Dear Residents of Cuyahoga County,

Ten years ago, Cuyahoga Arts & Culture made its first grant. Since then, CAC has distributed $158 million in public dollars to 350 organizations. Those groups have offered more than 60 million cultural experiences for residents and visitors — and more than half of those were free of charge.

For the past 10 years, CAC has helped organizations and artists bring work to life that makes our community a vibrant place to live, work and visit. As you will see in the stories on the following pages, cultural experiences supported by CAC include a wide spectrum of things we call arts and culture.

None of this work would be possible without the dedicated support approved by Cuyahoga County voters in 2006. You helped to make local public funding for arts and culture a reality then, and you reaffirmed your support again in 2015. Thank you.

Your investment has made a tremendous difference in the lives of countless residents. CAC was formed at a time when the recession made it difficult for arts and culture organizations to stay afloat. The flexible funds and project support grants gave our partners the financial breathing room they needed to keep their doors open, expand their work, and take risks in their programming so they can serve even more residents and visitors.

CAC has grown since those first grants. We’ve moved from simply sustaining cultural organizations to focusing on strengthening our community through grantmaking. And, as we move into our next decade, we do so confidently, guided by community input and grounded in our values. We will strive to make it easier for groups to receive funds through CAC and to ensure everyone equitable access to arts and culture.

On behalf of the current board and staff, we thank those who came before us and made our success possible: all of our former trustees and staff; the volunteers and leaders of the Issue 18 and Issue 8 campaigns; the Cleveland Foundation and The George Gund Foundation; the groups and artists who inspire us with their work daily; and Tom Schorgl and the team at Community Partnership for Arts and Culture. But above all, we thank you. Your belief in our work, to help all residents experience a meaningful cultural life, makes it possible for CAC-supported organizations to inspire and strengthen our community.

Joseph P. Gibbons
Karen Gahl-Mills

President, Board of Trustees
CEO + Executive Director

The Decade: Hispanic Business Center
The evolving scope of CAC’s support.

The Partners
In the past decade, CAC has worked with 350 organizations in Cuyahoga County.

Equity
Cuyahoga Voices & Vision
Community dialogue shapes CAC’s future.

Year in Review
CAC’s support helps organizations host more than a thousand events a year.

Our Team
Recognizing Cuyahoga Arts & Culture’s current and past leadership.
With widespread support on both sides of the Cuyahoga, Issue 18 — a 10-year, one-and-a-half-cent-per-cigarette tax — passed with 56 percent of the vote. The support came at the right time in Cuyahoga County, where the loss of population, jobs, and corporations had begun to erode a once abundant supply of sponsorship dollars, donors, members, and ticket-buyers.

The effort, spearheaded by the Cleveland Foundation, The George Gund Foundation, business people, artists, and civic leaders, brought flexible, general operating support dollars and project support funds to allow arts and culture organizations of all shapes and sizes to deliver on their missions, impact the community, and connect with Cuyahoga County residents and visitors.

In 2007, CAC distributed its first grant. These public funds — once as much as $19-million annually — provide more dedicated arts support than any private foundation in Cuyahoga County and more than many well-known national foundations.

CAC is the region’s public funder for arts and culture, helping hundreds of organizations connect residents and visitors to millions of cultural experiences each year — in museums and performance halls, in nature and public spaces, in neighborhoods and online. Through grants, CAC supports the arts and culture organizations that give our community a unique identity and make it an enjoyable place to work, live and visit. CAC is a responsible steward of public funds, investing more than $158 million in 350 organizations to date.

CAC has been an incredible resource ... many programs have been possible thanks to the generosity of the residents of Cuyahoga County.
CAC funding provides a margin of excellence that allows us to go above and beyond what we would be able to do on our own. It allows us to open our doors wider to bring free experiences to visitors on the lakefront, and in front of our building. It gives us stronger stability.  

DR. KIRSTEN ELLENBOGEN, President & CEO of Great Lakes Science Center
Curiosity thrives at Great Lakes Science Center, where the experiences are designed to make science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) come alive. Children and their families work through challenges, test their ideas, and make changes – hallmarks of STEM learning.

