Application: The Refugee Response

Project Support

Summary

ID: PS2023-0000000557
Last submitted: Aug 3 2022 10:25 PM (EDT)
Labels: PS 2023

Organizational Overview - PS 2023

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Organizational Overview - 2023 PS

This section will be pre-populated from the Eligibility form, but you may update or correct any information here.

Organization Name

The Refugee Response

Publicly Known As

The Refugee Response

Date Organization Formed

12/31/2009

Website

refugeeresponse.org

Mission statement

The Refugee Response empowers resettled families to grow roots, supporting them in becoming engaged, self-sufficient and contributing members of their new communities.

Organizational history

The Refugee Response was founded by David Wallis and Paul Neundorfer, Ohio natives who worked in refugee camps across the world. Upon returning to Northeast Ohio, they launched a study of the Cleveland refugee community's needs and incorporated TRR as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization in 2010. They launched the Youth Mentoring Program and the Ohio City Farm, TRR's flagship programs, to support refugee education and employment.

As of 2022, The Refugee Response serves over 700 clients in an array of programs supporting education, employment and access for refugees of all ages. In addition to our flagship programs, The Refugee Response offers Teen Response for refugee students at John Marshall High School, the #Corner65 after-school recreation program, case management, content creation and tailored support for Afghans who arrived under humanitarian parole.

Grant Contact Information

Grant Contact Name	
Title	
Email Address	
Phone	

Financial Snapshot

Enter your organization's total budget (expenses) for the 2022 fiscal year.

$ 1,375,543

Project Basics Form - PS 2023

Project Basics Form - 2023 PS

Project Basics

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

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1. Project Title

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

Kubra Abbas Alhilali: New Murals at The Refugee Response

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2. Project Summary

Briefly describe the project in a sentence or two.

Cleveland-based Iraqi-born visual artist Kubra Abbas Alhilali will lead a series of workshops with children from The Refugee Response's various youth programs over the course of 6 months, and produce a mural at The Refugee Response headquarters. The project will ultimately culminate in an event that features youth artwork and the unveiling of Abbas Alhilali's new mural. The event will take place in the late spring of 2023 and will also include cultural food and an open mic for poetry and music.

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3. Total Project Expenses

What you will spend on this project.

$ 10,000

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4. Amount Requested from CAC

The requested amount cannot be more than 50% of the proposed project's total expenses. See your eligibility email from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture for your maximum allowable request amount.

$ 5,000

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5. Project Dates

The start and end dates should not be the entire grant period. All events must begin and end within the grant period (January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023).

Start Date (mm/dd/yyyy)	1/23/2023
End Date (mm/dd/yyyy)	05/1/2023

6. Public Event Location(s) Where will the events posted on ClevelandArtsEvents.com be hosted?

The culminating celebration and unveiling will be held at The Refugee Response headquarters, which is located at 2054 W 47th St., Cleveland, OH 44102.

7. Total number of expected participants and/or audience members

135

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

The event will be free to be inclusive and welcoming to all of our clients, supporters, and community members.

Application Narrative Form - PS 2023

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Application Narrative Form - PS

The narrative is an important part of your application. It is your opportunity to communicate to the panel the specific details of your proposed project. Keep in mind that panelists are from outside the region and likely not familiar with your organization and/or community. It is important that you communicate all relevant information necessary for a person unfamiliar with your organization to fully understand your project. Before starting your responses to the narrative section, review the Funding Criteria definitions on page 6 of the [Project Support guidelines](#).

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

1. Describe your project. Include an overview of planning process, project activities, implementation and when and where your project takes place.

In March of 2022 The Refugee Response (TRR) moved our programming and office staff to a new headquarters and significantly expanded our space and facilities. We now have expanded space for art-making, education, and recreation for all of our clients -- many of whom are children and teens. Art is a central part of our programming here, and we are seeking new ways to activate our spaces with permanent art installations and art-making activities. Engaging refugee communities who struggle with mental health challenges related to their resettlement with art is a proven and powerful tool decreasing anxiety and feelings of anger and depression.

