



CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL

EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
4th FLOOR

MEETING AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2026 — 3:00 P.M.

Committee Members

Sunny M. Simon, Chair | Dist. 11
Robert E. Schleper, Jr., Vice Chair | Dist. 6
Michael J. Houser, Sr. | Dist. 10
Pernel Jones, Jr. | Dist. 8
Dale Miller | Dist. 2

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2026 MEETING

5. MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

- a) R2026-0229: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$10,000, to the Cleveland Print Room, Inc. for the Lexington site expansion Project from the District 3 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.
- b) R2026-0230: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$25,000, to Cleveland Rocks: Past, Present & Future for the HelloCleveland.Live Project from the District 3 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective

6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

7. ADJOURNMENT

** Complimentary parking for the public is available in the attached garage at 900 Prospect. A skywalk extends from the garage to provide additional entry to the Council Chambers from the 5th floor parking level of the garage. Download the Metropolis smartphone app and create an account to have parking validated at meetings. Please scan the QR code posted in Council Chambers to input your license plate information for parking to be validated by Metropolis, a non-County entity. You will be responsible for the cost of parking if you are unable to utilize this online parking service.*

***Council Chambers is equipped with a hearing assistance system. If needed, please see the Clerk to obtain a receiver.*



CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL

EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

COMMITTEE

CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS

4th FLOOR

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Dale Miller | Dist. 2

MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2026 — 3:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Simon called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Ms. Simon asked Deputy Clerk Carter to call the roll. Committee members Simon, Schleper and Miller were in attendance and a quorum was determined. Committee member Jones was in attendance after the roll call was taken. Committee member Houser was absent.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments given.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 29, 2026 MEETING

A motion was made by Ms. Simon, seconded by Mr. Schleper and approved by unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the July 29, 2026 meeting.

5. MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

- a) R2026-0228: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$10,000, to Building Hope in the City for the Embody Youth Academy 2026 Youth Development & Expansion Initiative from the District 3 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Mr. Nicholas Paoletta, Executive Director and Head Coach of Embody Youth Academy, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2026-0228. Discussion ensued.

Committee members asked questions of Mr. Paoletta pertaining to the item, which he answered accordingly.

On a motion by Ms. Simon with a second by Mr. Schleper, Resolution No. R2026-0228 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.

Mr. Miller requested to have his name added as a co-sponsor to the legislation.

- b) R2026-0229: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$10,000, to the Cleveland Print Room, Inc. for the Lexington site expansion Project from the District 3 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

There was no legislative action taken on Resolution No. R2026-0229.

- c) R2026-0231: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$30,000, to the Friends of the Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter for the Slow the Flow project from the District 11 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Ms. Susan Kennedy-Kalafatis, Board Secretary of the Friends of the Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter; Ms. Carianne Burnley, Chair of the Slow the Flow project; and Ms. Mindy Naticchioni, Administrator of the Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2026-0231. Discussion ensued.

Committee members asked questions of Ms. Kennedy-Kalafatis, Ms. Burnley and Ms. Naticchioni pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

On a motion by Ms. Simon with a second by Mr. Schleper, Resolution No. R2026-0231 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.

Committee members Miller, Schleper and Jones requested to have their names added as co-sponsors to the legislation.

6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business.

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairwoman Simon adjourned the meeting at 3:37 p.m., without objection.

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Resolution No. R2026-0229

Sponsored by: Councilmember Sweeney	A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$10,000, to the Cleveland Print Room, Inc. for the Lexington site expansion project from the District 3 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.
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WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County received \$239,898,257 from the Federal Government through the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”); and

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County calculated 100% of the ARPA dollars as loss revenue under the U.S. Department of the Treasury Final Rule; and

WHEREAS, since all the ARPA dollars have been calculated as loss revenue, the ARPA dollars have been deposited in the County’s General Fund; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive and County Council have authorized \$86 million of the ARPA dollars for community grants to benefit the residents of Cuyahoga County (the “ARPA Community Grant Fund”); and

WHEREAS, of the \$86 million for community grants, \$66 million have been encumbered for equal distribution to each County Council District; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding from the District 3 ARPA Community Grant Fund in the amount of \$10,000 to the Cleveland Print Room, Inc. for the Lexington site expansion project; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland Print Room, Inc. estimates approximately 10,000 people will be served annually through this award; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland Print Room, Inc. estimates approximately four permanent and temporary jobs will be created or retained through this project; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland Print Room, Inc. estimates the total cost of the project is over \$9,000,000; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland Print Room, Inc. indicates the other funding source(s) for this project includes:

- A. \$1,581,375 in equity from the Cleveland Print Room, Inc.;

- B. \$3,419,183 from the Ohio Department of Development Brownfield Grant;
- C. \$225,000 from the Ohio Finance Fund;
- D. \$750,000 from the Gund Foundation;
- E. \$900,000 from the Cleveland Foundation;
- F. \$275,000 from the Cleveland Development Advisors;
- G. \$500,000 from Cuyahoga County;
- H. \$1,500,000 from a Huntington Loan;
- I. \$150,000 from line of credit; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland Print Room, Inc. is estimating the start date of the project will be July 2026 and the project will be completed by December 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland Print Room, Inc. requested \$50,000 from the District 3 ARPA Community Grant Fund to complete this project; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding in the amount of \$10,000 to the Cleveland Print Room, Inc. to ensure this project is completed; and

WHEREAS, this Council by a vote of at least eight (8) members determines that it is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective in order that critical services provided by Cuyahoga County can continue to provide for the usually, daily operations of the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:

SECTION 1. That the Cuyahoga County Council hereby awards a not-to-exceed amount of \$10,000 to the Cleveland Print Room, Inc. from the General Fund made available by the American Rescue Plan Act revenue replacement provision for the Lexington site expansion project.

SECTION 2. If any specific appropriation is necessary to effectuate this agreement, the Director of the Office of Budget and Management is authorized to submit the requisite documentation to financial reporting to journalize the appropriation.

SECTION 3. That the County Council staff is authorized to prepare all documents to effectuate said award.

SECTION 4. That the County Executive is authorized to execute all necessary agreements and documents consistent with said award and this Resolution.

SECTION 5. If requested or necessary, the Agency of the Inspector General or Department of Internal Audit is authorized to investigate, audit, or review any part of this award.

SECTION 6. To the extent that any exemptions are necessary under the County Code and contracting procedures, they shall be deemed approved by the adoption of this Resolution.

SECTION 7. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective for the usual daily operation of the County; the preservation of public peace, health or safety in the County; and any additional reasons set forth in the preamble. Provided that this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of at least eight members of Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon the earliest occurrence of any of the following: (1) its approval by the County Executive through signature, (2) the expiration of the time during which it may be disapproved by the County Executive under Section 3.10(6) of the Cuyahoga County Charter, or (3) its passage by at least eight members of Council after disapproval pursuant to Section 3.10(7) of the Cuyahoga County Charter. Otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

SECTION 8. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

On a motion by _____, seconded by _____, the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted.

Yeas:

Nays:

County Council President

Date

County Executive

Date

Clerk of Council

Date

First Reading/Referred to Committee: August 4, 2026
Committee(s) Assigned: Education, Environment & Sustainability

Journal _____
_____, 20__



Cuyahoga County Council

2079 East 9th Street, 8th Floor • Cleveland Ohio 44115
(216) 698-2010

COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION:	
Name of Requesting Entity (City, Business, Non-Profit, etc.): The Cleveland Print Room, Inc.	
Address of Requesting Entity: 4730 Lexington Ave. Cleveland, Ohio 44103	
County Council District # of Requesting Entity: District 3 – Martin Sweeney	
Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity: 	
County Council District # of Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity: District 7 – Yvonne Conwell	
Contact Name of Person Filling out This Request: Kerry Davis, Director	
Contact Address if different than Requesting Entity: 	
Email: kerry@clevelandprintroom.com	Phone: 573-233-5363

Federal IRS Tax Exempt No.:	Date:
90-0922757	7/9/2026

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

REQUEST DESCRIPTION (include the project name, a description of the project, why the project is important or needed, and timeline of milestones/tracking of the project):

The Lexington site is a viable adaptive reuse project. A group of former industrial buildings, it totals approximately 18,000 square feet. The main building (1920) on the site is a two-story brick structure of about 12,000 square feet. An adjacent, connected, structure of about 2,000 square feet along with a detached 3,200 square foot brick shop structure on the southeast corner of the property. It is currently an eye sore building in the City of Cleveland with environmental challenges that are being remedied.

