

# Application: Buck Out Cleveland - 2023

LaChanee Davis -  
Cultural Heritage Support

## Summary

ID: CH2023-0000000050

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Labels: CH 2023

## Cultural Heritage Application Form

Completed - Aug 3 2022

## CH Application Form

### Organizational Overview

The organizational overview gives panelists a glimpse into your organization.

#### Mission Statement

Our mission is to utilize dance to successfully bridge the gap between Northeast Ohio (NEO) youth and higher education at Historically Black Colleges & Universities, while increasing the awareness of obtainable dance careers.

#### Organization Overview and History

Remember: the panelists reviewing your application are from outside of Northeast Ohio. You should present a clear overview of your organization to someone unfamiliar with this region.

Buck Out Cleveland was started in an effort to offer dance training to high schoolers interested in dancing as a part of a marching band dance line in college. Since 2019, we have evolved within our in-studio space, after school time at four different school sites, City of Cleveland recreation centers, and our annual Halftime Dance Showcase that features performances by local dance teams and hosts about 200 in-person attendees and over 1,000 virtual audience members.

## What is the culturally specific population your organization represents?

Black/African American

## Please describe your organization's programming, demonstrating how it is deeply rooted in the experiences of the culturally specific population you serve.

Buck Out Cleveland specializes in teaching Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCU) Dance-Line style of dance, commonly known as dance majorette. This dance style is performed explicitly by marching band auxiliary members at HBCUs. This dance style combines high-energy gymnastics, Hip-Hop, Jazz, and Ballet. For dancers that are old enough, we offer audition preparation for selection to the dance teams associated with these schools/dance teams. Buck Out Cleveland is also explicitly committed to connecting students to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, spaces ideal for nurturing and supporting Black students. Through our connections with community organizations, we can offer educational assistance and access to financial resources to our network of eligible students. Lastly, Halftime Dance Showcase features performances by local dance teams specializing in the HBCU style of dance and pays tribute to these Black institutions through dance performances.

## Funding Criteria Narratives

These narratives are your opportunity to communicate the context, goals, processes, and work of your organization. It is important that you communicate all relevant information necessary for panelists from outside the region to fully understand your organization.

### Public Benefit Narratives

*CAC defines Public Benefit as an organization's ability to meaningfully and authentically engage its community to achieve its mission.*

## 1. Define your community

*Who does your organization regularly engage? Whose feedback informs your decisions?*

Buck Out Cleveland serves aspiring dancers from historically under-resourced communities in northeast Ohio, including inner-city Cleveland and East Cleveland, Ohio. Our primary community is young women between the ages of nine and nineteen. We aim to provide exposure for students who would not otherwise have access to high-quality professional dance training. The needs of our dancers informs what we prioritize and how we plan our programming.

## 2. How does your organization build relationships with and respond to its defined community?

Buck Out Cleveland works with schools, community organizations, and individuals to identify Buck Out program participants. For example, Buck Out provided professional instruction to dance teams at Glenville High School, Warrensville Heights High School, Euclid High School, and Central Middle School. The delivery of professional education from Buck Out Cleveland's instructors led several students to enroll in Buck Out programs and to participate in Buck Out Cleveland's annual showcase entitled "Halftime."

The organization also relies heavily on the input and support of the community to execute its programs. The Buck Out Cleveland team is made up of Cleveland and East Cleveland residents with a deep understanding of community needs. The team intentionally engages community organizations and residents through public forums and social media. Furthermore, Buck Out Cleveland has a booster club composed of parents and supporters of the organization.

### 3. Describe how your organization reaches out to the wider public.

How might a new resident learn about your work? How do you market your public-facing events?