As part of a the long-term relationships and support structures we build for and with our refugee clients of all ages we seek out opportunities to partner with Cleveland-based artists, and artisans, who have had a similar life experience. Cleveland-based, Iraqi-born Muslim visual artist Kubra Abbas Alhilali is a remarkable and successful artist who understands the unique experience of being a refugee. This project brings Abbas Alhilali to TRR to work closely with our youth clients to create new artwork in a series of 4 interactive workshops that will expand our clients' exposure to new forms and ways of making art, as well as connect them to a positive role model in the Cleveland community.

Further, this program will culminate in a public event and celebration with music, poetry, culturally specific food, and the exhibition of the artwork made in the workshops by our youth clients, as well as a celebration and unveiling of a new mural painted by Abbas Alhilali in TRR's new headquarters, building a permanent reminder and presence for art in our shared space.

Public Benefit

2a. Define your community. How will you engage your community to carry out your project?

Tip: *A community may be defined by geography (place), identity (attributes) or affinity (what we like). The best way to demonstrate your project's public benefit is to demonstrate that you share power with your community by understanding, respecting, working with, and responding to them.*

TRR serves people who have entered the US through the national refugee resettlement program or on humanitarian parole visas. TRR's educational programs serve refugee students in 4-12 grade in the Cleveland area, including Cleveland Metropolitan School District, Cleveland Heights, Lakewood and Parma. TRR is committed to placing the will of the communities we serve at the center of our decision-making processes. From the founding of our organization, core staff members were members of the refugee community. Today, roughly 50% of our staff comes from the refugee community.

Creative expression is a powerful vehicle for growth and we deliberately make space to support our youth clients in this area to build a richer community. This program and event will engage our youth clients, their families, and extended communities by bringing them together to celebrate Abbas Alhilali's work and the importance of art as a vehicle for interpersonal, emotional, and professional development.

2b. How will your project build and strengthen meaningful relationships with your community, residents, and audiences including through efforts to be inclusive and to engage diverse populations?

TRR's youth programs are based on authentic engagement and building personal relationships between staff, mentors; often guiding youth through some of life's big decisions. Most refugees who enter through the resettlement program were displaced from their homes by war or persecution and have spent years living in refugee camps. According to the WHO, refugees are 10 times as likely as non-refugees to exhibit symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.

TRR has a number of art centric programs that demonstrate that many young refugees enjoy art and are excited to participate in art activities. Expression through art has been found to help refugees express and process the traumatic events of their past, and the stressful conditions of day-to-day life. Further, refugee teens and children who participate in the after-school classes will have the opportunity to learn from an artist who has been through similar experiences, and create art in a safe and empathetic environment of their peers.

Artistic & Cultural Vibrancy

3. Describe how your organization will create a quality project that inspires and challenges your community.

Both the workshops and the mural will be developed in coordinating with the featured artist, Kubra Abbas Alhilali. We will work closely with her to design a mural that is welcoming, inspiring, and that acts as a touchstone of the importance and possibilities of art for our community and youth clients. By connecting potential young artists early in their educational journey and lives with an established refugee artist, we hope to inspire them to imagine a broad set of possibilities for their lives, to encourage self-soothing and productive behaviors such as art making, and we also hope to create a mentorship pipeline for future generations of refugee artists in Cleveland. As we connect Abbas Alhilali directly to our youth refugee clients we are creating a link to the art world here in Cleveland that offers an expanded set of potential relationships and institutions to seek out and explore.

Organizational Capacity

4a. Describe your team. Include who will be involved and how they are qualified to complete your project.

The project is being led by Kubra Abbas Alhilali and TRR staff, Naila Paul, the Director of Youth Programs and Kate Nickley, Youth Mentoring Program Manager.