“When we talk with our corporate partners, they tell us this community needs a stronger future workforce of people who can identify problems,” Dr. Kirsten Ellenbogen, President and CEO of GLSC, explains. “Research tells us that if a child hasn’t been exposed to STEM by middle school, it’s an uphill battle to get them interested in STEM careers. It’s a natural fit for us to help spark that interest through fun activities.”

Today, one doesn’t necessarily need to step into the Science Center to experience exciting activities, and that’s by design. Since 2008, GLSC has received about 5 percent of its operating budget from CAC’s General Operating Support program, and the funding allows it to not only offer free admission to more than 16,000 Cleveland Metropolitan School District students each year, but to expand its free programming outside the walls of its building.

“We make sure to reach out and incorporate the public into our work,” Dr. Ellenbogen says. “We have more activities and exhibits today because CAC gives us the stability to open our doors to more audiences.”

CAC is driven by a commitment to continually improve its grant programs so they are more responsive to organizations and residents. As such, CAC revises its grant programs each cycle to make it easier for qualified organizations to receive funding, ensure transparency and good stewardship, and to distribute public funds more equitably.

**General Operating Support** offers multi-year, unrestricted grants to Cuyahoga County-based 501c3 organizations that have a primary mission of arts or culture. General Operating Support grants have ranged in size from $6,000 to $1.8 million.

**Project Support** grants offer annual support for specific projects in the county. What sets the program apart is its commitment to funding arts and culture in unexpected and often unusual places, resulting in grants to senior centers, community development corporations and social service agencies, in addition to more traditional arts and culture nonprofits. Grants have ranged in size from $625 to $50,000.

CAC grants help inspire the next generation.
“We live in the second-largest theater district, second only to New York, but there’s still a huge chunk of individuals who don’t have access to the arts. CAC funding helps us give the kids an extra layer of experiences. It gives families the confidence they need to feel comfortable and go back.”

CHANDA FORD
CLEVELAND INNER CITY BALLET
Each year, Cleveland Inner City Ballet reaches nearly 3,000 individuals who may not get to participate in or experience the ballet because of socioeconomic, race, or class barriers. CICB teaches more than 300 students through a curriculum modeled on statewide standards at community workshops and at its downtown studio. “When parents come in and see the quality of our programs, they know their kids will be nurtured through dance,” said Chanda Ford, founding artistic director of CICB. “Many of our parents tell us they wouldn’t be able to afford a program like this on their own and are so happy we offer it.”

A CAC Project Support grant supports CICB’s performance of the Nutcracker at holiday time. More than 25 dance students ages 3 to 23 participate in the ballet and perform for an audience of more than 150 individuals. CICB collaborates with many CAC grant recipients including DANCECleveland, The Cleveland Orchestra, and Playhouse Square to expose its students to other art forms and venues throughout the city.

“CAC was the first organization to understand what we are trying to do. If CAC did not exist, we would have closed years ago.”
— Edna Duffy

Edna Duffy’s love of music started as a little girl when her mother would hum Negro spirituals around the house. Duffy Liturgical Dance Ensemble (DuffyLit) is the embodiment of her dream to share the meaning of the hymns through song and dance. Its singers and dancers range in age from 5 to 95. They have performed around the world, from New York City to Sydney, Australia.

In its 33rd year of existence, DuffyLit uses its Project Support grant from CAC to support a summer camp for children ages 8-18, which teaches them how to fight back against bullying using music, dance, and poetry. “The spirituals teach faith, hope, optimism, and perseverance — all life lessons that still apply today.”

Online

Read about DuffyLit’s 2017 Tour and see more images at Report.CACGrants.org
CAC and Neighborhood Connections have helped our small one-week camp for 13 students grow into a two-week camp serving 80 students in three neighborhoods.

DJ DOC HARRILL, ARTIST AND LEADER OF REFRESH COLLECTIVE
NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS

Since 2013, CAC has invested in Neighborhood Connections to support cultural events organized by and for Cleveland and East Cleveland residents. They in turn grant up to $5,000 twice a year to groups of residents who organize projects to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods and propose creative solutions to challenges in their community. Through this partnership, CAC has co-funded 271 resident-led projects. From block clubs coming together to paint a mural to intergenerational drum circles, CAC is leveraging public funds to bring additional vibrant programs and events to the heart of Cleveland’s communities.

