. Providing community with free live music and art engages the community as well as providing exposure for local artists. Using the funds to hire musicians and support their program description.

clear public benefit for the local majority African-American community; festival site is ADA accessible and physically located within the community it serves

Through its knowledge of the community and the event's music selections and no-coast entry, HCSC has demonstrated its ability to produce a diverse, inclusive, and accessible program. It responds to its community (most notably through a change in venue to accommodate seniors), and provides a stage for the professional development of artists through encounters with genres distinct from their own.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Yes: The diversity is clear and it creates the vibrancy

The cultural vibrancy is in the name, a festive event to celebrate culture in the community. It is satisfactory to see demographic information. I would have liked to see a clearer breakdown of each demographic. Noting that they have have moved the festival to comply with ADA regulations.

The organization provides some evidence of creating artistic and culturally vibrant events for the neighborhood. More support materials including images of the past events would make this application stronger and more fully demonstrate the impact.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Yes: Budget and capacity are clear. Just be sure about your goal as having a festival is only the mid goal and it should go towards a bigger one that benefits the full society.

There are multiple people identified on the team, each person's role described in detail. I'm missing information about how each person is qualified to implement the project.



Organization: InMotion

Project Title: Art Therapy Workshop

Panelists: Diego Barbosa- Vásquez, Dominique Feloss, Maria Lafelice, Linda Ryan, Michael

Smith

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$3,415

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Yes; Very clear proposal

The organization's public benefit is perpetual, given their organizational history. The benefits of creating an environment where people with PD have a dedicated team of people to provide evidence-based exercise, arts, support, and other services five days a week is impeccable. InMotion clearly identified a need within the community and executed a plan of action as a response. I'm wondering how much of a salary the instructors receive. I see the budget is about 7500 for the year for more than one instructor, which is a bit low in my opinion.

The application clearly demonstrates that the needs of the participants are integrated into the planning process, and feedback is solicited.

organization offers centralized support services for folks with PD, funded program will be free of cost; states long term goals for connecting with additional under-served populations & identifies specific community partners

The InMotion Art Therapy Workshops are a indubitably a therapeutic benefit to the community of people with Parkinson's Disease, though this application does not have an abundance of evidence that proves the public benefit of this program. Of course, InMotion knows its target community intimately, so some of the evidence is implicit (e.g., inclusivity through tailored art programs, communal respect through the inclusion of care partners, etc,)

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Yes: Very clear how the instructor will lead that vibrancy

Art works with so many different aspects of therapy. Having Art therapy for people with PD helps them with mobility issues as well as mental health. There's a clear focus on coordination and cognitive engagement. It's great to see a strategy in place for outreach for marginalized groups. I'm wondering if

they take track current demographic data and what it looks like. I do see age demographics, but specifically wondering about racial, gender, and orientation demographics.

The video included in the support materials was an effective demonstration of the artistic vibrancy of the project.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Yes: The Organization has enough capacity and is well organized.

While they have a great leadership team, I'm missing the qualifications that each person has for implementation of the project.

The project is listed as an art therapy workshop, however the description of the team does not indicate that any team member has art therapy credentials.



Organization: International Community Council

Project Title: THE WORLD IN YOUR BACKYARD: Collaborating for Cultural Competence

Panelists: Anel Arriola, Astrid Caruso-Lynch, Caity Cook, Sheryl Doades, Levon Williams

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$3,415

PUBLIC BENEFIT

I appreciate the specificity in response to question 10, and the goal mentioned in question 12, which alludes to the artistic and cultural vibrancy as well. I appreciated a lot the context provided in response to question 16. Thanks!

It is hard to determine the actual specifics of the project, and therefore its public benefit from this application. The organization generally seems to have a good history of public benefit and successful programming and engagement in the region, though.

It's clear that this organization has centered its community and public benefit in its work. Each section of the application provides clear detail related to building interpersonal and community relationships, inviting both its community and the broader public, and promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging.

I was unclear about which part of its overall project ICC-WIN is interested in grant funds from the CAC to support. The fashion show, live music, food based activities, and the venue would have been applicable, but the application reads as if it might have been asking for funds for the overall cultural competence project. I appreciated learning about the overall project, but the public benefit section could have been significantly improved by speaking a bit more about how the voices of communities ICC-WIN serves are engaged in the planning of this program. This would have also been supportive in the Artistic + Cultural Vibrancy section.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

I appreciated the transparency with which the organization shared its process of reflection and the ways in which they are working to build trust and ensure relevant and engaging programming.

As mentioned in the Public Benefit section, I feel this application could be significantly strengthened by including the ways ICC-WIN incorporates the diverse communities in decision making about the WIYB program.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Very specific goals!

Your goals have great specificity and they seem attainable, realistic, etc but you could add more about HOW you will accomplish those goals, which will help evaluate on the back end if your methods were successful or how to adjust strategies if you don't meet every goal. Additionally, your budget shows \$12,000 of expenses and \$10,000 of income, so I encourage you to ensure you can cover all expenses of the project before it begins.

The descriptions provided of partner organizations and updated outreach strategies (such as creating a new website) demonstrate a commitment to meeting community members where they are and adapting to suit the needs of those the organization is hoping to engage.

The budget details showed that requested CAC funding would support this project's artistic and cultural vibrancy by allowing the organization to engage additional artists.

I was unsure from the information in the application if the venue for the event has been secured. Given how critical a venue that can house 500 people is to the success of the project I would have appreciated understanding how funding from the CAC would help secure this critical piece of the project.



Organization: John Carroll University

Project Title: "Shrapnel Maps": Voices in Dialogue

Panelists: Karla Centeno, Keya Crenshaw, Karen Maner, Lisa Much, Penny Pun

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$4,270

PUBLIC BENEFIT

There is strong evidence of community building and power sharing. The listed community shows a great effort to build relationships and create a project that is inclusive. The meal element also shows that the applicant is invested in connection and dialogue beyond the play.

Having a free event with walkable public parking is great for accessibility. Additionally, bringing the community into a larger world discussion is or great public benefit, as well as a partnership between John Carroll University and Kent State.

This project was developed in direct response to a community need. Inclusion and diversity are fundamental to the project's mission, and the applicant has demonstrated a thoughtful approach to building and strengthening community relationships through components such as the digital dialogue app and post-event meal.

The project demonstrates significant public benefit and a commitment to the college community through its responsiveness to community events and integration of technology to interact with the audience.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

The talkback element adds an opportunity for the audience to be active, not just passive participants.

Using theatre as a vehicle for creating new ways to discuss a painful and historical relationship/conflict is great as it allows for new voices and thoughtful dialogue.

Not only will this project represent a meaningful opportunity for community members--it will provide an invaluable opportunity for the artists involved, particularly the poet and writer, who will be able use audience feedback to continue strengthening the theatrical adaptation. The core creative team is artistically and culturally diverse.

The project addresses an immediate need in the applicant's direct community, and by extension country in a dynamic & interactive manner.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

A very talented team with relevant experience. There is no expense for the meal. Is the meal charged?

The project is led by a group of qualified individuals and, as has historically been a larger discussion across the campus, will undoubtedly also incorporate students and other campus support staff.

The total organizational budget is \$10,000, which doesn't seem accurate for a college. The goal is not a SMARTIE goal. These are minor notes, but not ones that impact the overall assessment of the application.



Organization: Kings & Queens of Art

Project Title: Empowering Myself With Words Phase 2

Panelists: Anel Arriola, Astrid Caruso-Lynch, Caity Cook, Sheryl Doades, Levon Williams

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$3,415

PUBLIC BENEFIT

I appreciate you sharing the information about income and literacy levels, as well as zip code, and also the struggles that the community is facing. It gives a glimpse as to why the project that you propose is so important and urgent in these times. This project is very exciting. On a personal note, even I feel like trying this journaling method on my own time. Gift cards for participants - This is great!

The public benefit of this project or the community described is clear and well articulated, though I would encourage you to add more specific/measurable goals to your goal section, as it seems that there are many good benchmarks that can be used to measure success along the way to incorporating this organization, its projects, and strategies to the overall Cuyahoga County/Cleveland plans for increasing literacy through arts and cultural experiences.

This is certainly a project relevant to and deeply benefiting the community at Rainbow Terrace Apartments and the Central Kinsman neighborhood.

I appreciated the detail provided in the organizational history and project narrative; they helped clarify the project's community and the opportunities for engagement and sharing power within that community.

The public benefit here feels abundantly clear with a well thought out process complete with multiple support mechanisms. Great project and clearly defined public benefit for a very specific audience. I would note that "community" in this section is broadly defined. It is meant to go beyond geographic location and meant to be more about the people who make up a community, and your organization's relationship with that community including being responsive to the community's needs and sharing power amongst other things. This definition of community feels very aligned with the work you and K&QofA are doing. In an earlier section of the application you described the community that K&QofA will serve with this project as "adult learners". I would have loved to hear more about the ways you all are meeting the needs of this group, and sharing power with this group in the "describe your community" section. Im really glad that clear answers to questions about the communities K&QofA serves appear elsewhere in your application because this is a fantastic project.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

The cultural vibrancy of this project is beyond expectations. To install the love of reading and understanding is invaluable and to pair that with art is even better.

The act of journaling is in and of itself a reflective process. I also appreciated that you mentioned the weekly check in process which will allow for real time adjustments to the needs of participants as the project progresses over the 26 weeks.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

A missed opportunity here is that the support materials could have been more wholesome. However, the applicant included the method in which they will execute the project. Regardless of the lack in support materials, it is evident that the applicant knows how to do the work, knows the community and is able to make the project happen successfully.

While I appreciate the specificity of the budget provided, I'm curious about the stated "Studio Rental Income" listed as a source of income, as I didn't see details about this elaborated on elsewhere in the application. I also feel that some additional supporting materials could help the application by providing some context for work that the applicant has done in the past that supports or leads up to this proposed project. Finally, breaking down the project goals into smaller, measurable items for this first iteration of the project might be helpful in terms of demonstrating organizational capacity.

