

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY SNAPSHOT

Cleveland Public Theatre

Cleveland, OH

Cleveland Public Theatre is a nonprofit arts organization that serves local youth and families through creative education and community programming in Cleveland.

Funding Opportunity Snapshot

Cleveland Public Theatre

Cleveland, OH · June 7, 2026

Funding Readiness Score		Strongest Opportunity	
78/100		Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Supporting Foundation	
Moderate Funding Position		Prior Funding Relationship	
Active	Prior Relationships	Potential Matches	
0	3	0	
Recommended Next Step: Contact CPT's development team to ask whether Mandel support could extend to future program, capital, or matching opportunities in 2026.			

Cleveland Public Theatre is a nonprofit arts organization that serves local youth and families through creative education and community programming in Cleveland.

Assessment Summary

Three opportunities were identified for Cleveland Public Theatre's youth workforce programs. Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Supporting Foundation has a documented prior funding relationship with this type of organization, reducing application friction. Two additional opportunities reflect prior funding relationships that may be reactivated — current application windows require direct confirmation with each funder.

Overall Funding Readiness: Moderate Funding Position

Funding Readiness Score: 78/100 — Moderate Funding Position

- + Founded and incorporated in 1981, giving Cleveland Public Theatre about 45 years of operating history and reducing funder risk concerns.
- + The organization's mission is clearly stated on its website as 'to raise consciousness and nurture compassion through groundbreaking performances and life-changing education programs,' which gives grantmakers a concise programmatic frame.
- + Publicly reported scale suggests organizational capacity: CPT lists a \$2,500,000 annual operating budget and 22 full-time staff, 12 part-time staff, and 800 participating artists.
- ! Publicly available results data for the youth program are limited on the website; the available sources describe programs and scale but do not publish outcome metrics such as graduation, employment, or academic gains.
- ! The website materials provided confirm the organization's arts and education mission, but they do not clearly isolate the specific youth program as a named, grant-ready initiative with a defined theory of change, outputs, and evaluation plan.
- ! The supplied sources confirm long operating history and mission clarity, but they do not provide direct evidence of prior foundation grant relationships or recent grant awards, which can matter for assessing grant readiness and warm-start potential.

- 1 **Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Supporting Foundation** · Matching grant for Cleveland Public Theatre's capital campaign [Prior Funding Relationship]

Award	\$4,000,000 maximum match		
Status	Prior funding relationship identified — 2026 window not publicly confirmed		
Confidence	Medium		
Risk	Medium — The funder is real and has already funded CPT, but the current funding window and eligible grant type are not confirmed.		
Discovery	Cleveland Public Theatre funding news and Mandel Foundation announcement		
Verification Status	Confirmed — mandelfoundation.org		

Eligibility	Appears Eligible	Geographic Fit	Strong
Mission Fit	Moderate	App Complexity	High

Fit score: 9.0/10

Why it appears promising: Cleveland Public Theatre has already received a \$4 million matching commitment from the Mandel Supporting Foundation for its Gordon Square campus expansion and renovation. While this is a capital gift rather than a youth-program grant, it demonstrates a direct funding relationship with a Cleveland arts nonprofit and strong local trust in CPT's mission.

Potential obstacle: No 2026 application window is confirmed, and this appears to be a relationship-based capital commitment rather than an open grant cycle.

Recommended action: Contact CPT's development team to ask whether Mandel support could extend to future program, capital, or matching opportunities in 2026.

2 **The Cleveland Foundation** · *Restricted fund supporting the Joan Yellen Horvitz director fellowship at Cleveland Public Theatre* [Prior Funding Relationship]

Award	\$4,000,000 restricted bequest fund		
Status	Prior funding relationship identified — 2026 window not publicly confirmed		
Confidence	Medium		
Risk	Medium — The foundation has a clear relationship with CPT, but the current opportunity is not confirmed and may not be competitively open.		
Discovery	Cleveland Public Theatre gift announcement		
Verification Status	Pending verification		

Eligibility	Appears Eligible	Geographic Fit	Strong
Mission Fit	Moderate	App Complexity	High

Fit score: 8.0/10

Why it appears promising: Cleveland Public Theatre received \$4 million in a restricted fund managed by The Cleveland Foundation to establish the Joan Yellen Horvitz director fellowship, directly supporting artist-development capacity at CPT. CPT's youth education and mentorship work could fit future arts-talent or community-enrichment priorities if the foundation opens a relevant discretionary opportunity.

Potential obstacle: This is a prior restricted gift, not a publicly posted open grant program for 2026.

Recommended action: Review The Cleveland Foundation's current grantmaking priorities and ask whether there is a youth arts, neighborhood arts, or arts-equity program CPT could apply to in 2026.

3 **Mellon Foundation** · *Future of American Theatre Cohort* [Prior Funding Relationship]

Award	Not publicly disclosed		
Status	Prior funding relationship identified — 2026 window not publicly confirmed		
Confidence	Medium		
Risk	Medium — There is a confirmed prior grant to CPT, but no verified 2026 open window and application access may be invitation-based.		
Discovery	Cleveland Public Theatre and Mandel Foundation announcement		
Verification Status	Confirmed — mandelfoundation.org		

Eligibility	Likely Eligible	Geographic Fit	Moderate
Mission Fit	Strong	App Complexity	High

Fit score: 7.0/10

Why it appears promising: Mellon Foundation gave Cleveland Public Theatre \$500,000 for two years to support the Future of American Theatre Cohort, which directly funds theatre capacity and artistic development. CPT's arts-based training and mentorship for young people fits a theatre-education organization working in a major city arts ecosystem.

Potential obstacle: The current cohort cycle and whether CPT can reapply in 2026 are not confirmed on the funder's own website from the available evidence.

Recommended action: Check Mellon Foundation's current performing arts grantmaking page and ask whether the theatre cohort is still active or whether a new invitation-only cycle is expected.

Priority Ranking

- 1. Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Supporting Foundation** — Prior funding relationship identified. Contact funder to confirm current application status.
- 2. The Cleveland Foundation** — Prior funding relationship identified. Contact funder to confirm current application status.
- 3. Mellon Foundation** — Prior funding relationship identified. Contact funder to confirm current application status.

The snapshot identifies potential funding paths.

The full Grant Opportunity Audit validates eligibility, confirms active funding windows, prioritises opportunities by probability of success, and provides recommended narrative positioning including application framing and funder-specific positioning.

Potential Funding Range Identified: \$8.0M (*further validation required.*)

Flat fee: \$350, delivered through Upwork. Deadlines and eligibility should be confirmed with each funder before submitting applications.

Selection criteria: mission alignment · geographic eligibility · organizational maturity · historical funding patterns · publicly available grant data.