In neighborhoods across Cleveland, Fresh Camp is bringing residents together to “cultivate youth voice and neighborhood health through community-focused hip-hop in action.” Led by Doc “Dee Jay Doc” Harrill, students at Fresh Camp explore and connect with their neighborhood by visiting urban gardens and learning how to grow and prepare fresh food. Along with professional artists, they learn how to express their vision for their neighborhood through hip-hop music production. Each summer of learning culminates with community performances filled with “fresh” food and beats, spreading the word about healthy food and neighborhoods across Cleveland and Cuyahoga County. More from Fresh Camp at report.cacgrants.org

CREATIVE CULTURE GRANTS

In 2013, Cuyahoga Arts & Culture piloted a crowd-sourced grantmaking program, Creative Culture Grants. More than 6,500 residents voted for their favorite big idea, using their voices to bring two brand new arts and cultural experiences to life. Selected ideas received up to $150,000 to make their dream a reality. The two winning projects were presented to area residents in 2014 and reached over 450,000 people through in-person events, TV, social media and online.

AHA! Cleveland was a multi-day festival of lights presented by LAND studio in downtown Cleveland spaces in August 2014. More than 8,000 residents attended three public events funded by CAC, including four large-scale art installations.

Daring to Be Dumbo addressed the tough topic of bullying through a made-for-television documentary narrated by Al Roker, which aired in April 2014. In addition, 1,000 area residents attended local outreach programs featuring Dancing Wheels members, which took place at libraries across Cuyahoga County.
“I studied what art has done in similar cities and how they use art to transform communities with blight and violent crime. I wanted to see how art could make a difference here, and we’re already seeing it in our community.”

RAHIM BASIT
CAC VOLUNTEER
Rahim Basit has had an affinity for the arts since he can remember. Drawing, design, fashion — he was inspired by them all, but studied business and psychology in college. After he graduated, Rahim started looking for careers that could use his management training around creative people.

Today Rahim’s work focuses on exposing East Cleveland residents to arts experiences that will inspire them to invest in their communities and connect with each other. He works with two organizations funded by CAC — Anansi Artists Alliance and Greater Cleveland Urban Film Festival — helping with event planning and grassroots marketing. Also a CAC volunteer, Rahim raises awareness and connects with area residents at CAC-supported programs and events.

The Anansi Artists Alliance advocates for African American artists and the Greater Cleveland Urban Film Festival showcases new and established African American filmmakers. Both missions are close to Rahim’s heart and speak to the power of arts to build up communities. “When your neighborhood looks good and has activities, residents tend to want to get involved and be part of what’s going on,” Rahim says. “That’s what pushes me to try to get art going in certain areas so we can have people wanting to take care of their community.”

Last year, The Anansi Artists Alliance organized a free jazz concert, art show and lecture at the East Cleveland Public Library. “It got a lot of people involved and excited about the kind of events that could happen in their community,” he said. “We didn’t have money on our own, but being able to go to Neighborhood Connections and CAC to get behind our ideas helps a lot.”

In November 2015, Cuyahoga County residents said “yes” to arts and culture in our community. By overwhelmingly supporting Issue 8, a levy which extended the penny-and-a-half cigarette tax dedicated to arts and culture, our community sent a clear message that Cuyahoga County is a place where creativity and a connection to arts and culture are valued. This renewal provides Cuyahoga Arts & Culture with 10 additional years to invest millions in our arts and culture sector and support thousands of events each year.

When voters first approved CAC’s dedicated funding in 2006, we promised to put public dollars to work in every corner of the county. We’ve delivered. Cuyahoga County is now one of the top public funders of arts and culture in the country.
“Once the refugee community comes here, they have to worry about a job and a place to live, but no one taps into their artistic passion to help free their soul. I saw that they had so much to share and no place to share it.”

GADI ZAMIR, FOUNDER OF NEGATIVE SPACE GALLERY

CAC supports creativity across the County.
When Gadi Zamir came to Cleveland from Israel 18 years ago, he created art in his basement between time spent working as a maintenance man and earning his degree.