Kubra Abbas Alhilali is an Iraq-born Muslim artist and educator who arrived in the US as a refugee, she lives and works in Cleveland. She attended Amman's Fine Arts Institute in Jordan and has exhibited her work in solo and group exhibitions. She is currently producing a number of murals and public art projects in the Cleveland area.

Naila Paul is an educator and program leader. She directs the organization's youth focused programming teams, including Teen Response and the K-8 Youth Mentoring Program, serving the educational needs of resettled refugee youth and families.

Kate Nickley works alongside the Youth Mentoring Program team to coordinate program services. She also organizes TRR's Community Advisory meetings and her professional background is in informal education, family programming and horticulture.

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

Tip: Institutional goals are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time-targeted, inclusive, and equitable ([SMARTIE](#)) aims that an organization develops to achieve its mission.

Goal	Our aim with this project is to bring an established refugee artist to TRR to work closely with our Youth Mentoring clients, offering them a rich and high impact experience making and thinking about art while seeing a change-maker in our community create a lasting impact -- interpersonally, and with the installation of the wall mural.
How will you know you have accomplished or made progress towards your goal?	When the wall mural is completed we will be able to see and feel the impact of the artist's work on a daily basis. We are building a home base for our client's and staff at our office and headquarters, and the mural is a visual manifestation of how important art and culture is to our work across all of our youth programs.

5. Optional: Is there any additional information about your project or organization that may be helpful to an outside panelist reviewing your application?

Tip: *CAC recruits panelists from outside of the region. What might be important information to share with someone who is unfamiliar with Cuyahoga County or your work? i.e. demographic information, project location descriptions, historical context., etc.*

The activities and initiatives of the The Refugee Response (TRR) are broad in their scope but focused in their aims. As stated previously in the application we work to empower resettled families to grow roots, supporting them in becoming engaged, self-sufficient and contributing members of their new communities.

TRR is a Cleveland based 510c3 founded in 2010 which operates 9 unique programs for individuals and families resettled through the national refugee resettlement program. In 2022 TRR will provide services to over 700 individuals from over 12 different nationalities or ethnic identities speaking upwards of 20 languages and dialects. While TRR works with children and adults, in the past two years TRR has seen the biggest demand as well as the biggest growth in services directed towards teens and young adults.

A big part of what we do happens at the Ohio City Farm (OCF), a six-acre urban farm located in the heart of Cleveland, OH. Founded in 2010, the farm is a self-sustaining social enterprise run by TRR. The farm employs newcomers at an hourly rate significantly above average farm wages in the state. OCF has become a robust and resilient business through small-scale organic farming and a diversified means of sales including a 450-member Community Supported Agriculture Program.

What we do, at the core, is provide highly personalized services to our clients to help facilitate their resettlement. Our successes are our clients' successes.

Project Budget and Financials Form - PS 2023

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Project Budget and Financials Form - 2023 PS

Complete the following project budget tables.

Income

Please describe your sources of income and their amounts in the table below. NOTE: Use the first row for your CAC Request. Please do not include any commas and only whole numbers.

	Income Source (text)	Income Amount ($)
1 - Enter "CAC Request" in the Income Source field to the right	Cuyahoga Arts & Culture	5000
2 - Enter another source of income and the amount to the right	Fowler Family Foundation Grant	5000
3 - Enter another source of income and the amount to the right		
4 - Enter another source of income and the amount to the right		
5 - Enter another source of income and the amount to the right		
Total		10000.0

Expenses

Please describe your expense categories and their amounts in the table below. NOTE: Please do not include any commas and only whole numbers.

