



Audience Guide

2024 Project Support - Live Panel Review

Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at
9:00 am & 12:00 pm ET

Welcome!

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC) welcomes you to the 2024 Project Support panel review. The purpose of the Project Support (PS) grant is to promote public access and encourage the breadth of arts and cultural programming in our community by supporting Cuyahoga County-based projects. During the panel review, arts and cultural experts from across the country – who are trained in CAC’s funding criteria – discuss and score applications.

This panel review is for Project Support applications requesting more than \$5,000 in funding. 2024 applications requesting \$5,000 or less are reviewed via a [written panel process](#).

Order of Review

Each review should take approximately 10 minutes. Start times and breaks will take place at the discretion of the panel chair and are subject to change.

Wednesday, September 20, 9:00 am ET

Aradhana Committee
Art of Me Productions
Berea Arts Fest
Bureau of Drug Abuse (Cleveland Treatment Center, Inc.)
Cassidy Theatre
Chagrin Arts
ChamberFest Cleveland
City Ballet of Cleveland
CityMusic Cleveland
Cleveland Contemporary Chinese Culture Association
Les Délices
Musical Upcoming Stars in the Classics
Notre Dame College
Waterloo Arts
West Side Community House

Panelist Closing Statements

Wednesday, September 20, 12:00 pm ET

Bluewater Chamber Orchestra
Carolyn L. Farrell Foundation for Brain Health
Cleveland Center for Arts and Technology (NewBridge Cleveland)
Cleveland Chamber Choir
Cleveland Chamber Symphony
Cleveland School of Dance
Kaboom Collective
Lakewood Young Filmmakers Academy
Maelstrom Collaborative Arts
Praxis Fiber Workshop
Renovare Music
Talespinner Children’s Theatre
The Brecksville Theater
The Refugee Response

Panelist Closing Statements

Watch Live

Don’t want to miss your review? Watch the livestream on September 20 at cacgrants.org/panel.



Panel Review Process

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

A team of five panelists review and score each application. The panel is managed and moderated by a CAC staff member acting as a nonvoting panel chair.

Observe Panel Review

Applications will be reviewed for no more than ten minutes, following this sequence of actions:

- The Panel Chair will introduce the organization.
- The panelists lead the discussion by presenting their assessment of the application, budget and support materials based on CAC's Funding Criteria.
- At the conclusion, panelists will submit their final scores.

Audience Protocol

Applicants and audience members are observers only and are not permitted to address the panel via the virtual meeting or contact the panelists. However, if an applicant believes that a panelist has presented incorrect information regarding their application, they can complete an [Information Correction Form](#) before the end of the panel review meeting.

- The panel chair will review the correction to determine if it is objective in nature and confirms information already presented in the application.
- At their discretion, the panel chair will present the correction to the panel and for public record.

An example of objective information would be the panelist misstating the number of performances that an organization detailed in their application. This is not an opportunity to provide additional information.

Public Comment

After the panel chairs adjourn the discussion and scoring is complete, CAC will hold an optional session for public comment on the panel review process.

Audience members may submit public comments via the [Public Comment Form](#).



Scoring

Panelists score each application on a point scale from 0 to 100 based on the following funding criteria:

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

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

| Has the application demonstrated the funding criteria? | Public Benefit: 45% | Artistic & Cultural Vibrancy: 35% | Organizational Capacity: 20% |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| STRONG The applicant has provided <u>strong</u> evidence that this funding criterion is met. | 39-45 | 31-35 | 18-20 |
| FAIR The applicant has provided <u>fair</u> evidence that this funding criterion is met. | 28-38 | 22-30 | 13-17 |
| WEAK The applicant has provided <u>weak</u> evidence that this funding criterion is met. | 0-27 | 0-21 | 0-12 |

Final Score and Funding Recommendations

Scores are calculated by combining and averaging the scores of the panelists. Applications that receive a score of 75 or higher are recommended for funding. CAC will calculate final scores and notify all applicants via email the week of October 30. Grant amounts are pending board approval at CAC’s Board of Trustees meeting on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 4:00 pm.

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



Meet the Panelists

As of 9/5/2023



Jennifer Cohn, she/her
Pasadena, CA

Jenny grew up in the cornfields of Iowa and now resides in Los Angeles with her husband and 5-year-old son. She began her theatre career as a props designer before transitioning to marketing and patron services for the past decade. As a Consulting Analyst, Jenny supports clients in maximizing their data to understand audiences, increase revenue, and grow sustainability. Jenny holds a B.A in Theatre from Tulane University and credits Totem Pole Playhouse for giving her theatre profession its start.