“I didn’t have a social life, but through my art, I met people,” he says. “It brought a lot of good people into my life.”

Gadi won a Creative Workforce Fellowship in 2013. He used the support to expand the Negative Space Gallery and give opportunities to others. Currently the gallery receives a Project Support grant for “Art is My Refuge,” which gives a voice to the region’s immigrant population and supports exhibits of their works. “They’ve been through a lot,” Gadi says. “They’ve been exposed to violence. They come from different cultures. I saw that they had so much to share and no place to share it.”

Art is My Refuge artists have been showcased at Cleveland Public Library, Ingenuity Festival, and Brite Winter. “As an artist and a nonprofit, it’s hard to get funding to pay the bills,” Gadi says. “CAC provides stability so artists can create programming that keeps us operational and connects with the community.”

Rich McClellan, Negative Space board president, says: “Art is My Refuge has given us the opportunity to engage a wonderful but underserved population in a common language that all humans share.”

When Cuyahoga County rolled out the red carpet for the Republican National Convention in 2016, CAC made sure the county’s arts and culture offerings took center stage. In partnership with Downtown Cleveland Alliance and the Host Committee, CAC offered Arts Interventions — pop-up arts experiences that highlighted the local arts scene — at Cleveland-Hopkins Airport and downtown. Performances caught the eye of convention participants and received national media coverage. These performances offered a dynamic snapshot of the vibrant and exciting cultural fabric that gives Cuyahoga County a unique identity.

CAC funding has been huge for our organization. It’s enabled us to reach new audiences and create ambitious new works.

Debra Nagy, Founder of Les Délices
The 2016 concert marked the 10th anniversary of Cuyahoga Arts & Culture’s support of the Star-Spangled Spectacular, which included patriotic works and was capped off with a fireworks display.
But his love for the arts came from his parents, who listened to opera at home and encouraged him to take music lessons despite their modest means. That early exposure led him to watch performances at Karamu House and to participate in Berea Summer Theater as a college student. “Those experiences made me who I am today, and those are the things I have tried to support in my life,” he says.

Steve channeled his support for arts and culture into a decade-long stint on CAC’s Board of Trustees, serving as its first president. CAC is grateful for his visionary leadership and thanks him for his ongoing commitment to county residents, artists and arts & culture institutions.

Steven A. Minter has been connected to CAC from the start, when, as the outgoing executive director of the Cleveland Foundation, he gave his time to the community effort to find a dedicated funding source for arts and culture.

“As the heart of downtown Cleveland, Public Square is the perfect setting to connect our community to new arts and culture experiences.”

Sanaa Julien, CEO of Programming & Operations at Public Square

The recent transformation of downtown Cleveland’s Public Square continues with arts and cultural programming supported by a $100,000-investment from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, thanks to funding from National Endowment for the Arts and Group Plan Commission, and in partnership with LAND studio.

Arts & Culture in the Square brings nine new projects to Public Square from June to August, 2017. The events, which include opera, poetry, jazz, story building, and theatrical performances, are free and open to the public. The programs were selected from a pool of applications by a committee of community artists and leaders.

Sanaa Julien is excited for new programs in the heart of the city: “Through Group Plan Commission, we’re proud to invest in Arts & Culture in the Square to bring residents and visitors to our renovated and inviting public park.”

“Arts and culture can expand your life. Every adult and every child should have the opportunity to be exposed to that as much as they can. That’s what drives me.”

— Steven A. Minter

2016

“Arts and culture can expand your life. Every adult and every child should have the opportunity to be exposed to that as much as they can. That’s what drives me.”

— STEVEN A. MINTER

READ STEVEN A. MINTER’S THREE KEY LESSONS FOR CAC’S FIRST DECADE AT REPORT.CACGRANTS.ORG

ONLINE
Ten Years of Impact

STRENGTHENING THE COMMUNITY THROUGH ARTS AND CULTURE

Museum of Contemporary Art
CLEVELAND

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture: The region’s

2007
2017

PAGE 16

60.5 MILLION PEOPLE
TOTAL IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE AT CAC PARTNER EVENTS SINCE 2007

54% FREE ATTENDANCE AT THOSE EVENTS
Over the past 10 years, Cuyahoga Arts & Culture has distributed $158 million in public funds to 350 cultural partners, making it the area’s largest local funder of arts and culture. CAC’s annual general operating support and project support investment is one of the largest in the nation — larger than the amount many leading national foundations earmark for arts and culture annually.