Buck Out Cleveland focuses on reaching Black women and girls interested in dance through digital platforms including Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. Buck Out Cleveland's audience has grown consistently for over six years. Captivating concept videos and distinctive branding keep engagement and awareness of programs high. The team also leverages relationships with influencers in the HBCU dance community to draw people to the organization. The organization has an active social media presence with over 5,300 Instagram followers, 210+ YouTube subscribers, and over 550 Facebook followers. In addition, Buck Out Cleveland maintains connections with media outlets that aid in spreading the word about upcoming events and the organization's impact. Student dancers and their parents also lead word-of-mouth and community engagement efforts.

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### Artistic and Cultural Vibrancy Narratives

*CAC defines Artistic and Cultural Vibrancy as an organization's ability to create quality, mission-driven work that inspires and challenges its community.*

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### 1. Describe the team of arts and culture professionals that carries out your work.

LaChanee Davis leads Buck Out Cleveland. LaChanee is a graduate of Alabama State University and a former Stingette. She is also a former dancer and a current assistant coach for the NBA Cleveland Cavaliers dance department. LaChanee aspires to strengthen, empower, and inspire motivated individuals by developing their talents in dance. The Buck Out Cleveland team also includes former and current professional and collegiate dancers and current students who support programming and administration. Students lead the enrollment and recruitment process for the organization.

Most of the administrative work of the organization is done by the Director, LaChanee Hipps, along with skilled interns from local universities and dance students.

**2. Describe how you engage individuals and/or organizations in authentic partnerships. How do you build the capacity of arts and culture professionals?**

Buck Out Cleveland works with local schools, community organizations, and individuals to identify students participating in programming. Without those connections, students would likely miss the opportunity to be a part of Buck Out Cleveland. Buck Out Cleveland also has formal partnerships with The City of Cleveland and Rainey Institute to provide dance classes for community members free of charge. These partnerships also expand Buck Out's reach in the community.

**3. Describe a recent programmatic highlight that celebrates the unique artistic contributions of your organization. How did this work inspire the community to think creatively and/or differently?**

The organization recently created a viral concept video entitled "Freedom." The idea of "Freedom" was sparked by the death of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter Movement. Not only did the movement cause canceled rehearsals and curfew mandates from the riots happening in downtown Cleveland, but it also caused a lot of emotional trauma for the dancers as they noticed the changes in the dynamic of their community and the world. When LaChanee, asked for suggestions from dancers on the theme for their first visual concept, the dancers felt the need to dedicate a performance to this movement to provide an empowering and enlightening message. The "Freedom" video inspired the dancers to use their art as a form of protest and expression. The video also inspired the broader community to use their respective platforms to make a difference.

**4. How do you reflect on your current programming? What feedback or changes do you plan to implement in the next two years?**

Buck Out Cleveland often reflects on its programming to ensure that we meet our dancers' holistic needs. While the organization has successfully grown its programmatic reach, it relies heavily on volunteers to operate. Currently, our volunteer Executive Director leads our programmatic and administrative efforts. Over the next two years, we plan to provide a livable salary to the Executive Director and other staff members to ensure that resources are available to execute programs at maximum capacity.

Buck Out Cleveland has peaked as a small nonprofit organization with primarily volunteer staff members. We gained momentum with our most recent viral concept videos and increased demand for programs. Now is the time to add staff so that the organization can continue making dreams a reality for youth from the inner-city who do not readily have access to the fundamental training to make careers in dance possible.

## Organizational Capacity Narratives

*CAC defines Organizational Capacity as an organization's ability to successfully manage resources to their best use now and for years to come.*

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### **1. Describe the board, staff, and/or volunteers that steward your organization. How do you recruit for and engage with this group?**

Board engagement slightly waned during the pandemic; however, the board is now working on engaging and growing. Our three active board members are currently working on prospecting and recruiting new members. Our goal is to add three new board members by the end of the year and four additional board members in 2023. Board members have worked in an advisory capacity and have been avid fundraisers for the organization. In addition, our booster club, a group of active parents, supports the organization's fundraising efforts and events.