The applicant describes a capable team. However the stated goal appears to be beyond the scope of this individual project and more a vision statement. The support material does not connect to the project goals or funding criteria.

Really appreciated learning about the strategic partners who will be engaged in this project. Each that you mentioned will bring a specific type of support, which is great. I would have appreciated a goal with a narrower scope than the one that is outlined in this section of the application. The "SMARTIE" acronym refers to Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time Related, Inclusive, and Equitable. For example, a narrower scope and SMARTIE goal might look like: "Goal: To ensure all 20 participants in the Empowering Myself with Words project complete all 26 weeks of the program. I will know I have achieved my goal at the close of the program when we deliver \$130 gift cards to all 20 participants."



Organization: Mantles and Makers

Project Title: See Our Light Phase 2

Panelists: Diego Barbosa- Vásquez, Dominique Feloss, Maria Lafelice, Linda Ryan, Michael

Smith

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$3,415

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Somewhat: Is important to clarify better which specific communities the project aims to reach and how it will do that.

The public benefit is great, highlighting financial accessibility by providing free access, and also acknowledging the resident contribution to their mission. They also demonstrate networking with the community really well by forming partnerships with the libraries and neighborhood based organizations. Their is a breakdown of demographics. I'd also like to know the full scope of demographics, including gender, age, and LGBTQIA+ status, so that I can get a clear picture of who all they service.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Yes: The project defines very well this part.

While I got a focus on diversity from other places in the application, I didn't get a direct response to it in this section. I'd be mindful of that, making sure that diversity and artistic and cultural vibrancy is being reflected in an answer to a question that is directly asking that. I also think that there is room for expansion, diving into the generally broad answer that was given.

The application has described a vibrant project that seems to provide meaningful experiences in art for the communities. The application would benefit from including support materials that illustrate the past installations to provide a better sense of the process and the artistic vibrancy.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Yes: The organization has capacity and experience on this project.

I got a great view of what the leadership team looks like, and a great summary of their prior experience that makes them qualified to implement the project.

funding is to support phase 2 of the project, organization has already demonstrated capacity to facilitate this work via completion of phase 1

Though this project shows strong community input and hands-on experience for community members, the goal and measurements toward the goal's success seem misaligned. Aside from that minor point, the organization has a strong contingency of educators and administrators to see the project through.



Organization: MidTown Cleveland

Project Title: Juneteenth: Celebrating Togetherness

Panelists: Karla Centeno, Keya Crenshaw, Karen Maner, Lisa Much, Penny Pun

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$4,270

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The organization shows evidence of respecting and unifying the community and creating a safe environment. Their offerings are varied and should draw the audiences they are hoping to reach.

Utilizing Dunham Tavern as a location not only makes the event more accessible, but also increases community engagement, awareness, and participation through partnership. Empowering individuals by including them into the program, as well as presenting historical and relevant information and performances also sets the event up for success.

The organization notes that they involve community residents in the planning process, which is excellent. More information about what this planning process entails, particularly the community impact aspect, and more about the involvement of local businesses/community partners would further strengthen the application in this area.

Applicant demonstrates public benefit by intentionally fostering new relationships with artists of color and by letting community members lead in the development of the event, with the backbone of the organization.

The accessible (i.e. free) project actively engages a piece of history still actively being erased, providing workshops and activities for the community to celebrate and learn

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

More information on how they will seek feedback would have been good to add here.

Making sure the program aligns with the community that is being served is highlighted which is great to ensure a positive experience.

The event lineup includes a variety of formats and artistic disciplines so community members can engage with important history and subject matter in ways that most speak to them. The organization indicates they complete "a robust process of reflection" and seek active engagement of community

members in the planning process. More specifics about how they collect feedback from community members would be beneficial.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

A team of dedicated staff! The IG reel was very fun to watch.

Having local residents help establish the project programming increases the public benefit and vibrancy of the program.

To further demonstrate the organization's capacity, it would be helpful to know how long this event has been happening and to see brief biographical info/resumes for the core team members involved in the project planning and execution. I appreciate that the organization has identified a specific and achievable goal for this project--recruiting 1-2 new artists--which will expand their network of artists and benefit both the artist community and the organization's future programming.



Organization: Museum of Creative Human Art

Project Title: Inspiring Creativity

Panelists: Karla Centeno, Keya Crenshaw, Karen Maner, Lisa Much, Penny Pun

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$4,270

PUBLIC BENEFIT

It is very evident that the applicant understands their mission and is creating a framework to realize it. There is a strong connection between mission and project.

Having a free pop-up project to bring art to underserved communities is accessible physically, financially, and culturally.

The organization provides powerful data in the organizational history section and project narrative demonstrating the egregious underrepresentation of BIPOC artists in museums, which demonstrates the need for, and public benefit of, opportunities for art instruction and exhibition for BIPOC youth. To help reviewers better understand how this particular project will fill that need, it would be beneficial to include a description of what a student participant will experience from start to finish. For example, it was initially unclear to me whether the workshop and exhibition were to take place on the same day or if the workshop participants would create work that would be exhibited at the same pop-up venue but at a later date. The "goals" section of the application indicates that the students will submit artwork at the pop-up workshop, which will be exhibited later at the MOCHA gallery, but this would be helpful to include in the project narrative portion to give reviewers a clear picture of the experience. Additionally, some points in the application refer to one workshop and exhibition, while other areas refer to multiple workshops and exhibitions, which raised questions about the scope of the project and its potential impact. The "defining community" response indicates the organization will target youth ages 9-17, but I was interested to know how the organization will ensure that BIPOC youth in particular are engaged. It would be helpful to know whether the organization has existing partnerships with area schools and, if so, the organization could consider providing demographic data about said schools' student populations.

The organization's creation suggests a strong connection to the community, as done its free programming.

The project leaders are representative of the community they would like to reach.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

There is clear indication of relevancy and intentionality within the program. More information on the artist and participant selection process would have been good to include.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Strong team to lead the program and balanced budget.

I'd like to see more information planned regarding locations and participants. However, the organization seems to be run successfully by qualified individuals.

The organization indicates they've received several offers for potential venues, which is great. Providing information about these prospective venues would be beneficial. I appreciate the organization's specific goal of achieving a 90% student submission rate for the exhibition. The project leads demonstrate clear passion for uplifting youth and have the professional backgrounds to do so.

The project description includes a clear process of activities by person, which demonstrates strong organizational capacity.



Organization: Naach Di Cleveland

Project Title: Naach Di Cleveland 8

Panelists: Karla Centeno, Keya Crenshaw, Karen Maner, Lisa Much, Penny Pun

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$3,415

PUBLIC BENEFIT

There is evidence that the organization is centering their community and creating paths for greater accessibility and inclusivity.

Great job partnering with other local groups like Dance Wheels and to hosting the event in an accessible space to create a truly inviting environment.

The organization demonstrates a commitment to accessibility, both in terms of ADA compliance and fee structure, and they are being proactive in building community partnerships with organizations that serve differently-abled individuals, which broadens and deepens project impact. While reading the project narrative, I was curious about the scope of the event in terms of the number of teams that compete. This information was provided in the "additional information" section later on, but it could be helpful to build it into the project narrative to help reviewers envision the project. It would also be interesting to know how many of the teams are local vs. national and/or the geographic spread of participants (states represented, etc.) to further demonstrate the project scope. But overall, this is a clear and compelling project proposal.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

There is good evidence for reflection and improvements. It is also clear that the organization is creating a program that is culturally relevant.

Surveying their previous attendees is a great idea to implement a better experience. Hosting such a large event based in South Asian culture focused on dance and building community is approachable.

The intentional work regarding the judge rubric demonstrates a commitment to artistic vibrancy through encouraging risk taking and unique endeavors.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

More specifics on team's background would have been good to include (i.e. years of experience). This information will help panelists understand how the team is equipped for their roles. Great samples!

\$65900 seems like an astronomical amount of money for a 1-2 day event. That said, I'm more concerned with the projected amounts of \$26200 & \$30000 from application fees and ticket revenue, respectively. What happens when/if the numbers are lower? Will the event still take place? The application states there are reserved funds, but will the finds cover the costs? Regardless, it sounds like changes to the executive board are positive and the organization listened to previous feedback regarding holistically restructuring the event.

The clear and detailed description of the project planning and implementation process, and the thoughtful structure of the board, speaks to the organization's ability to achieve project success. One recommendation would be to establish metrics to help evaluate the organization's progress toward project goals. For example, the organization indicates they hope to partner with organizations to facilitate engagement opportunities for differently-abled populations. Identifying the number of such partners they hope to engage, or the number of audience members they hope to attract, could make this easier to track.

I can't determine whether the organization has met the criterium for Organizational Capacity, with project budget bigger than organizational budget, and largely relying on the ticket revenue



Organization: NAMI Greater Cleveland

Project Title: Hope 'n Mic 2024

Panelists: Karla Centeno, Keya Crenshaw, Karen Maner, Lisa Much, Penny Pun

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$4,270

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The organization has a strong legacy of providing support for people with mental health challenges. It is evident they know their audience and how to provide meaningful experiences for them. I wonder what follow ups there are after the event since sharing art can open wounds? Just a thought.

Using art to discuss and inform about mental illnesses and the help that is available, and, having the event in a public park, is a great accessible approach.

This project represents an impactful intersection between arts and culture and health and wellness. In the "additional info" section, the organization provided compelling data regarding the mental health crisis in Ohio, demonstrating a need for the type of programming they offer. To further demonstrate the value of this project, the organization could consider also incorporating national research data showing connections between artistic practice and health outcomes. To evaluate the project's engagement of community members, it would be helpful to know more about the structure of the event. In reading the project description, I wondered about length of event and if participants have the opportunity see all performances/offerings or if they are divided into breakout rooms, etc. I appreciated the organization's acknowledgment of the relevance of identity intersectionality in how individuals experience and perceive mental health conditions. It would be interesting to know more about the specific needs, cultures, and identities of audiences the project intends to engage and whether the organization has identified any particular focus areas or demographics.