Since CAC’s inception, local investment in arts and culture from private foundations has not dwindled. CAC support has been a net positive for the region, augmenting existing funding and serving as an endorsement that allows our cultural partners to secure new funding from other sources.

Cuyahoga County residents have made a substantial investment in the expansion and longevity of our community’s vast arts and culture organizations.

“Our funding allows us to provide opportunities for Latino artists to get involved in the community. We want to help them establish their artistic businesses and follow their dreams.”

— SELINA PAGÁN
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Vibrant colors, the aroma of delicious cuisine, and the sounds of cheerful music and dance fill the air at Hispanic Business Center’s “La Placita” pop-up market.

The free event on Cleveland’s near-west side transforms a parking lot into an inclusive public space throughout the summer. This area is the most densely populated Hispanic community in Ohio, and participants include a spectrum of vendors, musicians, and performers.

With a project support grant from CAC, Hispanic Business Center is developing a Latino artist directory in collaboration with Julia De Burgos Cultural Arts Center. A local first, this will help area artists and serve as a resource that can be shared to facilitate connections across the community.

1607 350 $158M
TOTAL NUMBER OF GRANTS MADE TOTAL NUMBER OF GROUPS FUNDED TOTAL GRANTMAKING INVESTMENT TO DATE

LEARN MORE AT REPORT.CACGRANTS.ORG
A Cultural Exchange
Access To The Arts
Achievement Centers for Children
African Soul International
America SCORES Cleveland
American Hungarian Friends of Scouting
Apollo’s Fire
Aradhana Committee
Art House
Art Song Festival
Art Therapy Studio
Artistic By Design Center
Artists Archives of the Western Reserve
ArtTheo
Arts for All of Northeast Ohio
Arts In Strongsville
Arts Renaissance Tremont
Asian Services in Action
Baldwin Wallace University
Baseball Heritage Museum
BAYarts
Bay Village Community Band
Beachwood Arts Council
Beachwood Historical Society
Beck Center for the Arts
Bedford Historical Society
Beech Brook
Belaire Puntas Development Corporation
Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging
Berea Arts Fest
Berea City Schools
Blue Streak Ensemble
BlueWater Chamber Orchestra
Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland
Brecksville Center for the Arts
Brecksville Theater on the Square
Brite Winter
Broadview Heights Spotlights
Broadway School of Music and the Arts
Brooklyn Heights Service Clubs
Buckeye Shaker Square
Development Corporation
Building Bridges
Burten, Bell, Carr Development
Campus District, Inc.
Canonts Cleveland
Carolyn L. Farrell Foundation
for Brain Health
Case Western Reserve University
Cassidy Theatre
Catholic Charities, Fatima Center
Cavani String Quartet
Cedar Fairmont Business District
Center for Arts-Inspired Learning
Cesar’s Forum
Chagrin Arts
Chagrin Documentary Film Festival
Chagrin Falls Historical Society
Chagrin Valley Little Theatre
Chagrin Valley Rec Center
ChamberFest Cleveland
Children’s Museum of Cleveland
Choral Arts Society of Cleveland
City Ballet of Cleveland
City of Bedford
City of Cleveland
City of Cleveland Heights
City of Euclid
City of Rocky River
City of Solon
City of Strongsville
CityMusic Cleveland
Clague Playhouse
Cleveland Arts Prize
Cleveland Ballet
Cleveland Blues Society
Cleveland Botanical Garden
Cleveland Chamber Collective
Cleveland Chamber Music Society
Cleveland Chamber Symphony
Cleveland Classical Guitar Society
Cleveland Comedy Festival
Cleveland Composers Guild
Cleveland Contemporary Chinese Culture Association
Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation
Cleveland Donauschwabische Blaskapelle
Cleveland Grays Armory Museum
Cleveland Hearing & Speech Center
Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society
Cleveland Inner City Ballet
Cleveland Institute of Art
Cleveland Institute of Music
Cleveland International Film Festival
Cleveland International Piano Competition
Cleveland Jazz Orchestra
Cleveland Jobs with Justice