A number of factors prompted the desire to expand the space to better serve its participants:

CPR had inadequate space to offer classes/workshops at prime times (weekends and after school) which limited our ability to create earned income onsite at the present facility. It is estimated that the extra workshop and studio space could increase workshop earned income up to 50%, expanding services and programs.

CPR lacked a meeting space for gatherings of 50 to 150 people, using the gallery at the old space as a makeshift meeting space, classroom and a place to host classes, large school groups.

The local photographic community expressed a need to develop a state-of-the-art, environmentally-safe, community darkroom that will have the capabilities to develop large format prints, in addition to a one- person darkroom for printing. There is a need to create a safer, more ecologically-minded darkroom responsibility to be thoughtful of the environment and that center environmental sustainability from the onset of the project. CPR will be able to provide the public with onsite color processing in a larger facility. Relocation to the MidTown neighborhood from our old location has further served as a catalyst, with a goal to be a part of the expanded economic development in Cleveland and its surrounding neighborhoods, including job creation enabling us to build and maintain our unique partnerships and community relationships. Internal operations at the old space were hampered by cramped office space that was not private, offered inadequate accessibility to elevators and restroom facilities, and the need for more environmentally-friendly lighting, heating and cooling.

Taking on tenants will enable CPR to acquire equity and sustainability for the project, the Print Room is creating a place-based identity while continuing to build capacity, adding to its work a more robust, unique neighborhood-serving identity. In view of its stability and sustainability as well as the oscillating real estate market, CPR was strategically positioned to invest in a piece of real estate at the intersection of Lexington Avenue and E. 47th. It is there that the organization is in the process of creating a home for itself.

This request is part of the capital raise to fill the funding gaps to bring this project to completion.

This request is part of the capital raise filling the remaining gap to complete the project.

Project Start Date: July 1, 2026	Project End Date: December 31, 2026
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IMPACT OF PROJECT:
Who will be served: Youth and recent graduates, students and school groups (via CMSD and Tri-C), working and contracted artists, and neighbors in the Hough, MidTown, and Asiatown area who use the gallery, darkroom, and greenspace. General photographic community locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. High school students through the Career and Technical Education Program.
How many people will be served annually: Approximately 10,000 annually in total reach, including more than 1,000 in youth education programming.
Will low/moderate income people be served; if so how: Yes. CPR serves a low-to-moderate income community with free arts and nonprofit job training, underwritten memberships and services, a community greenspace, and paid roles for youth and recent graduates.
How does the project fit with the community and with other ongoing projects: The site anchors the Hough/MidTown/Asiatown corner near Morgan Conservatory and the Baseball Heritage Museum, and ties to the City's 2021 MidTown Neighborhood Vision Plan and partnerships with MidTown Cleveland, LAND Studio, SPACES, CMA, CMSD, and Tri-C. CPR plans a CTE site with CMSD on completion.
If applicable, how many jobs will be created or retained (specify the number for each) and will the jobs be permanent or temporary: Four new permanent full-time positions over the next year (darkroom/studio director, education director (recently funded) , curatorial, facilities/grounds), paid at or above market. Existing full- and part-time staff retained on a 2026 personnel budget exceeding \$450,000. The build supports roughly 60 construction FTE jobs over the year, and CPR directs about \$200,000 annually to contracted artists, curators, designers, and writers.

If applicable, what environmental issues or benefits will there be:

The site as purchased was a problematic site from an environmental perspective and non bankable due to environmental issues. Through the help of a \$3.3MM Brownfield Grant, the remediation of these environmental issues is currently underway. At construction completion the project will be a completely revitalized destination location for the Cleveland Print Room and the city of Cleveland with a State of Art Building and adjacent greenspace.

If applicable, how does this project serve as a catalyst for future initiatives:

The project turns a long-blighted brownfield into a permanent anchor and a replicable adaptive-reuse model, with nearby buildings positioned to follow as part of the greater MidTown initiative.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**Total Budget of Project:**

\$9Million +

Other Funding Sources of Project (list each source and dollar amount separately):

Total budget \$9,300,558

Sources: CPR equity \$1,581,375; ODOD Brownfield \$97,327 + \$3,321,856; Ohio Finance Fund \$225,000; Gund \$750,000; Cleveland Foundation \$900,000; Cleveland Development Advisors \$275,000; Cuyahoga County \$500,000; PRI \$150,000; Huntington loan \$1,500,000 and line of credit \$150,000.