Applicant centers the community through its programming by empowering them to be performers and center their stories while being inclusive to all with mental illness.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

There is evidence the organization and project is relevant and engaging to its audience (participants and attendees). More information on resource partners would be good to include to understand their role in the project.

The event incorporates a wide variety of artistic mediums, and the organization indicates they work with local arts organizations to develop programming. Additionally, one of the key project leads brings relevant knowledge and experience from the worlds of both social work and theater/drama therapy. The application would be strengthened by the inclusion of more details about specific performances participants can experience/examples of how performers have used art to explore mental health (examples from past events can be helpful if this year's performers are not yet known), more about the partner arts organizations and their involvement, and more about the performer selection process.

The application outlines a project that is engaging a very specific historically underserved community, with varied art forms

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Project leads have relevant and strong backgrounds to carry out a successful project. Great work samples-- amazing poster design!

Sounds like the organization is comprised of individuals who are versed in their roles and in supporting the mental health field and the individuals it serves.



Organization: No Exit

Project Title: Surreality: Breaking the World (with special guests)

Panelists: Anel Arriola, Astrid Caruso-Lynch, Caity Cook, Sheryl Doades, Levon Williams

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$3,415

PUBLIC BENEFIT

I appreciate the decision to hold the concert at three different venues throughout the greater Cleveland area as a means of bringing the art more directly to communities. The organization appears to put dedicated thought and effort into remaining accessible for both music aficionados in the area and those who may never before have encountered avant-garde classical music.

This application was difficult to read and digest. The applicant could benefit from re-framing their proposal in more direct language. A few things were clear: that the organization strives to be welcoming and meet audiences where they are, geographically and financially; that it considers itself to have a wide-ranging community across art forms, geographic locations, and certain demographics; and that this project engages arts professionals, organizations, and community across mediums and tastes.

This section could be strengthened by illustrating any way No Exit is working to bring more community voice into its offerings, particularly voices that are historically underrepresented in classical music/art/surrealist spaces.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

There are different eras when surrealism happened. There have been a different births and deaths of surrealism across the years. Is this what guided the design of the four component concerts? Or is it the themes or surrealism?

The application illustrates a clear focus supports arts professionals through commissioned work and collaboration (also supported by its presented budget). A point of concern: the applicant identifies marketing campaigns specific to two groups, one a marginalized population, without identifying opportunities to promote engagement or belonging. The applicant identifies increasing attendance from a second marginalized group in the project goal, but does identify in its engagement response designated staff attention and accommodations to create a welcoming environment for this group.

Appreciated learning that youth and LGBTQIA audiences will receive specific marketing. This section could be strengthened by giving both these audiences more voice in No Exit's programming.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

for the goal setting - "increase audience diversity" what does this mean exactly? For example, do you want to increase the audience representation by a specific percentage amount?

This project seems well organized and attainable. It seems like an exciting season that will appeal to your existing and growing audience/community. I especially appreciate the ways you are thinking about the project goal by articulating how it meets each aspect of a "SMARTIE" goal.

Appreciated how well thought out No Exit's goal is in the application. This goal seems very clear. Building on what will likely be a success, would like to see increasing the racial demographics as an audience focus in future programming.



Organization: North Pointe Ballet

Project Title: Cuyahoga County Nutcracker Encore Performance

Panelists: Karla Centeno, Keya Crenshaw, Karen Maner, Lisa Much, Penny Pun

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$4,270

PUBLIC BENEFIT

There is evidence that the organization is thoughtfully inclusive and engaging. The sensory-friendly performance will increase accessibility and create a different environment for engagement.

Great job understanding the data of the community they are in and pricing tickets accordingly to make the production more accessible. Additionally, considering other ways individuals may or may not interact with the work, as well as holding the show at a school, which should be ADA compliant are also great accessibility points.

The organization expresses commitment to accessibility and inclusion in its mission, with focus placed on engaging individuals of all abilities as both performers and audience members. The organization is cognizant of financial barriers that prevent arts participation and prices tickets accordingly. They also intend to present a sensory-friendly performance and ASL translation as part of this project, which speaks to the project's accessibility and inclusion in terms of audience engagement. Providing more information about the Chance to Dance and On-Site Dance Education programs would help to further demonstrate how the organization is engaging diverse populations. The organization indicates that providing performance opportunities for students in these programs is a primary motivator for continuing the project despite COVID-related financial and venue challenges; however, the programs are not described in detail. While the research cited from the University of Pennsylvania regarding arts impact in NYC speaks well to the broad impact of arts and culture, focusing the application narrative on the specific experiences of the students who will be served would better help reviewers fully appreciate the Nutcracker project's potential impact.

The attachments help demonstrate public benefit through interviews with parents and a deeper delve into the inclusivity work the applicant is doing. However, the applicant doesn't clearly define its community in the application and implies that it connects with the community through spending money at nearby businesses, which might not fit the tone of this opportunity. It seems like there is public benefit here, but it could be conveyed better through listing who the community is and how the org works with them.

The application demonstrates great consideration of public benefit in every aspect, from financial accessibility to engaging marginalized communities

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

The organization shows interest and a commitment to further refine their project.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

A strong team to lead the project. Good work samples. A video would have been nice to include since it is a performing art activity. Overall a good application, but it was a bit confusing as main goal is not clear. Is funding for subsidized tickets or to support their performances which allow the organization to fulfill other mission programs? Perhaps the goal is to accomplish both. More clarity would have been helpful.

The organization appears to be run by qualified individuals who understand the medium as well as the process to staging and staffing an inclusive event.



Organization: Ohio City Incorporated

Project Title: Ohio City Street Festival

Panelists: Anel Arriola, Astrid Caruso-Lynch, Caity Cook, Sheryl Doades, Levon Williams

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$4,270

PUBLIC BENEFIT

I like that there will be an opportunity for neighborhood artists to submit art installation proposals. - what will be the review process?

The public benefit and community are well defined in this application. The goals to increase diversity through artist representation and inclusion through participation are clear and seem very attainable.

The decision to work with the Committee of Champions to gather input from CMHA residents (on a paid basis) is evidence of a commitment to truly understanding and working to serve the needs of all Ohio City residents.

The applicant clearly outlines the ways in which this project will invest in and connect with the community to provide public benefit. The applicant shows intentionality around listening to and responding to its community to provide relevant programming and access to participate.

Appreciated learning about the Commitee of Champions. Appreciated the specificity about the ways the committee group will be leveraged to engage the local community. This section could also be strengthened by including more information about the demographic make up of this committee.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

I appreciate the detailed list of event activities and implementation plan provided in question 9.

Appreciated the community will be engaged significantly during the lead up to the event, particularly local artists. Appreciate that the lead up to and the event itself will be leveraged to build and strengthen community connections

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

This section could be strengthened by stretching to have even more representation from the communities you are targeting be part of the art displayed.



Organization: Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation

Project Title: Old Brooklyn Farmers Market Live Art Series

Panelists: Karla Centeno, Keya Crenshaw, Karen Maner, Lisa Much, Penny Pun

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$4,270

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The organization has provided many years of service to their community. They understand their community very well and show an interest in expanding their reach. Having consistent programming, then a culminating show indicates a model for sustainability and prolonged art exposure.

By incorporating local musicians and artists at the free weekly farmers markets which will culminate into an art showcase and music fest in October, the organization will create a culturally diverse and accessible event within the area. Great job understanding the makeup of the area you serve and how to shift with the changing demographics to make sure you're not only presenting culturally relevant works, but also inviting all community members to attend/participate.

The application provides clear articulation of what the project entails, its intended impact on residents, and the diversity of the community served. The use of a community panel demonstrates the organization is listening to the community it serves. More information about the artists, gallery owners, and other individuals who serve on the artist selection panel and how the organization/panel ensures that selected artists reflect community diversity would further strengthen the application in this area and in the area of Artistic & Cultural Vibrancy.

Applicant clearly defines their community and how it connects to them through food access and social engagement with art at the farmers market.

The application demonstrates great consideration of accessibility and engagement with its local communities

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

It would have been good to include how the panel will be selected.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

A very high qualified team! Including a resident shows that the organization is thinking about relevancy.

By the staff working with community members directly, the even becomes even more accessible and relevant.

This is a minor note, but the in the "Project Goal" narrative, the organization mentions audience voting throughout the market season. I might have missed it, but it was unclear what audiences were voting on/whether there was an award or prize for an artist.



Organization: One South Euclid

Project Title: South Euclid Food Truck Park Concert Series

Panelists: Anel Arriola, Astrid Caruso-Lynch, Caity Cook, Sheryl Doades, Levon Williams

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$4,270

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The community being served is clear and I especially appreciate the emphasis and attention to accessibility of the project to the diverse community of South Euclid. The project clearly connects to the mission of OSE.

I appreciate the commitment to accessibility in the venue. The inclusion of a survey of eventgoers and participants provides a clear way to include and consider community feedback, and the goal of increasing audience satisfaction to 90% is a measurable goal that can help gauge the organization's success meeting community needs and desires for such an event.

The applicant took time to clearly define their community and the ways in which they are working to ensure accessibility and avenues of engagement for that community and the broader public.

It was helpful to learn about the Mayfield-Green Action Subcommittee and its role in supporting/crafting this event. Doing so ensures a certain level of public benefits as community members have a strong voice in how the event takes place. Appreciated the nod toward shared decision making with the Mayfield-Green Action Subcommittee

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

on the response to question 13 it mentions that the applicant "will hire professional musicians who will reflect the diversity of our community and beyond" What does this mean? Is the applicant hiring musicians who perform certain genres, or who play certain types of folk or cultural music? If yes, which cultures are represented specifically?