	Expense Category (text)	Expense Amount ($)
1- Enter "Administrative Personnel" in the Expense Category field to the right	Administrative Personnel Costs	1500
2 -Enter "Arts and Cultural Professionals" in the Expense Category field to the right	Kubra Abbas Alhilali	7125
3 - Enter "Marketing/Publicity" in the Expense Category field to the right	Marketing and Publicity	500
4 - Enter "Production/Event" in the Expense Category field to the right	Equipment Rental, Food, Supplies	375
5 - Enter "Other" in the Expense Category field to the right	Art Supplies	500
Total		10000.0

These questions correspond to the budget and support material sections as appropriate.

1. How will you spend CAC funds?

Tip: Indicate how CAC funds will be used. See list of prohibited uses of CAC funds on page #12 of the guidelines

The CAC funding will go towards funding the mural production costs and the project culmination event. This funding will support the artist directly as well as our community engagement.

2. How will you proceed with your project if your project doesn't receive the full amount of funding requested from CAC?

Tip: *Most applicants to Project Support receive a portion of the funds they request based on their score. CAC does not expect any organization to carry out their full project on only a partial budget.*

We have already secured funding for a portion of the program and we will proceed without producing the mural if we do not receive CAC funding. We would also scale back the community engagement program in order to make sure the four workshops were fully funded.

Upload your SMU| DataArts Funder Report - PS

Incomplete

For organizations whose maximum grant amount is $5,000 this section is optional.

Required for organizations requesting more than $5,000. The *SMU|DataArts Cultural Data Profile* will have brief narrative fields that appear at the end of the Revenue, Expenses, Balance Sheet, and Program Activity & Audiences sections. Please use the narrative fields for annotations and explanations of the data in your report.

Upload your CDP CAC Funder Report including your two most recently completed fiscal years. For most organizations that will be 2020 and 2021.

Upload Board of Directors List - PS

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Include affiliations and their roles in the project (If applicable).

The Refugee Response_2022 Board of Directors_ Roster

Filename: The_Refugee_Response_2022_Board_of_WnUPcBl.pdf **Size:** 62.7 kB

Upload Arts and Cultural Support Materials - PS

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Support materials play a critical role in helping panelists evaluate your application by bringing to life your organization's mission and programs. For more information on selecting and uploading support materials to your online application, please refer to the **Support Materials Guide**.

Include at least 1 but no more than three (3) total uploads and/or web-based support materials:

- Upload items of your choice that demonstrate your Public Benefit, Artistic and Cultural Vibrancy and Organizational Capacity.
- Include web-based support material links here:
- 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.

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.

[The Refugee Response – Youth and Mentor Storytelling Project Video](#)

This example demonstrates the results of some of our art making programming. The video is the culmination of a special storytelling and art-making project done by refugee students and their mentors in the Youth Mentoring Program.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f6oplFdgiTk

[The Refugee Response_Annual Report 2021_CAC Grant_8](#)

This is a PDF version of our 2021 Annual Report, which gives a strong sense of how vibrant our organization is.

Filename: The_Refugee_Response_Annual_Report_c1puYRN.pdf **Size:** 73.6 MB

[The Refugee Response_Instagram Post Featuring Refugee Artists_CAC Grant_8](#)

This is a PDF version of an instagram post from @refugeeresponse that features the work of three amazing artists who we have worked with at TRR.

Filename: The_Refugee_Response_Instagram_Pos_qUucwJ0.pdf **Size:** 384.6 kB

[The Refugee Response_Annual Report 2020 Highlights_CAC_8](#)

This document features a few of our 2020 annual report pages that highlight our Youth Mentoring Program and our work with local artists and artisans who come from refugee backgrounds.

Filename: The_Refugee_Response_Annual_Report_VP22nR7.pdf **Size:** 684.8 kB

OPTIONAL - Provide Links (URLs) to Online Support Materials

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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	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f6oplFdgiTk
OPTIONAL - Link 2	http://canjournal.org/2021/05/flipping-the-paper-making-art-for-her-community-helps-kubra-alhilali-build-a-new-life-in-cleveland/
OPTIONAL - Link 3	https://www.instagram.com/p/CWqbCJ-LL-w/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link