Total amount requested of County Council American Resource Act Dollars:

\$50,000

Since these are one-time dollars, how will the Project be sustained moving forward:

Completing our Fund Raising Initiatives to fill the remaining gaps – The project is also being evaluated for New Market Tax Credits. We are also continuing to work with a team for State operating funds.

DISCLAIMER INFORMATION AND SIGNATURE:

Disclaimer:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have the authority to apply for financial assistance on behalf of the entity described herein, and that the information contained herein and attached hereto is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

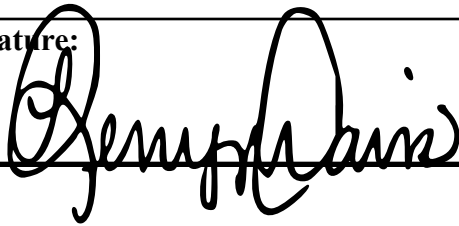
I acknowledge and agree that all County contracts and programs are subject to Federal Guidelines and Regulations, the Ohio Revised Code, the Cuyahoga County Charter, and all County Ordinances including all information submitted as part of this application is a public record.

I understand that any willful misrepresentation on this application or on any of the attachments thereto could result in a fine and/or imprisonment under relevant local, state, and/or federal laws or guidelines.

I agree that at any time, any local, state, or federal governmental agency, or a private entity on behalf of any of these governmental agencies, can audit these dollars and projects.

Printed Name:

Kerry Davis, Executive Director

Signature: 	Date: July 9, 2026
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Additional Documents
Are there additional documents or files as part of this application? Please list each documents name: None. All information is contained within this application.

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Resolution No. R2026-0230

Sponsored by: Councilmember Sweeney	A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$25,000, to Cleveland Rocks: Past, Present & Future for the HelloCleveland.Live Project from the District 3 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.
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WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County received \$239,898,257 from the Federal Government through the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”); and

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County calculated 100% of the ARPA dollars as loss revenue under the U.S. Department of the Treasury Final Rule; and

WHEREAS, since all the ARPA dollars have been calculated as loss revenue, the ARPA dollars have been deposited in the County’s General Fund; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive and County Council have authorized \$86 million of the ARPA dollars for community grants to benefit the residents of Cuyahoga County (the “ARPA Community Grant Fund”); and

WHEREAS, of the \$86 million for community grants, \$66 million have been encumbered for equal distribution to each County Council District; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding from the District 3 ARPA Community Grant Fund in the amount of \$25,000 to the Cleveland Rocks: Past, Present & Future for the HelloCleveland.Live project; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland Rocks: Past, Present & Future estimates approximately 700,000 people will be served annually through this award; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland Rocks: Past, Present & Future estimates the total cost of the project is \$25,000 annually; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland Rocks: Past, Present & Future is estimating the start date of the project will be August 2024 and the project will be ongoing; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland Rocks: Past, Present & Future \$25,000 from the District 3 ARPA Community Grant Fund to complete this project; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding in the amount of \$25,000 to the Cleveland Rocks: Past, Present & Future to ensure this project is completed; and

WHEREAS, this Council by a vote of at least eight (8) members determines that it is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective in order that critical services provided by Cuyahoga County can continue to provide for the usually, daily operations of the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:

SECTION 1. That the Cuyahoga County Council hereby awards a not-to-exceed amount of \$25,000 to Cleveland Rocks: Past, Present & Future from the General Fund made available by the American Rescue Plan Act revenue replacement provision for the HelloCleveland.Live project.

SECTION 2. If any specific appropriation is necessary to effectuate this agreement, the Director of the Office of Budget and Management is authorized to submit the requisite documentation to financial reporting to journalize the appropriation.

SECTION 3. That the County Council staff is authorized to prepare all documents to effectuate said award.

SECTION 4. That the County Executive is authorized to execute all necessary agreements and documents consistent with said award and this Resolution.

SECTION 5. If requested or necessary, the Agency of the Inspector General or Department of Internal Audit is authorized to investigate, audit, or review any part of this award.

SECTION 6. To the extent that any exemptions are necessary under the County Code and contracting procedures, they shall be deemed approved by the adoption of this Resolution.