It was encouraging to hear that this event will include more musicians from the South Euclid neighborhood. I feel like this is important to the stated goal of belonging for this event.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Well presented budget and descriptions of gathering and incorporating community feedback.

Appears this team has a proven record of leveraging funding to deliver high quality programs.



Organization: Parma Area Fine Arts Council

Project Title: Art For The Fun Of It!

Panelists: Diego Barbosa- Vásquez, Dominique Feloss, Maria Lafelice, Linda Ryan, Michael

Smith

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$3,415

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Yes: The organization knows its community and the public benefit is clear.

This organization has public benefit, engaging in diverse populations through multi-cultural projects. However, there isn't any specific information regarding demographics and the populations they serve. The information given is too broad. They do have awareness of financial accessibility, with majority of the classes and workshops offered for free.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Yes: The variety of instructors helps to build vibrancy

There seems to be an awareness of community impact, by interacting and listening with their participants directly in order to understand the desires of the community. They also pull their instructors locally, which shows the impact of networking and connecting on a community level.

The supporting images were helpful in seeing the artistic vibrancy of the project.

As an entry point to creating in various art mediums, the Art for the Fun of It program is building the capacity of the sector and is developing programming that is relevant to its community because it is in part developed from community feedback. The Parma Area Fine Arts Council has shown itself to be adaptive to its community and diverse in its offerings as well.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

No: Not sure about the capacity as the project costs the full organization yearly budget and the administrative costs are not part of the budget...

The executive board have great backgrounds, however it would have been beneficial to include the names of the individuals, as well as including some of the names of leadership staff and their role in executing the project.

The stated goal would benefit from a clear measure, such as indicating how many new participants they are looking to engage.

demand for the program exceeds current funding profile, showing a clear use for additional funds & success of the program thus far



Organization: Parma Symphony Orchestra

Project Title: Bringing the Symphony Orchestra to Life for disadvantaged students and their

families

Panelists: Diego Barbosa- Vásquez, Dominique Feloss, Maria Lafelice, Linda Ryan, Michael

Smith

Score: Applicant received a majority of "No" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel

CAC Grant Amount: 0

PUBLIC BENEFIT

No: The proposal is not clear enough about the characteristics of the intended target population more than using words of low-income and people of color, neither on how this concerts will benefit the society.

Public benefit is great, using this possible funding opportunity in order to purchase ticked for elementary school families in the area in order to have exposure to a live symphony orchestra. I would have liked some data to support the demographic statements given. What is the percentage of low income families that they service? BIPOC? I see that the board of directors engage in outreach via personal contact and email, so they may be able to pull some raw data of recipients that may help with this.

The grant request intends to provide access to upcoming performances to families who might not participate otherwise, which is a worthy initiative. The application did not clearly describe efforts to build and strengthen relationships with these new audiences or the ways in which the audiences who might not be familiar with orchestra performances would be welcomed into this space.

organization will use funding to provide free concert passes to low-income families with clear pathway for outreach to those families

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Somewhat: is clear that the orchestra will be prepared, but not how it will transcend the community.

There is a lot of artistic and vibrancy associated with live symphonic performances, and this is a great way to introduce this type of art into the community, especially to people who may not have previously had those experiences before.

The support materials provided show examples of past performances, but the artistic and cultural vibrancy would be more clearly illustrated if images of the process, performances and audiences were included as well.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

No: Budget and narrative are not corresponding.

The team seems to be qualified and directly related to the community by being residents themselves. I would have liked to see some names associated specific to roles.

Unfortunately, it is unclear how this budget and the goal articulated in this application correspond to the project at-hand. The total project expenses are \$5,000 and the amount requested is also \$5,000, even though CAC funding cannot exceed 50% of project costs. The free tickets that are central to this project are not accounted for in the expenses on the budget. The total expenses on this budget exceed \$5,000. And the goal the increase attendance by 25 percent, while laudable, seems slightly off-target if the stated goal earlier in the application is to attract underserved populations with free tickets.



Organization: Poise Entertainment Education Company

Project Title: Poise Entertainment Education Company "You Can Do It Program"

Panelists: Anel Arriola, Astrid Caruso-Lynch, Caity Cook, Sheryl Doades, Levon Williams

Score: Applicant received a majority of "No" or "Somewhat" scores from the panel

CAC Grant Amount: 0

PUBLIC BENEFIT

It is challenging to identify the community and public benefit of this project from this application. The specific project and its goals are not clearly defined.

From the given information, I was unsure who the specific community is that this project hopes to serve. While Cleveland area schools were mentioned, I'm curious whether there are particular schools that the organization has a relationship with, or hopes to develop a relationship with, and what the rationale might be for choosing those specific schools.

There is not enough information provided to determine whether this application meets the criteria for public benefit.

This section could be strengthened by adding more detail to how Poise will leverage community relationships (schools, community centers, churches) to attract young people to participate in the program.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

This section could be significantly strengthened by tailoring the response to specific criteria noted in this section. Section would also be strengthened by including broad data (qualitative or quantitative) about the impact of the project to support the stated narrative in this section.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

I'm not sure if the project's total expenses of \$2,500 is a typo. The request is 5,000. The budget does not align as there is a total of \$7,000 under the income section. The support material does not align with the proposed project.

I would have loved to see some additional detail about how the project will be executed and how the budget including CAC funds would be used. While filming, locations, and scripts are mentioned. I'm curious about how production performers, writers, directors, and other crew members will be chosen, and how much is intended to be spent on locations, on set/props/costumes and other materials, and on personnel. I'd also love more information on how many episodes the organization is hoping to create and the relationships they have with local public broadcasters.

It is unclear how Poise will measure the impact of the "You Can Do It" program given that its stated impact (lower community violence) is so broad.



Organization: Polish Village Parma

Project Title: Polish Constitution Day Parade & After Party

Panelists: Diego Barbosa- Vásquez, Dominique Feloss, Maria Lafelice, Linda Ryan, Michael

Smith

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$3,415

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Yes: The proposal has clear target audiences and the organizations previous experience also helps.

This project has a lot of benefit, seeing that there is an expected 8,000 people as an audience, as well as this event being free and open to the public, which shows financial accessibility. Having vendors selling their wares helps with exposure for artists, creators, and chefs alike. This also bring awareness to a very significant time in Polish history,

The public benefit would be more clear if the definition of the organization's community was more detailed and shared more information about those that attend and participate in the events.

shows public benefit for specific cultural and geographic community; appreciated the detailed context on the organization's history in the neighborhood

As a catalyst for the creation of the Polish Village business district, the Parma Polish Constitution Day Parade inherently shares power with its defined community (even though there is much left unspecified in the application about the community and how else the parade will reach out to diverse populations across the region).

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Yes: The diversity and vibrancy is clear.

This has huge artistic and cultural vibrancy, giving exposure to polish culture and allowing the community to partake in festivities, learning about polish culture. I would like to see some demographic info for audience members that have been a part of the celebration in the past. The project is really engaging, with traditional dance, music, food, and other festivities.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Somewhat: It is not clear if the organization has enough financial capacity as the present project is almost 95% of their annual budget and it doesn't include administrative or operative costs. Goal should be more focused on what you are planning to achieve for the community.

The leadership and team seem to have a lot behind their belt, making them qualified for project implementation. I would have liked specific people referenced, with names so that credit is given.

Planning a large scale event, with all volunteers is a huge undertaking and having a clear plan that documents processes and logistics is extremely important. However, the application would be stronger if the stated goal aligned with the SMARTIE framework

Though the budget is as detailed as is minimally required, the goal set forth in the application is very high level and does not sufficiently specify what "detail" these "lists, forms" take or how they are used.



Organization: Radio on the Lake Theatre

Project Title: Radio on the Lake Theatre Presents... at Baldwin Wallace University

Panelists: Karla Centeno, Keya Crenshaw, Karen Maner, Lisa Much, Penny Pun

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$3,415

PUBLIC BENEFIT

A very thoughtful and creative art project! While not necessary (this program may only exist within the radio platform) I wonder if hosting online would be explored to increase access?

By using radio as an education tool and a performance medium, you are keeping an almost forgotten art form alive. As stated in the application, this is especially relevant for individuals you made need to interact with art in differing forms due to an impairment. Also, being free of charge to experience is accessible.

The project's evolution to feature the work of student playwrights demonstrates the organization's commitment to uplifting and engaging the community it serves and ensuring that programming stays relevant. I appreciate that the organization has identified a specific goal surrounding increasing representation of marginalized identities among student participants. More information about the current demographics of student participants and details on how this goal will be achieved would strengthen the application in this area.

The student support letter shows a connection to the community, but more detail in the public benefit section regarding who the community is and how the applicant will connect with them (not how the audience connects to the applicant) would be helpful.

The application articulates the educational value of the project, and how it would be accessible

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

More information about the students-- how are they selected, how will the opportunity will be shared etc, would help show how the organization is thinking about dei.

Using university students as the main talent and production staff creates a naturally diverse workforce.

The project presents a unique opportunity for burgeoning arts professionals/students to gain hands-on experience in radio production from a variety of angles. The student letter of support demonstrates that the project is supporting the growth of participating artists and building their capacity to thrive in the

profession. It would be helpful to know more about how the plays are selected. The narrative indicates this is a collaborative effort between organization staff and a student program coordinator, but knowing more about the selection criteria and whether the organization is taking active steps to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion not only among the project participants but the stories told would be beneficial.

Student-driven work helps demonstrate artistic vibrancy.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

More specifics would have been helpful to include: how is feedback collected and analyzed, why a 10 percent representation vs 20, 30 etc? Contextualizing information is key.

Great organizational capacity leading the charge with this project.

It is not clear what funding will go towards and what is inkind from BW and what is volunteer hours.