### **2. Describe your organizational planning process for the current year. How do you know that you are on track? Who is key to this process, both within your organization and outside it?**

We have a three-year strategic plan that outlines our goals and objectives for the next three years. Every program we conduct must align with at least one of the areas of our strategy. Alignment with the strategic plan keeps us focused and on track. Our Executive Director, Board of Directors, and Instructors all play a part in ensuring that we maintain our alignment with the strategic plan. Furthermore, our strategic plan informs the types of organizations we partner with outside the organization.

**3. Describe your organization's current financial situation. How does your organization plan strategically to achieve and maintain a strong financial position? Who set your organization's current fiscal year budget and how are they qualified?**

Buck Out Cleveland's operating budget is approximately \$200,000 per year. The budget has grown as the programming has expanded over the years. We rely heavily on outreach contracts and tuition from our in-studio dance company to meet our critical budget needs. We also maintain a strong pipeline of local and national funders to support our work. We also have a development plan that includes event ticket sales, individual donor campaigns, fundraising events, and crowdfunding. Moreover, Buck Out Cleveland will connect with corporate sponsors to provide additional support.

## Organizational Capacity Assessment

Answer “Yes” or “No” to each question below. You will have the opportunity provide explanation to any of your responses in a text field that will appear at the end of the Assessment.

Note: A “Yes” or “No” response to any question will NOT impact your organization's eligibility for CAC funding, though it may impact score.

Does your board meet on a regular schedule? How often? (insert explanation)	No
Explanation	Through 2021, our board met regularly up until the holiday season. After the holiday season, as we entered 2022, COVID rates began to rise, and planning for continuous program execution took priority. Since then, we've been working to identify what board members would be able to continue serving our organization. Within the past few weeks, we met to determine returning board members and conduct board prospecting. Moving forward, specifically into September, we plan to return to meet once a quarter and more frequently regarding committee meetings.
Are minutes kept and available for review?	Yes
Does the organization work with all Board members to determine a meaningful contribution based on the individual Board member's skills and resources?	Yes
Have/will any board members be paid stipends for their service on the board or for professional services provided to the organization?	No
Are any of your staff and board members related?	No
Does any board member or staff person have a financial interest in the operation of the organization other than an authorized salary?	No
Has the board adopted by-laws and are they periodically reviewed?	Yes
Does your organization have a board-approved	Yes



budget?	
Does your organization have a board-approved strategic or long-range plan?	Yes
Does your organization have a board-approved diversity/inclusion policy? (not your EOE statement)	No
Are regular and year-end financial statements reviewed by the board?	Yes
Does your organization handle all of its financial transactions through a regularly reconciled checking account?	Yes
Is your organization current on all tax obligations including employee withholding, sales tax, business taxes to all levels of government?	Yes
Is check-signing authority included in the by-laws or other written procedures?	No
Does your organization have cash flow projections that are updated regularly?	Yes
Are your present facilities, or facilities in which you present/conduct programs, ADA compliant?	Yes
Does your organization have a succession plan in place for executive leadership?	No
Does every employee receive an annual performance review?	Yes
Do you have a line item in your organizational budget for professional development that is available to all staff?	Yes
Comments (optional)	(No response)

## SMU| DataArts Funder Report Narrative

To ensure that panelists understand your organization's [SMU|DataArts Funder Report](#), you will have the opportunity to include a narrative explanation of your data. Share details on areas where there are significant variances, trends or shifts from year to year and any data points that might need context or explanation.

### 1. Explain any important outliers, trends or variances.

n/a

### Optional Question

#### 1. What additional information would you like to share about your organization?

Our programming has steadily grown. The Diamond MVMT dance company, our in-studio dance program, started in 2019 with 12 participants and has since grown to 60 participants. We also offer trauma-informed care programming through the City of Cleveland. Beginning in September 2022, we will offer services at 4 rec. centers. We also provide out-of-school-time (OST) programming at various elementary and middle schools. OST programming began in Fall 2021, with four schools offering services weekly.