Lisa Harper Chang, she/her
Madison, AL

Lisa Harper Chang, MSW, has worked in the community arts and nonprofit spaces for over 29 years, having served as Director of Community Projects at the Pulitzer Arts Foundation and Director of the Community Arts Training (CAT) Institute at the Regional Arts Commission of St. Louis. More recently, she has served as an Assistant Director of Religious Education at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington and a consultant for nonprofits, including global health organizations and faith-based organizations. Lisa has served on boards including Prison Performing Arts, Perennial STL, Encore Stage, and Huntsville Bail Fund.



Michael Greer, he/him
Bainbridge, WA

Michael Greer is the President & CEO at ArtsFund in Seattle, WA. ArtsFund's mission is to support the arts through leadership, advocacy, and grantmaking in order to build a more healthy, equitable, and creative Washington. Prior to his role at ArtsFund, Michael lead a number of nonprofit and for-profit organization across the world including India and China. He holds degrees in economics, education, and an M.B.A. from the Wharton School and also spent his early career as a professional ballet dancer, training and performing at many of the world's top institutions.



Deonté Griffin-Quick, he/him
Linden, NJ

Deonté is a nationally recognized, award-winning actor, arts administrator and consultant with a proven track record of envisioning and implementing change at the local and regional level. Currently, he serves as the inaugural Managing Director of External Affairs at the Artist Communities Alliance.



Ethan Hayden, he/him
Erie, PA

Ethan Hayden is a musician, educator, and arts advocate based in Erie, PA. He is the Program Officer of Arts & Learning at Erie Arts & Culture, where he administers creative arts-in-education initiatives aimed at learners of all ages. He is an champion of emerging, underrepresented, and experimental artists throughout the Rust Belt.



Leslie Holt, she/her
Takoma Park, MD

Leslie Holt is an artist and educator who exhibits internationally and is represented by David Lusk Gallery in Memphis. She has a BFA in Painting from Washington University in St. Louis and an MFA in Painting from Washington State University in Pullman, WA. She has taught on the college level for over 15 years and now primarily teaches in community settings. Leslie is also the creator of Neuro Blooms, a project which uses art to make mental health conditions visible and beautiful. She is Co-director of Red Dirt Studio, a warehouse studio for independently practicing artists and creative professionals in Mt. Rainier, MD.



Celia Hughes, she/her
Austin, TX

Celia Hughes has over 35 years of experience working in the arts - mainly focused in theater, film and music - as teacher, producer, artist and administrator. She has also worked alongside people with diverse disabilities for over 30 years. In her role as Executive Director of Art Spark Texas, she develops and oversees inclusive arts programs in partnership with organizations across Texas. Ms. Hughes is a professionally trained audio describer, and serves on the SME Committee that is developing certification criteria for professional describers. She holds a Master of Public Affairs from the LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin, and a Bachelor of Arts, Speech Pathology from the State University of New York College at Plattsburgh.



Christopher Schram, he/him
Kalamazoo, MI

Christopher Schram serves as the Director of Development for the Kalamazoo (MI) Symphony. He has served in nonprofit arts leadership and development positions for over 25 years. Christopher has served on grant review panels for the Southern Arts Federation, the states of Florida and Michigan and the cities of Chicago, San Diego, Indianapolis, and Miami Beach.



Frances Tortorich, she/her
Memphis, TN

Frances Tortorich, CFRE, has more than a decade of experience in nonprofit funding and administration. She has extensive knowledge in all aspects of fund development, with a focus on operational efficiencies, relationship building, and increasing giving across all channels. She earned her master's degree in arts administration from the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University (Bloomington, IN) and her bachelor's degree from Lyon College (Batesville, AR).



Elena Velasco, she/ella
Alexandria, VA

Elena Velasco (she/ella) is a theatre artist whose work is grounded in decolonized, consensus-organized processes, predominantly serving DC and Greater Boston. Her credits include Convergence Theatre (Founding Artistic Director), GALA Hispanic, 1st Stage, Synetic Theater, Keegan Theatre, NextStop Theatre, Arts on the Horizon, Kennedy Center’s New Visions New Voices, and Central Square Theatre. A commissioned playwright and researcher, she has written for Routledge, Intellect Books, and several TYA musicals. She was the 2023 recipient of the SDCF Barbara Whitman Award and is an associate theatre professor at Bowie State University.