Organization: Restore Cleveland Hope

Project Title: Black History Month and International Underground Railroad Month in Ohio

Panelists: Anel Arriola, Astrid Caruso- Lynch, Caity Cook, Sheryl Doades, Levon Williams

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$3,415

PUBLIC BENEFIT

There was a missed opportunity here to share more information about the students and young people who might benefit from this project. For this application, I went read the response to question 16 because I needed more context about the Cozad-Bates House; however, there was a missed opportunity here on sharing about it in more depth. There was information about where it is located geographically and locally, but nothing else.

The public benefit of this project is well documented and articulated in this application. The goals and how they will be measured could be made more specific in future applications.

Overall, the applicant clearly presents the intent and subject matter of the project and its relation to the overall mission of the organization, its goals, and the public benefit it provides. However, I am unclear on what the additional programming is based on the details provided.

There will always be a fundamental public benefit to leveraging the story and history of the Underground Railroad/Cozad Bates House. However, I felt like this section could be strengthened by including more information on efforts to bring in more local community voice into the program creating process.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

I would like more information/details about the art activities - like the storytelling, poetry, reenactments, music, dance, and videos will be used since \$4900 of the budget will be used for music professionals, dance, actors and poets.

The project plan to collaborate with artists, musicians, and videographers of all kinds seems to create opportunities for all kinds of learners and community members with varying interests to engage with the organization and the historical materials. The emphasis on school aged children and partnerships with schools allows young audiences to be introduced to the organization to continue growing the community of engaged audiences for the organization.

I feel like this section could be significantly strengthened by articulating a few specific ways that this project will expand RCH's offerings and professed goal.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

The budget is not clear for this project. The expenses greatly exceed the income from CAC, which is also listed as more than the request. It would be helpful to know where your other funding is going to come from in future applications to ensure that the project can successfully be completed.

The applicant gives a few examples of community partners/venues and details on its management team to support community engagement and its organizational capacity. However, the presented budget offers disproportionate information.

I feel like this section could be strengthened by talking more about the impact of this specific project (Black History Month and International Underground Railroad Month) for which you are seeking grant funds. It currently reads as more about the overall mission than this specific project.



Organization: Ridna Shkola Cleveland

Project Title: Exploring Ukrainian heritage, history, and culture through art

Panelists: Diego Barbosa- Vásquez, Dominique Feloss, Maria Lafelice, Linda Ryan, Michael

Smith

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$4,270

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Yes: They described very well their community and the public benefit is clear.

This project has great public benefit in regards to recent relevant events, especially with the new Ukrainian people fleeing the Russian invasion. Not only do they provide a safe space for Ukrainian immigrants, but they also are open to sharing the Ukrainian culture with people who aren't familiar with it. Financial accessibility noted with free and open to the public program.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Yes: The project shows cultural and artistic vibrancy

There is a focus on the importance of preserving culture, supporting the artistic and cultural vibrancy aspect of this project. The objectives stated supports the purpose of the project. I'm interested in the new ways that needs have been adjusted for current learners, since the approach to teaching language, literature, culture, and history hasn't changed over the 70-year history. I thinking building the relevance into the project is great, I'd love a bit more detail.

The application very clearly describes a project that is relevant and created with the participants, providing the youth participants voice in the project and a platform to share their learning and creative outputs.

Ridna Shkola Cleveland, through its school programs, helps bridge intergenerational and inter-national divides while preserving Ukrainian culture, a fact particularly important while in the face of the immanent threat to its national home. The organization is, of course, aware of this, and seems to have developed a deeper mission to educate children about Ukrainian culture, even as the program itself has been well-established for 70 years.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Yes: Clear budget, objectives, and metrics.

The organizational capacity section showcases the goals of the implemented project and how it fits into each person's role on the team. All leadership team is well qualified, and I like to see the names of each individual involved.

shows organizational capacity by identifying community partners in executing the event, and explaining why those partners share alignment with the project goals



Organization: Shaker Arts Council

Project Title: Painting the Town

Panelists: Anel Arriola, Astrid Caruso-Lynch, Caity Cook, Sheryl Doades, Levon Williams

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$3,415

PUBLIC BENEFIT

How are the boxes identified and who identifies them? How successful has the Art Council been in the past in involving community along with the Board of Directors? It seems that community members are more involved indirectly vs directly.

The public benefit of this project is clear, from the public art aspect to including local artists (and compensating them for their work) and encouraging younger artists to participate with the support of their teachers.

I appreciate the inclusion of a voting process for community members to select the works that will be installed as a way to ensure community members have a voice in this project. The nature of the project as public art installations also benefits all residents, commuters, and visitors to Shaker Heights. The goal of recruiting student artists to submit to the project extends that reach even further.

The applicant provides some evidence in support of the project's public benefit, including accessibility of the finished products to its community and the broader public, and supporting engagement from a younger demographic. More detail would make this application stronger, as I was left with questions on how and where the community would be invited and included in the selection process and what types of community groups the organizations is working to build and strengthen relationships with through this specific project. The applicant mentions a framework to assist the organization in including and engaging diverse artists and their work—this would have been great to include in the supporting materials.

Appreciate that community partners appear to be present in all aspects of the project. Also appreciated that local artists were selected to be part of this project. The addition of a youth representative on the Board of Directors is a great idea. (I might suggest adding two instead of one to provide more equity for these newcomers)

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Really appreciate that artists are compensated for their work and that the work largely involves local artists.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

The budget, under income, has a line for "Membership" - who is the membership?

Appreciated learning about the diverse make up of the team.



Organization: Shore Cultural Centre

Project Title: Shore Cultural Centre 2024 STEAM Fest

Panelists: Diego Barbosa- Vásquez, Dominique Feloss, Maria Lafelice, Linda Ryan, Michael

Smith

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$3,415

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Somewhat: The proposal doesn't allow me to see a strong comprehension of the target community, neither how it will be involved in the decision making power. Also, it is not clear if the event is going to be one day or multiple days.

The festival is a free event that is open to all with high quality family oriented programing for the community, which 20% lives at or below the poverty level. The activities and events that are part of the festival are aligned with STEAM and has a lot of diversity in the types of events within the festival. The breakdown of the demographics is extremely helpful

The organization clearly demonstrated that they collect feedback from a variety of stakeholders and implement changes based on that feedback.

Shore Cultural Centre knows its community and has provided strong evidence to show how feedback has informed programming decisions. The goal of expanding artist participation is laudable and is most certainly demonstrative of increasing the artistic vibrancy of the region.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

No: The proposal doesn't allow me to see a clear artistic and cultural vibrancy possibility.

The artistic and cultural vibrancy is great, as the organization carefully listens to the feedback received from participants and attendees, and seem to incorporate that into the following year's events by survey.

The funds from CAC would allow the organization to increase the number of artists engaged in the event, which would directly increase the artistic vibrancy of the event.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

No: Budget is ok. Not sure about organization capacity as the project is around 45% of the full organization budget.

Organizational capacity seems to be great, with names of each person associated with implementation of the project listed.

The final report that was submitted in the support materials was extremely helpful in describing past success and illustrating the experience.

appreciated the clarity on the organizational touchpoints in the community that will enable continued outreach and input from the folks they serve



Organization: SOS: Strengthening Our Students

Project Title: Art in Motion, Science in Action, Embracing STEAM

Panelists: Karla Centeno, Keya Crenshaw, Karen Maner, Lisa Much, Penny Pun

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$3,415

PUBLIC BENEFIT

There is clear evidence that this project will help impact the lives of their audience. The organization shows a deep understanding of their community and passion to support it.

Incorporating STEAM education, adding transportation, and offering services free of charge provides great benefit the community. Additionally, offering art projects, homework assistance, and tutoring to students from a changing and disadvantaged area adds great benefit. That said, I would like to see more about how/if the program is accessible in other ways like for disables students and families who face obstacles.

The organization demonstrates a deep understanding of the community it serves, and the detailed description of the Fairfax neighborhood was extremely helpful in demonstrating the project's potential impact. In terms of building and strengthening relationships, the application mentions that the organization had to decrease the amount of after-school programming it was providing due to "the arrival of larger organizations with short-lived programs." My interpretation was that this meant other organizations had begun providing similar, competing programs, which raised some concern about the organization's intention to increase the programing to 4 days a week. It sounds as though the other organizations' programs have possibly ceased operating, so perhaps there is now a greater need to fill, but clarification would be helpful.

Applicant does a great job detailing the community by geography and how it is responding to the needs of the community and growing from past projects to provide relevant programming.

The application lays to a good outline for a program that serves their very well-defined community. It also successfully articulates the need for the project.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

It was hard to understand what elements of the after school program will have art & culture. Additionally, how will the organization collaborate with artist-in-resident programs? More clarification on the role of art and culture would have been helpful.

Partnering with organizations like MOCHA and Karamu Theatre adds an additional level of artistic and cultural value. Also, the holistic programming that is implemented is an outstanding level of support.

More detail regarding the types of arts-related activities students will complete, how curriculum/activities are developed, and how artists-in-residence are selected (or examples of artists who have participated in the past) would strengthen this area of the application and also enhance the Organizational Capacity section. Some information regarding the arts and cultural activities was included in the Program Evaluation document/support materials.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

It is evident that the organization is lead by passionate team members.

The leaders of this organization and project appear to be more than qualified to lead the charge.

In terms of measuring progress, the organization will conduct weekly assessments of students' progress in comprehension and completion of homework assignments. Additionally, they will seek feedback from teachers and parents, which is excellent.

Note: The project dates fall outside the funding window.



Organization: St. Clair Superior Development Corp.

Project Title: St. Clair Superior Arts Movement

Panelists: Diego Barbosa- Vásquez, Dominique Feloss, Maria Lafelice, Linda Ryan, Michael

Smith

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$4,270

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Somewhat: With the proposal I am not able to see strong understanding of the target community and its characteristics. Not sure if expecting half a million people on a single night is a realistic goal, or is a metric based on the amount of people that will see the mural? It has organized carefully plans to involve communities in the decision making power.