SECTION 7. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective for the usual daily operation of the County; the preservation of public peace, health or safety in the County; and any additional reasons set forth in the preamble. Provided that this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of at least eight members of Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon the earliest occurrence of any of the following: (1) its approval by the County Executive through signature, (2) the expiration of the time during which it may be disapproved by the County Executive under Section 3.10(6) of the Cuyahoga County Charter, or (3) its passage by at least eight members of Council after disapproval pursuant to Section 3.10(7) of the Cuyahoga County Charter.

Otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

SECTION 8. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

On a motion by _____, seconded by _____, the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted.

Yeas:

Nays:

County Council President

Date

County Executive

Date

Clerk of Council

Date

First Reading/Referred to Committee: August 4, 2026

Committee(s) Assigned: Education, Environment & Sustainability

Journal _____
_____, 20__

COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Name of Requesting Entity (City, Business, Non-Profit, etc.):

Cleveland Rocks: Past, Present & Future on behalf of the Cleveland Independent Venue Association

Address of Requesting Entity:

15721 Waterloo Road, Cleveland 44110.

County Council District # of Requesting Entity:

County Council District #3

Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity:

N/A

County Council District # of Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity:

N/A

Address of Entity:

5801 Detroit Avenue, Cleveland OH 44107

Contact Name of Person Filling out This Request:

Sean Watterson

Contact Address if different than Requesting Entity:

N/A

Email:

seanwatterson@gmail.com

Phone:

347-415-0288

Federal IRS Tax Exempt No.:

45-4532432

Date:

June 5th, 2026

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

REQUEST DESCRIPTION (include the project name, a description of the project, why the project is important or needed, and timeline of milestones/tracking of the project):

The Cleveland Independent Venue Association seeks financial support for HelloCleveland.live - a collaborative, common and complete calendar of live music and comedy events at venues across Cuyahoga County.

In 2024, the Cleveland Independent Venue Association (CIVA) and Cleveland Rocks: Past, Present & Future, released the results of the Greater Cleveland Music Census. Creatives and venue owners and operators identified audience development and event marketing as high priority needs. The final report included the following recommendation:

“Promotional and Marketing Support: Increase promotional efforts, including partnerships with local media and strategic social media use, to raise the profile of local music.”

In response to that need, CIVA approached the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Destination Cleveland for support in building a collaborative, common and complete calendar of live music and comedy events in Cuyahoga County.

Rock Hall CEO Greg Harris, in collaboration with the Hall’s Chief Technology Officer Tim Parnin, volunteered the Rock Hall IT team to begin work on just such a calendar, with the long term plan to transition maintenance and marketing of the calendar to a Music & Live Entertainment Commission, or other music focused advocacy group in the absence of a Commission, at some point in the future.

The Rock Hall IT department built a prototype of the HelloCleveland.live calendar in time for the release of the census results, and in time for visitors to Rock Hall Induction ceremonies in 2024, but the platform was limited to a handful of Cleveland venues at that time.

In 2025, CIVA released the results of the Cuyahoga State of Live research report and recommendations, which had the following conclusions:

- Cuyahoga County’s independent live music & comedy sector performs well above average in its economic impact and jobs supported and wages and benefits paid, indicating a strong and deep independent music sector that gets stronger than average support from its local audiences.
- The sector and its economic and cultural contributions are at risk - while it generates significant contributions to GDP, economic output, jobs, wages & benefits and taxes, in addition to their vital role in the cultural life of the city, 75% of these venues reported losing money in 2024.

- The biggest opportunity for future growth is in tourism spending. Increasing offsite tourism spending by \$50 million would bring Cuyahoga County in line, but still below, the national average, and could increase the sector's contribution to GDP by an additional \$89 million and increase total economic output by \$92.5 million.

The report included the following recommendation:

"Financial & Marketing Support for Hello.Cleveland.Live - this common calendar will make marketing the County's live music & comedy offerings more accessible to both locals and visitors."

The Rock Hall team has met with CIVA and Cleveland Rocks: Past, Present & Future to troubleshoot the calendar and expand the number of clubs with events listed, but more work needs to be done to complete the calendar, including creating venue pages and adding venue descriptions, and a campaign to market the calendar to audiences.

This request is for financial support to complete the calendar and develop and deliver a marketing plan. The Rock Hall intends to transition financial responsibility to either a Music & Live Entertainment Commission, or in the absence of such a Commission, to the Cleveland Independent Venue Association for maintenance and marketing.