## Upload SMU | DataArts Funder Report - CH

Completed - Jul 29 2022

### Organizational Support Materials

- [SMU|DataArts Funder Report](#) (with FY20, and FY21 data profiles in *Complete* status)

[buckoutfoundation\\_cuyahogaartsandcultureculturalheritage \(2\)](#)

Filename: buckoutfoundation\_\_cuyahogaartsand\_eD5sm4w.pdf Size: 174.1 kB

[buckoutfoundation\\_cuyahogaartsandcultureculturalheritage](#)

Filename: buckoutfoundation\_\_cuyahogaartsand\_9UCzW5V.pdf Size: 160.8 kB

## Upload Most Recently Completed 990 or 990-EZ

Completed - Jul 31 2022

### Organizational Support Materials

- Most recently completed 990 or 990-EZ

## 6

Filename: 6.2.22\_Buckout\_990\_for\_Review.pdf Size: 3.8 MB

### **Upload Current fiscal year (as of application deadline) organizational budget - CH**

Completed - Aug 3 2022

#### **Organizational Support Materials**

- Click here for a [sample organizational budget](#) to show the level of detail we ask to be included. You do not need to follow this template, but are welcome to.

#### **BOC Operating Budget**

Filename: BOC\_Operating\_Budget.xlsx\_-\_Org\_Op\_Nz8raqI.pdf Size: 138.1 kB

### **Upload Arts and Cultural Support Materials - CH**

Completed - Aug 3 2022

Include up to three (3) images, audio, video, links and other support documents, that demonstrate your Public Benefit, Artistic and Cultural Vibrancy and Organizational Capacity.

- Photos, videos, audio, and other documents do not necessarily need to be professionally produced to demonstrate vibrant programming.
- All audio and visual materials should be cued to immediately begin with relevant activity.
- Applicants are encouraged to submit quality support materials that are current (within the last 24 months) and relevant to the application.
- If your organization utilizes a strategic plan, we recommend including it as one of your support materials.

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

#### **Buck Out Cleveland--Strategic Plan**

Filename: Buck\_Out\_Cleveland--Strategic\_Plan.pdf Size: 68.3 kB

#### **Buck Out Cleveland on Cribbs in the CLE**

Interview with Josh and Maria about the work of Buck Out Cleveland.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPQZd4DE\\_xM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPQZd4DE_xM)

#### **“Queen” - A Tribute to Nicki Minaj**

Performed by The Diamond Co. of Buck Out Cleveland (@thediamondco.mvmt) (@buckoutcleveland)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XTDdBIHTVM&t=11s>

### **OPTIONAL - Provide Links (URLs) to Online Support Materials**

Completed - Aug 3 2022

**Panelists will not review materials in excess of the three optional support materials.**

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

## OPTIONAL - Provide Links (URLs) to Online Support Materials

Provide any optional links (URLs) to websites for your support materials.

OPTIONAL - Link 1	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/reel/CfkYRTGpczj/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=">https://www.instagram.com/reel/CfkYRTGpczj/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=</a>
OPTIONAL - Link 2	<a href="https://clevelandmagazine.com/entertainment/theater-dance/articles/behind-the-scenes-with-buck-out-cleveland">https://clevelandmagazine.com/entertainment/theater-dance/articles/behind-the-scenes-with-buck-out-cleveland</a>
OPTIONAL - Link 3	<a href="https://fox8.com/news/voices-of-unity-letting-out-your-inner-beyonce/">https://fox8.com/news/voices-of-unity-letting-out-your-inner-beyonce/</a>

## Statement of Assurances Form - CH

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### Statement of Assurances

Closely review the completed tasks. If everything is correct, enter the name, title and email address of the person making the submission and hit the "submit" button.

### Responses Selected:

I Agree

### Name

LaChanee Davis

### Title

Executive Director

**Date**

Aug 3 2022