It's great to see the organization actively engaging residents and business owners through Stakeholder and Business Mixers, community meetings, and networking events for artists. The "quick wins" project with LAND Studio, including vinyl mural installations and artistic banners, will add visual charm to the St. Clair Avenue district. The public benefit is great, by focusing on creating an accessible, inclusive, and vibrant community, the St. Clair Superior Development Corporation is promoting the diversity of its residents and businesses. The neighborhood is stated to be home to a diverse population.

The event and the mural/banners will be open and available to the public, and were all planned through listening to the key stakeholders--artists.

provides detailed historical and cultural context on the neighborhood served & why funding is key at this time

It is clear, explicitly, that the St. Clair Superior Development Corp shares power with its community, as the project itself was requested by neighborhood artists.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Yes: Having different artists and allowing them to define their goals and vision is very interesting.

The commitment of the SCSDC to collaborate with the community and involve a diverse range of artists is great to see. There's a vibrant mix of artistic spaces and talents coming together. By engaging the artist community and working with them, SCSDC ensures that the projects will be relevant and engaging by reflecting the neighborhood.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Yes: The organization has the capacity and the budget is organized.

I see great contribution to the artistic and cultural vibrancy of St. Clair Superior, ensuring a dynamic and engaging environment for artists, entrepreneurs, and the community as a whole. I would have liked to see specific names of some people who make up the team for each involved party.

The support materials were very beneficial in understanding the details of the project as well as the organizational capacity to plan and implement.

This reviewer's only critique is that it is wildly unrealistic to expect an audience of half a million people for a first-time, one-night event especially with a \$10,000 project. Regardless, the project is a very promising one, both from an artistic perspective and the potential benefit to the project.



Organization: Studio Institute

Project Title: Art Partners: a community arts engagement program for FairhIII Partners

Panelists: Diego Barbosa- Vásquez, Dominique Feloss, Maria Lafelice, Linda Ryan, Michael

Smith

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$4,270

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Yes: The proposal allows me to see a strong comprehension of the target community and the inclusion of them in the decision making power.

The public benefit is great; the organization has notable partners (Fairhill Parners) which provides them with a hub of different connections, such as the NAACP, National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, the Sierra Club, and Teen Start/Village Family Farms, etc. The organization provides services for families to older adults who take care of children, and support is clearly provided, bringing information and critical services. There seems to be a clear commitment to both equity and access, specifically in underserved communities which is apparent and notable.

The project outline clearly defines efforts to build and strengthen relationships not only with partnering organizations but the community of participants as well. The project will expand access to art experiences.

The collaboration between Fairhill Partners and Studio Institute is an inspired one, and it is one that the latter rightly understands is essential to the success of this locally-based version of its historically popular NYC program.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Somewhat: The proposal doesn't allow me to see a clear way in which the artistic and cultural vibrancy is transcending to the community.

The artistic and cultural vibrancy seems to be good, with the Arts Intern program seeming to leave an impact of the community. The organization has built relationships with both individuals and institutions and is something needed in order to connect with the community, particularly for art centered relationships. The collaboration with art partners, nonprofit partners, and individuals is amazing.

"Giving voice to--a new community of older learners" is a very worthy goal set forth for the program, and using local arts instructors and educators--sharing with and learning from them--is something that should be celebrated and supported to the highest degree.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Yes: Clear goals, clear metrics, and good overall organizational capacity.

The organization has named leadership and their involvement in the project. Noted that the artists receive paid and formal training both in person and virtually. They have also mentioned their priorities in the hiring practice specific to artists.

identifies specific community partners & explains alignment between the partners and this project



Organization: STV Bavaria

Project Title: STV Bavaria Cultural Events

Panelists: Karla Centeno, Keya Crenshaw, Karen Maner, Lisa Much, Penny Pun

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$4,270

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The organization has a long history of preserving culture. The project is intergenerational, which will hopefully help create interest and, subsequently, sustainability for the future. There could be more information about how the organization will reach out to folks that are not part of German cultural groups.

While being fee-based is understood, I urge the committee to consider other fee options if they must be charged as the fees they have can exclude many individuals and communities. Not splitting audiences by working within communities to schedule events does allow for greater participation.

The organization demonstrates it builds and maintains relationships with other mission-aligned organizations and is an active member of, and respected contributor, to the larger cultural community to which it belongs. In terms of being accessible and inviting to the broader public, the narrative indicates the organization has adopted a new fee structure as of May 2023. Charging admission is more than reasonable, but it would be helpful to know how different this fee structure is compared to past years and whether there is any concern about it being prohibitive.

Applicant clearly defines its community and how it works with others and celebrates culture.

The application provides a lot of specificities on the community (and sub-communities) the project serves.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

A good response, which shows artistic and cultural vibrancy.

The organization's history of awards and performances in other communities speaks to the quality of the programming they produce. In terms of reflecting on said programming in order to remain relevant to the community, the narrative indicates that they consider audience feedback; however, more specifics about how they seek out this feedback--particularly whether it's through a formal surveying process--would strengthen the application in this area and in the area of Organization Capacity (re:

measuring progress and evolving the project). In terms of the diversity of the individuals who will carry out the project, the organization reports an impressive range of ages among its volunteer base. They could provide more specifics about the age breakdown of those involved, but it's nonetheless impressive to see an organization rooted in tradition engaging young professionals in leadership roles.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Their intergenerational team shows diversity within organization and program. There is evidence that the organization has a strong volunteer-run structure to execute successful events.

Applicant does an excellent job at clearly answering the questions. As an outsider, I find the budget of only ticket sale and CAC funding as income concerning from a capacity standpoint, but if that is what works for this organization, then great.



Organization: Suburban Symphony Orchestra

Project Title: Free Public Concert – Community Orchestra/Gospel Choir Collaboration

Panelists: Anel Arriola, Astrid Caruso-Lynch, Caity Cook, Sheryl Doades, Levon Williams

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$4,270

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The response to question 10 is very well organized.

This project demonstrates clear public benefit to the performers, current audience, and local community that may be interested in this particular concert or in becoming a future audience member. It is well organized and has attainable goals.

The partnerships described with Cleveland Chorale, as well as a predominantly African American church, ensure that new communities and audiences will have a voice in event coordination.

This application outlines well the intentionality around collaboration, relationship building, and inclusion and engagement of diverse populations in this project.

All comments in the Public benefit section denote a working understanding of the grant criteria and a thoughtfulness in how to achieve the section's goals. Program is responsive to audience surveys and is inclusive in nature

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Thank you for providing the detailed program components and timeline.

The provided supporting materials helped illustrate the buy-in of the requesting organization's members.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Thank you for providing specific measurable metrics for your goals. The majority of the budget is used to pay Arts Professionals.

Program/Project can be leveraged to collaborate/bring more BIPOC people to the table in all aspects of the project beyond the performance itself. Consider ways to equitably bring voice into marketing, planning, and other aspects as well.



Organization: Tender Hearts Crusades

Project Title: Sankofa Black History Month Event and African Artist-in-Residency Program

(Congolese Rumba)

Panelists: Karla Centeno, Keya Crenshaw, Karen Maner, Lisa Much, Penny Pun

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$4,270

PUBLIC BENEFIT

There is clear evidence that the organization understands, respects and shares power with its community. There is also a strong emphasis in preserving culture for future generations.

Working with disadvantaged youth in communities that face economic hardships, and creating an immersive artist in residence program fulfills the public benefit portion.

The organization demonstrates a deep understanding of, commitment to, and respect for the community it serves. Dialogue with residents informs programming development, showing that the organization values sharing power with those it serves. By partnering with community organizations and offering the program at no cost for participants, they are helping to ensure the project is accessible and inviting to community members.

The applicant clearly defines its community and demonstrates a strong connection through ongoing partnerships in the neighborhood with Karamu House.

The application clearly articulates the educational value and high accessibility, thus how it meets the Public Benefit criterion

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Dance, music, and mentorship are thoughtfully planned and relevant to their community. The project will have a twofold effect-- for the artists involved and for the participants. There is so much care given to creating a safe and engaging space.

Connecting with other communities and partners ensures greater artistic inclusivity.

The artists engaged to lead and participate in the program bring a wealth of relevant experience, speaking to the potential vibrancy of the project.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

A very strong team to lead the program! Great support material. I only wish I could join this program!



Organization: The Foundry

Project Title: The Power of Water Juried Student Art Show

Panelists: Karla Centeno, Keya Crenshaw, Karen Maner, Lisa Much, Penny Pun

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$4,270

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The organization is taking a multidisciplinary (art, ecology and sport) approach to engage its community. There is clear indication that the organization knows and is responding to the community (planning a second show).

Making the decision for the event to be free of charge allows for greater participation and accessibility. Showcasing student art celebrates the communities this organization works in and with, and also brings together varying demographics.

The proposed project was developed in direct response to an identified gap in the community--a large number of students do not experience the community's greatest natural asset, Lake Erie. By encouraging students to reflect on this natural resource through art, the project has the potential to deepen participants' sense of community understanding and pride, further STEM learning objectives, and offer meaningful opportunities for creative expression and social-emotional growth. The project is intended to engage economically disadvantaged students in particular; however, more information was needed to effectively evaluate whether this is being achieved. The narrative acknowledges that many of the target students' parents work long hours. Providing more information about the how the organization is engaging parents and designing/scheduling the awards ceremony to facilitate attendance would be beneficial. Additionally, it would helpful to know whether the organization is tracking how many students are experiencing the waterfront for the first time as a result of this program to demonstrate that the intended audience is being engaged.

Applicant clearly defines its community and how it involves it while benefiting it with an art grant and centering student artists.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

There is evidence that the organization is providing a good experience for students, but it would have been good to illustrate how the project is relevant to the students. Moreover, how are students involved in the design?

Connecting with the school system also brings another powerful and inclusive element to the project.

The application illustrates a vibrant project that sits in the intersection of nautical sports and art that creates a unique experience for low-income youth.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

A strong team to lead the project! Goals seems feasible and an upgrade from the year before.