Cleveland Kids’ Book Bank
Cleveland Leadership Center
Cleveland Metroparks
Cleveland Metropolitan School District
Cleveland Museum of Art
Cleveland Museum of Natural History
Cleveland Opera Theater
Cleveland Philharmonic Orchestra
Cleveland Play House
Cleveland Police Historical Society
Cleveland POPS Orchestra
Cleveland Print Room
Cleveland Public Art
Cleveland Public Library
Cleveland Public Theatre
Cleveland Rape Crisis Center
Cleveland Rocks: Past, Present and Future
Cleveland Shakespeare Festival
Cleveland State University
Cleveland Theater Collective, Inc.
Cleveland TOPS Swingband
Cleveland Treatment Center
Cleveland UMADAOP
Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative
Cleveland West Art League
Cleveland Women’s Orchestra
Collective Arts Network
Community Partnership for Arts and Culture
Contemporary Youth Orchestra
convergence-continuum
Council Gardens
Coventry Village Special Improvement District
Creative Filmmakers Association
Cudell Improvement
Cuyahoga River Restoration
Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad
DANCECleveland
DANCEVERT
Dancing Classrooms Northeast Ohio
Dancing Wheels
DataArts
Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization
DJAPA Cultural Arts Institute, Inc.
Doan Brook Watershed Partnership
Dobama Theatre
Downtown Cleveland Alliance
DuffyLit
Dunham Tavern Museum
Earth Day Coalition
EcoWatch
Eliza Bryant Village
Empowering Epilepsy
Encore Chamber Music
Ensemble Theatre
Esperanza
Euclid Beach Park Now
Euclid History Museum
Facing History and Ourselves
Fairmount Center for the Arts
Fairview Park Municipal Foundation
Famicos Foundation
Family Connections
Far West Center
Federation of India Community Association
Five-One Experimental Orchestra
Foluke Cultural Arts Center
Foundation for New Creative Projects
Friends of Cleveland School of the Arts
Friends of East Cleveland Public Library
Front Steps Housing and Services
FutureHeights
Golden Ciphers
Good Company: A Vocal Ensemble
Gordon Square Arts District
Great Lakes Science Center
Great Lakes Theater
Great Lakes Youth Ballet
Greater Cleveland Film Commission
Greater Cleveland Neighborhood Centers
Greater Cleveland Sports Commission
Greater Cleveland Urban Film Festival
Green Triangle
GroundWorks DanceTheater
Harvard Community Services Center
“Support from CAC has made it possible for the Poetry SLAM to grow with our poets-athletes, and improve each year.”
AMERICA SCORES CLEVELAND
“CAC has done more than just fund programs ... it has elevated arts programming for Cleveland’s kids.”
BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF CLEVELAND
“Cuyahoga Arts & Culture allows us to evolve the way we tell stories as technology evolves.”
CLEVELAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
“CAC funding is a vote of confidence in our mission and goal of supporting artists and engaging the community we serve.”
DOBAMA THEATRE
“The operating support we receive from CAC helps us constantly seek new ways to increase our public value and explore new ideas.”
GROUNDWORKS DANCETHEATER
“CAC funding allows us to preserve artistic treasures for the benefit of future generations.”

ICA-ART CONSERVATION

“Funding from CAC lets us have a national impact and encourages us to look closer at what makes our Museum special.”

MALTZ MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE

“The support we receive through CAC directly affects our ability to positively impact the local economy.”

PLAYHOUSE SQUARE

“CAC funding has allowed us to bring in several authors to speak about important issues in our community.”

THE CITY CLUB OF CLEVELAND

“Thousands of people from throughout the County and beyond enjoy our concerts. CAC has helped bring our park to life.”

UNIVERSITY CIRCLE INC.
Over an 18-month period starting in 2015, we employed a team of volunteers and embarked on a community listening project that will guide the next decade of our work. During the process, we heard clearly that we need to continue to support our community’s artists and organizations, while exploring ways to recognize and support Cuyahoga County’s varied cultural ecology.