Project Start Date:

August 29, 2024

Project End Date:

Ongoing

IMPACT OF PROJECT:

Who will be served:

The live music and comedy venues in Cuyahoga County, the local musicians and comedians performing at these venues, and live music and comedy fans, both locals and visitors.

How many people will be served annually:

The Cuyahoga County State of Live research report estimated that over 700,000 fans attended live music and comedy at independent, locally-owned live music and comedy clubs in Cuyahoga County in 2024. This represents over half the population of Cuyahoga County in total, and does not include music and comedy events at Live Nation or AEG owned or operated venues, such as House of Blues, Rocket Arena, The Agora, Globe Iron & Jacobs Pavillion.

Will low/moderate income people be served; if so how:

Yes - Many of the smaller independent live music and comedy venues are run and/or staffed by low and moderate income Cuyahoga County residents, and the smaller clubs, which need the most help in

marketing their events via HelloCleveland.live, provide affordable entertainment to local residents, with shows that are either free, or have ticket prices at the \$10 or less range.

How does the project fit with the community and with other ongoing projects:

This project was initiated on a volunteer basis by the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, in partnership with the Cleveland Independent Venue Association in response to the Greater Cleveland Music Census, the results of which were released in August 2024. Musicians and venue operators both identified audience development and marketing as primary needs in the census, and specifically identified the need for a common, consolidated and complete calendar of live music and comedy events.

This need was reinforced with the results of the Cuyahoga County State of Live research results, reported in November, 2025, which showed that, "despite the sector's clear economic impact, only 25% of independent stages identified themselves as profitable in 2024, underscoring the urgent need for solutions to ensure their survival and sustainability."

The project was always designed to be transferred from the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame to either a Music & Live Entertainment Commission, or in the absence of such a Commission, an alternative entity, such as the Cleveland Live Music & Comedy Alliance, for ongoing maintenance and marketing.

If applicable, how many jobs will be created or retained (specify the number for each) and will the jobs be permanent or temporary:

In 2024, the independent live music and comedy sector in Cuyahoga County directly employed 2,944 employees, and supported 6,144 jobs, generating over \$450 million in wages and benefits annually. These jobs are at risk, as 75% of the independent venues in the County reported operating at a loss in 2024. This project will help preserve the direct jobs at these venues, and the additional jobs these businesses support.

Address of Entity:

5801 Detroit Avenue, Cleveland OH 44102

If applicable, what environmental issues or benefits will there be:

N/A

If applicable, how does this project serve as a catalyst for future initiatives:

This initiative is one of several identified in both the Greater Cleveland Music Census and the Cuyahoga State of Live research that could be the basis of forming a Cleveland Music & Live Entertainment Commission. This initiative is critical to the need for tools to help audience development and marketing, and the success of this project could lay further groundwork for a future Music & Live Entertainment Commission.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Total Budget of Project:

\$25,000 annually

Other Funding Sources of Project (list each source and dollar amount separately):

None as of yet, but seeking funding from the County and the City of Cleveland for future years.

Total amount requested of County Council American Resource Act Dollars:

\$25,000

Since these are one-time dollars, how will the Project be sustained moving forward:

The Cleveland Independent Venue Association will raise funds annually until such time as a publicly funded Music Commission can assume responsibility for the project, or, alternatively, CIVA will continue to own and manage the project with financial support from the County in the absence of a Music & Live Entertainment Commission.

DISCLAIMER INFORMATION AND SIGNATURE:

Disclaimer:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have the authority to apply for financial assistance on behalf of the entity described herein, and that the information contained herein and attached hereto is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I acknowledge and agree that all County contracts and programs are subject to Federal Guidelines and Regulations, the Ohio Revised Code, the Cuyahoga County Charter, and all County Ordinances including all information submitted as part of this application is a public record.

I understand that any willful misrepresentation on this application or on any of the attachments thereto could result in a fine and/or imprisonment under relevant local, state, and/or federal laws or guidelines.

I agree that at any time, any local, state, or federal governmental agency, or a private entity on behalf of any of these governmental agencies, can audit these dollars and projects.

Printed Name:

Signature: Date:

Additional Documents

Are there additional documents or files as part of this application? Please list each documents name:

Greater Cleveland Music Census Report
Cuyahoga County State of Live Report