The goals are very smart and quantifiable demonstrating that the applicant put in significant thought on the program improvements.



Organization: Trobár Medieval

Project Title: Tutti Insieme, All Together! A Festival of Italian Musical Culture Through the Ages

Panelists: Karla Centeno, Keya Crenshaw, Karen Maner, Lisa Much, Penny Pun

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$4,270

PUBLIC BENEFIT

It is clear the organization is engaging and inclusive while preserving culture. There are many entry points through its multimedia structure, bilingual texts, and participatory experiences and more.

Adding multiple free events is an accessibility feature that will allow more of the community to easily participate.

I appreciate that the organization has identified venues that will allow them to engage geographically diverse community members. Additionally, by selecting a venue in Little Italy, performing at a church in an Italian-speaking parish, and collaborating with an Italian jazz-folk band, they are effectively positioning the project to engage community members for whom the subject matter will be particularly relevant, which also speaks to the project's cultural vibrancy. It would further strengthen the application in this area to know more about the Cleveland area's Italian community and how this project's cultural focus was decided upon by the planners. The project will incorporate a number of artistic disciplines (music, dance, and literature) presented in a variety of formats and venues, including schools, making it accessible and appealing to interest- and age-diverse audiences.

Applicant clearly defines its community through its many different affinities and designs programming with them in mind that ranges in their comfort level of participation and access.

The applicant clearly articulates its community and how the project has multiple entry points to different facet of the community.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

It is nice to read that the organization is providing access through free programming, while also thinking about accessibility more broadly: legible fonts, creating a welcoming space and more. Addressing feedback needs to redesign the 2023-2024 program indicated responsiveness to audience. Great work!

The multiple venue locations will not only bring in new community members, but also adds an ease of participation.

The statement acknowledging the good and bad of the medieval period demonstrates cultural vibrancy.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

It is nice to see a budget with a lot of the allocation going towards artist pay. Strong team with relevant experience to lead. Thoughtful programs to link the past with the present.



Organization: Upcycle Parts Shop

Project Title: Saturdays on St. Clair: Creative Reuse Workshops

Panelists: Karla Centeno, Keya Crenshaw, Karen Maner, Lisa Much, Penny Pun

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$4,270

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The organization seems to know their community well and uses this environmentally friendly project to thoughtful engage them. It is nice to read that the program was created in response to their community needs.

Developing community arts programming around up-cycling not only teaches about climate change and the importance of taking care of the planet, but also allows both artists and art interested individuals to participate in an art form in a new way. Building new partnerships and presenting the workshops in easily accessible locations also adds benefit. However, I would have liked to have seen some information about how those with disabilities are considered and able to participate in the project.

The organization notes that they serve a predominantly Black community and that their intended primary audiences are the residents of the neighborhood in which they operate and adjacent neighborhoods. It was unclear, however, how close they are to achieving this. The project goals section indicates that they are currently drawing more audiences from outside the neighborhood than within it and hope to change this. I appreciated their stated intentions and honesty about their current audience base. It would be helpful, however, to know more about the current audience breakdown, how the organization will proactively work towards their intended audience shift, and how they are building relationships with neighborhood residents. They share that the workshops "will be offered in direct response to requests we've received from our neighbors and other users of our shop and our programming over the past nine years," but it was unclear whether the organization had actively sought this feedback. In the goals section, they express a desire to hear more ideas from neighborhood residents, but more specifics about how organization is taking steps to facilitate this and to build trust and dialogue among residents would strengthen the application in this area.

Applicant clearly defines its community through its neighborhood of St. Clair and the demographics of the community and is designing programming in direct response to the community.

It is clear that the applicant is very intentional about WHO is the community for the organization and the project. I appreciate the intentionality.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Again, the project is in response to community-- less about the output and more about the process behind creation.

Reusing materials creates an entirely new life for something that may have otherwise ended up in a landfill. This also allows participants to engage with art in a new way and from a new perspective.

This workshop series represents a potentially exciting intersection between arts and culture and climate activism, with participants learning creative ways to repurpose materials that would otherwise be wasted. The brief project description indicates that educating participants about climate change is a primary focus of the program, but this aspect was not explored elsewhere in the application. Considering the nature of the grant program, it makes sense that the narrative focuses primarily on the art creation aspect of the workshops, but including additional information about how/whether climate change education is incorporated into the workshop instruction could further demonstrate project impact.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Staff has good experience to lead. Clarification on professional fees would have been good to include. For example, how is professional different from personnel?



Organization: Ursuline College

Project Title: Juneteenth 2024

Panelists: Karla Centeno, Keya Crenshaw, Karen Maner, Lisa Much, Penny Pun

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$4,270

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The organization is creating a project that engages their audience through a multifaceted approach: literature, music, dance, and food. Regarding how the organization will connect with their community, more about the cultural underpinnings for connecting would have been good to include.

By partnering with other organizations and incorporating local and national talent, and presenting about Juneteenth, Ursuline College is presenting a program of great public benefit. Additionally, offering free participation makes the events more accessible.

Institutions of higher education can often become quite insulated, almost operating as cities within cities. It's promising to see Ursuline College using its resources to develop outward-looking community programming and building partnerships with the local library system and Mayor's office to facilitate broader community participation in this project. The college has a robust marketing plan to reach a broad cross-section of community members.

The applicant articulates an educational project targeted to its community.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Good response but it would have been good to also address art and cultural vibrancy for the other elements of the program (ex. music).

Incorporating multi-day programming like holding an opening reception at an Art Gallery opens the doors for greater cultural vibrancy.

Through the art exhibition, the project has the potential to empower young artists and provide them with a valuable opportunity to engage new audiences.

Applicant demonstrates a commitment to artistic vibrancy through working with a local artist to expand with an art show for students.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

A strong team with many years of relevant experience!

The planning committee team members identified in the application bring a wealth of relevant experience to the project.



Organization: Wake Up and Live's Actor's Studio

Project Title: "Wake Up Healing Arts:Performance & Media for Direction, Hope, Health, & Total

Well-being.2.0"

Panelists: Karla Centeno, Keya Crenshaw, Karen Maner, Lisa Much, Penny Pun

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$3,415

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The organization has provided evidence that they both know their community and are deeply invested in them. Their response to connecting, shows thoughtfulness in programming, from equipping their staff to navigate sensitive issues to reinviting artists to participate.

It would be interesting to learn how the organization intends to incorporate multiple communities into the conversation with the focus on Black mental and holistic health.

The organization's goals to raised awareness of, and reduce stigma surrounding mental health experiences are admirable, and the proposed project has the potential to use theatre arts as a powerful conversation starter and source of healing. It would be helpful to know more about the mental health professionals and organizations the applicant plans to engage. Even if they have not yet been confirmed, including some examples of prospects would help to demonstrate how the organization is building relationships in the community. The organization notes that it does discriminate against LGBTQ+ members or inquire about individuals' orientation, but I would encourage them, if they are not doing so already, to consider ways to be actively welcoming to this community as many of the topics they hope to address--particularly teen suicide--are highly relevant for LGBTQ+ community members.

Applicant indicates they will reach out to predominantly Black creative and performing artists in Cleveland for the project, but does not clearly explain who their audience is typically through the question prompted (geography, identity, affinity).

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

A very strong approach showing that the organization is relevant and engaging.

More specifics regarding the individuals involved would strengthen the application in this area. Although the playwrights have not yet been identified for this year's series, providing examples of artists and plays

from past offerings would help to illustrate how the organization is creating engaging and inclusive experiences for community members.

The project is drawing from observations and work from the area creators demonstrating artistic vibrancy that is relevant and important.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

A good team to lead, but it would have been good to include background information about the people running the show to help reviewers understand who they are.

While it is understood individuals either work in the arts and/or are on the board, it would have been nice to see some qualifications.

It is not clear that the accomplishment of the goal is meeting the goal, based on measuring mental health assistance when asking about performance styles that speak to the audience; however, there is limited space to answer the question and the survey will probably have many questions.

The staff and personnel of the project reflects the community it serves, which reflects the organization's capacity to carry out an effective project.



Organization: West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development

Project Title: Pop-Ups in the Parks

Panelists: Karla Centeno, Keya Crenshaw, Karen Maner, Lisa Much, Penny Pun

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$4,270

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The organization shows evidence of being inclusive and engaging. They know their community and are taking steps to be welcoming (print and e-marketing, tailored programming etc).

Offering free events in multiple neighborhood parks is accessible and allows more individuals to participate. Additionally, inviting community members and partners to give feedback allows for greater engagement and more participation from the wider community; when you know your voice is heard, not only are you more likely to attend, but you're more likely to inform others about the events as well. This is also a quality control measure on the development side.

The organization demonstrates an understanding of the community it serves and a commitment to evolving programming to ensure that it celebrates and reflects the community's growing cultural diversity and vibrancy. The organization is building partnerships with other community organizations and places of worship to engage diverse audiences. For reviewers unfamiliar with the area, it would be helpful to know a bit more about the key partner, Center for Arts Inspired Learning, who helped to recruit culturally diverse artists for recent programming. The organization identifies diversifying community partners—both organizations and individuals—as a key goal. Providing examples of these potential new partnerships would further strengthen the application in this area. I appreciate the organization's thoughtful approach to promoting the event, which includes engagement efforts tailored to those without access to digital communications. This further demonstrates a commitment to engaging and building relationships with diverse populations.

Applicant clearly defines its community by describing the demographics and geography of the neighborhood.

The applicant shows a deep understanding of the different facets of its community, demonstrating the ability to engage with them effective via a free event.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

The organization is thoughtful in diversifying their pool, while also considering how to create sustainability and compensate artists. It is good to reflect and make changes to stay relevant.

This programming sounds very inclusive, organized, and thoughtful. I'd like to see how the disabled are considered, but overall, the cultural impact is great.