How can we support the cultural life of all Cuyahoga County residents now and for years to come?
Planning for our future helped us see our need to focus on not only the groups we fund, but also the residents that we ultimately serve. Our refreshed values help guide how we do our work, and affirm our commitment to serving our community through everything we do.

Connection  
Discovery  
Equity

Service  
Stewardship  
Trust

We hope you’ll join us as we continue to foster deeper connections between residents and the arts and culture that enrich our community. Learn more at future.cacgrants.org

What did you value most in the project?

The diversity of conversations. It was important to be able to have actual conversations and to treat people like people and not data points.

READ MORE: future.cacgrants.org/deb

What did the project help you to see?

It allowed us to connect with people from all walks of life —people we wouldn’t normally run into on an everyday basis.

READ MORE: future.cacgrants.org/gerome

What was it like being on the team?

It’s fun to approach people and ask them about what they want to see happen in their communities.

READ MORE: future.cacgrants.org/rachel

Our residents don’t want an organization to give grant money and leave; they want it to come back and see what it’s doing for the community.

DELORES GRAY, CENTRAL NEIGHBORHOOD LISTENING PROJECT COMMUNITY PARTNER
IN 2016, CAC SUPPORTED ORGANIZATIONS THAT HELD MORE THAN A THOUSAND EVENTS IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS CUYAHOGA COUNTY.
Creativity in Our Community

Revenues $14,865,631
Total Expenses $16,235,612
Net Assets $20,441,991

Figures reflect audited financials for 2016
Arts & Cultural Grantmaking $15,536,366
General & Administrative $699,246
Cuyahoga Arts & Culture Leadership

Special thanks to those whose work and wisdom have made the past 10 years possible.

Staff

Karen Gahl-Mills  
CEO + Executive Director

Roshi Ahmadian  
Identity & Systems Manager

Meg Harris  
Director of Administration

Dan McLaughlin  
Manager - Project Support

Jill Paulsen  
Deputy Director

India Pierre-Ingram  
Associate - Communications & Grant Programs

Jake Sinatra  
Manager - Special Projects & Communications

Former Board Members

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CEO + Executive Director

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Jake Sinatra  
Manager - Special Projects & Communications

Former Executive Director

Catherine Boyle  
2007-2009

Current Board of Trustees

Mark Avsec  
Secretary

Gwendolyn Garth  
President

Joseph P. Gibbons  
Vice President

Charna Sherman  
President

Credits

ABOUT THE DATA

The fiscal year 2015 data used for this report was provided by DataArts (previously known as the Cultural Data Project), a nonprofit organization that empowers the arts and cultural sector with high-quality data and resources in order to strengthen its vitality, performance, and public impact. Any interpretation of the data is that of Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, not DataArts. For more information, visit www.culturaldata.org. Additional data provided by grant recipients to CAC.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS

Imagery courtesy of featured institutions unless noted here.

Ken Blaze  
Brite Cleveland  
Playhouse Square

Janet Century Photography  
Refresh Collective

Joanne Daman  
Cuyahoga Voices & Vision

Lisa De Jong  
LAND studio

Laura Dempsey  
Cleveland Museum of Natural History

Brian Fyfe  
Doan Brook Watershed Partnership

Ben Hider  
America SCORES Cleveland

Mark Horning & Co.  
GroundWorks DanceTheater

Frank Lanza  
LAND studio  
Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland

Peter Larson  
LAND studio  
Public Square  
University Circle Inc.

Roger Mastroliani  
The Cleveland Orchestra

Robert Muller  
Contemporary Youth Orchestra  
GroundWorks DanceTheater

Donn Nottage  
The City Club of Cleveland

Anita T. Orenick  
Great Lakes Science Center

Stuart Pearl Photography  
ideastream

Bob Perkoski  
LAND studio  
Negative Space Gallery

Beth Segal  
Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage

John T. Seyfried  
ICA - Art Conservation

Eric Siler & James Binion  
Duffy Liturgical Dance Ensemble

Michael T. Thornburg  
Friends of Cleveland School of the Arts

Steve Wagner Photography  
Dobama Theatre

Wetzler Studios  
Beck Center

Cody York  
Downtown Cleveland Alliance
Our mission is to inspire and strengthen the community by investing in arts and culture.