Applicant is increasing the diversity of artists this year in response to surveys from the previous event.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

A good response, but more information on the specific people involved would have been good to include. Who are they and why are they qualified?

In terms of project planning, the application identifies several partner organizations who support the project. The organization could consider providing brief biographical information about key project team members to help reviewers evaluate in this area



Organization: Western Reserve Fire Museum & Education Center

Project Title: Ohio Fire Apparatus & Equipt. Manufacturers Lead the Nation & Influence NE Ohio Firefighting History

Panelists: Diego Barbosa- Vásquez, Dominique Feloss, Maria Lafelice, Linda Ryan, Michael

Smith

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$3,415

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Yes: The proposal is clear about your knowledge of the target community.

The project's public benefit showcases the Ohio fire apparatus and equipment manufacturers and highlights their innovative contributions to the fire service. The inclusion of vintage fire apparatuses and equipment adds a tangible and nostalgic element to the exhibit. The project narrative showcases the rich history of fire apparatus manufacturers and equipment companies in Ohio. The organization clearly puts effort into gathering input from various stakeholders to ensure the exhibit's relevance and appeal. They are catering to various community members; the organization is creating a space that appeals to all demographics.

identifies specific populations served and demonstrates demand for expanded museum offerings

The Western Reserve Fire Museum has provided some evidence of its ability to remain responsive to its local community through surveys and a dedicated exhibitions committee. This reviewer would have liked to see a more articulated plan/demonstration of how the museum is accessible to all and how it would specifically engage diverse populations.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Somewhat: The multiple stakeholders interaction is very interesting. Just not sure how after the exhibition is done how the learning from it and the process of creation will permeate the full society

Their commitment to artistic and cultural vibrancy is apparent, as the organization's dedication to engaging the community and promoting inclusivity is worth noting. They showcase the involvement of the community in decision-making, collaborate with collectors and museums, as well as offering free admission on select days, which shows the dedication to creating an equitable environment accessible to all participants.

The application would have benefitted from the inclusion of more images of past exhibits to give a better sense of the scale of this project, and to demonstrate the vibrancy.

Again, the Museum has done a fair job of alluding to the ways it would promote the diversity of people celebrated in the Museum, but more detail would be needed to warrant a "strong evidence provided" score.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Yes: Clear goal, clear metrics, and it seems the organization has a good overall financial capacity.

Their organizational capacity is commendable; they have a team consisting of individuals with expertise in various areas such as law, firefighting history, writing, graphics, and administration. Collaborating with manufacturers, Vista Color Imaging, and X2 Media adds value. They also involve interns and volunteers interested in museum studies, history, and graphics design, which gives them practical application of their studies. Retired firefighters bring valuable real-life experience and knowledge to the exhibits. Their attention to detail and utilization of a talented team is impressive.



Organization: Westlake Chinese School

Project Title: Westlake Chinese School Ethnic Folk Dance Project

Panelists: Karla Centeno, Keya Crenshaw, Karen Maner, Lisa Much, Penny Pun

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$3,415

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The organization is systematic in their approach to understanding, respecting, and sharing power with their community. It would have been good to include in this section, concrete examples of how they have employed approach in the past or how they intend to employ in the further.

Solid plan to include the community in the programming. However, I would like to see how they organization includes disabled individuals and individuals from diverse backgrounds and social economic backgrounds. Numbers 10 and 11 have the exact same answer which doesn't fully answer the questions. The answers to all of the questions sound nice, but don't really offer any depth.

The activities described in the project narrative--folk dance instruction geared toward a variety of ages--have the potential to be impactful for participants. Unfortunately, the application does not provide enough detail regarding the community being served or how community members will be engaged to effectively evaluate in this area. The organization provided the same response to the "define your community" question and the "how will you connect with your community" question. The response indicated that the organization will "actively seek out [community members'] opinions and perspectives" and involve community members in the planning process but did not explain how they will accomplish this.

In answering the public benefit questions, the applicant lists examples from CAC on how to demonstrate public benefit, but doesn't provide much detail on who the community is or how specifically they will connect with it through the project.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

A solid response; however, illustrating how information will be collected would be good to include: surveys, quantitive/ qualitative data etc. Providing this information will help panelists understand how information is being collected, then integrated into the program.

It is unclear who will provide the dance instruction. Providing brief biographical information about the instructors would strengthen the application in this area.

The answer on how the organization will create a relevant project is not quite clear. It is difficult to ascertain to what extent a project/program has been designed already, if it needs tweaks or is being started, how decisions are being made. The supporting documentation of the video helps illustrate what the program is.

The application articulates a very culturally specific project—it demonstrates intent to create a relevant and engaging project.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

A large team of dedicated representatives! Organization seems organized to manage the project. A bit more specifics about main drivers of the program (i.e. the board) would be good to include. Who are they and why are they qualified. Nice work samples! In all, this application is good more; however, the responses are a bit generalized. Concrete examples would have been good to contextualize how things will play out in the project.

Sounds like an enormous Board of Directors—with a board that large oftentimes, things can become difficult to achieve. It would be nice to have some detail about the makeup of the board apart from 100 families.

The application indicates that a significant number of families from diverse backgrounds are involved in project planning. It was unclear whether all 100 families have representation on the board of directors. Providing more specifics about key individual

Note, but not a penalty, the start and end dates run the length of the full year 2024.



Organization: Windsong, Cleveland's Feminist Chorus

Project Title: Fostering Feminism: A Community Fesitval of Hope and Healing

Panelists: Diego Barbosa- Vásquez, Dominique Feloss, Maria Lafelice, Linda Ryan, Michael

Smith

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$4,270

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Somewhat: Not sure about the range, is it one day or is it a year long project? The proposal describes intentions to become more inclusive but I am not able to understand how they are planning to achieve it.

The project clearly highlights important aspects of feminism, as well as emphasizing wellness and healing modalities. The organization also demonstrates a strong commitment to community empowerment, inclusivity, and social justice. Their collaborative approach and diverse programming is notable. Their strategy to bring together different aspects of the community align with the values of CAC's philanthropic support. The organization's commitment to inclusivity and community-building contributes to the entirety of all demographics in the county and creates a safe and empowering space. Interested to see how New Harmony will further enhance inclusivity and create a more open and diverse organization.

application makes well rounded case for arts festival as a nexus to connect organizations, businesses, and individuals to share resources and promote community exchange

Windsong knows there areas where it is falling short of its own goals for diversity and inclusion and has given plentiful evidence that it is committed to addressing those gaps. It is an exemplary organization concerning efforts to build and strengthen relationships within (and beyond) its community. There might have been more information sought regarding its outreach to the boarder public, but this was not enough to counteract the rest of the evidence given in the application.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Yes: The combination of multiple stakeholders will create a vibrant experience.

The artistic and cultural vibrancy is apparent; the festival's artistic and cultural vibrancy appears to be a clearly transformative experience that combines music, local businesses, nonprofits, artists, and guided healing. It provides participants and attendees with a meaningful experience while supporting economic

opportunities for women and BIPOC-owned businesses. Windsong collaborates with like-minded individuals to build relationships and contribute to positive change in our community.

The application provides strong evidence that the organization is working with a variety of organizations and artists to collaborate on the event.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Yes: Good budget, clear financial capacity, good goal, I just encourage a more robust matrix of metrics to be able to better evaluate the goals.

Windsong's organizational capacity is notable. Core Group members, singers, crescendo members, and grace notes are all involved. Some members have past experience with CAC grant projects. The festival will be coordinated by the Executive Director, Core group officers, and a festival committee. I would have liked to see some specific names and rolls associated with the team involved in implementation.



Organization: Women in History

Project Title: History Bytes: Extraordinary Stories of Extraordinary Women

Panelists: Karla Centeno, Keya Crenshaw, Karen Maner, Lisa Much, Penny Pun

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

CAC Grant Amount: \$3,415

PUBLIC BENEFIT

It is nice to read that the organization is thinking broadly about gender. It would have been good to include the percentages of LGBTQ+, BIPOC women etc to show selection balance within the 70 real-life characters.

Presenting the performances online as well as in person allows for greater accessibility and awareness. Education for all omits barriers and increases the ability and desire to participate.

The organization has identified a way to share their work and educate the public using a new format that has the potential to engage new audiences. Social media and other digital platforms are widely accessible, and the organization will not publish its content behind a pay wall, ensuring anyone interested can view and enjoy the videos. That being said, the public benefit of the project depends largely on how effectively the organization drives audiences to these platforms. There is an abundance of content online, but organizations must be proactive and strategic in order to ensure that their intended audiences find theirs. Providing information about the organization's current reach on social media and their plans to push content out to audiences would strengthen the application in this area. The organization indicates that their video offerings "will be taken from the women's stories most requested by our audience and the future stories most requested." Empowering the community to determine which women are featured is a wonderful idea. However, this section was a bit unclear as it sounded as though the community feedback/requests for video subjects would be collected via comments on the videos themselves, leading to a "chicken and the egg" conundrum. This could be a misinterpretation on my part. In regards to being inclusive of, and engaging diverse populations, the organization states, "Because both the women who make up our performers/researchers AND the stories we tell include a diverse cross section of race, culture, and sexual orientation, the material will naturally reflect that diversity." It is commendable that the organization is committed to reflecting diversity among its creative team members and its programming. I would encourage the organization to consider whether there are more proactive steps they could take, or precise goals related to advancing equity they could pursue--if they have not already done so--as representation does not always equal empowerment.

It seems as though the applicant is defining its community as everyone, which is a hard audience to navigate. It is not clear if they connect to the community only through reading YouTube comments, but more info on how they solicit input and ideas from the Cleveland community would be helpful.

The application demonstrates how the project would generate deliverables (the videos) that will be educational and completely accessible online.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY

A solid response showing creators are both invested in and represent the women they want to highlight.

The supporting materials help clarify the cultural vibrancy.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

A strong team to lead! Nice work samples. The video was very helpful in understanding the project and organization. The script was great too!