

Cleveland Public Theatre

Cleveland, OH · July 3, 2026

A professional producing theatre in Cleveland's Gordon Square Arts District, founded in 1981. Its mission: to raise consciousness and nurture compassion through groundbreaking performances and life-changing education programs.

Funding Position

78/100

Funding Readiness Score
Moderate Funding Position

STRONGEST RELATIONSHIP

Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Supporting Foundation

\$4M capital-campaign commitment, Feb 2025

0

ACTIVE WINDOWS

3

PRIOR RELATIONSHIPS

0

OPEN MATCHES

Recommended next step: Treat these three as relationships to steward, not open grants. Contact the Mandel Supporting Foundation and The Cleveland Foundation to ask whether either expects to open a competitive cycle in 2026 that Cleveland Public Theatre could apply to.

Assessment Summary

Three prior funding relationships were identified for Cleveland Public Theatre, all with arts and theatre funders aligned to its work as a professional producing theatre with an education arm. Each is a completed or relationship-based commitment: a capital-campaign commitment, a bequest-funded director fellowship, and an invitation-based national cohort. None has a confirmed open application window for 2026. Each would need direct contact to learn whether a future opportunity exists. Overall funding readiness: Moderate.

Readiness Score: 78/100

- + Founded and incorporated in 1981, giving Cleveland Public Theatre about 45 years of operating history and reducing funder risk concerns.
- + The mission is clearly stated as "to raise consciousness and nurture compassion through groundbreaking performances and life-changing education programs," giving grantmakers a concise programmatic frame.
- + Publicly reported scale suggests organizational capacity: a \$2,500,000 annual operating budget, 22 full-time and 12 part-time staff, and 800 participating artists.
- ! All three identified funders reflect prior or closed commitments: a 2025 capital-campaign commitment, a bequest-funded director fellowship, and an invitation-based national cohort. None is an open competitive grant cycle, so there is no confirmed window to apply to today.
- ! Recent major support has come through relationships, capital gifts, and a bequest rather than open project-grant programs. The pipeline of currently applicable opportunities is thin and needs active sourcing.

- ! To position individual programs for new project grants, each initiative (for example STEP, the Y-Haven Theatre Project, or the Cleveland Act Now programs) would need a defined project budget, stated outcomes, and an evaluation plan.

1

Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Supporting Foundation
\$4M commitment to the Gordon Square capital campaign

PRIOR FUNDING RELATIONSHIP

Award	\$4,000,000 commitment (part of CPT's \$12M capital campaign)
Status	Prior funding relationship identified: capital commitment, not an open grant cycle
Confidence	High
Risk	Medium. The gift is confirmed and recent, but it is a capital-campaign commitment, not an open program with a 2026 application window.
Discovery	Cleveland Public Theatre and Mandel Foundation announcements, February 2025
Verification	Confirmed via cptonline.org and mandelfoundation.org (Feb 2025)

ELIGIBILITY Appears Eligible	GEOGRAPHIC FIT Strong
MISSION FIT Strong	APPLICATION COMPLEXITY High

Fit score: 90 / 100

Why it appears promising: In February 2025 the Mandel Supporting Foundation committed \$4 million to Cleveland Public Theatre's \$12 million Gordon Square capital campaign, bringing the campaign past its halfway point. This is a large, recent commitment to CPT as a professional producing theatre, and it signals strong institutional trust in its mission and its role as an anchor in the Gordon Square Arts District.

Potential obstacle: Public sources describe this as a commitment to the capital campaign, not a matching grant or an open grant cycle. There is no confirmed 2026 application window.

Recommended action: Contact the Mandel Supporting Foundation to ask whether its support could extend to program or operating needs, and whether it expects to open any competitive opportunity 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 fund (part of a \$6M Horvitz bequest)
Status	Prior funding relationship identified: restricted fund, not an open grant cycle
Confidence	High
Risk	Medium. The relationship with The Cleveland Foundation is clear, but this specific fund is restricted to a named fellowship and is not a competitively open opportunity.
Discovery	Cleveland Public Theatre gift announcement, February 2025
Verification	Confirmed via cptonline.org (Joan Yellen Horvitz gift, Feb 2025)

ELIGIBILITY Appears Eligible	GEOGRAPHIC FIT Strong
MISSION FIT Strong	APPLICATION COMPLEXITY High

Fit score: 80 / 100

Why it appears promising: As part of a \$6 million bequest from the Joan Yellen Horvitz Trust (the largest gift in CPT's history), \$4 million sits in a restricted fund managed by The Cleveland Foundation to establish the Joan Yellen Horvitz director fellowship. The relationship with The Cleveland Foundation, one of the country's largest community foundations, is the real asset here. CPT's arts programming could fit future arts or neighborhood grant priorities if the foundation opens a relevant cycle.

Potential obstacle: This is a restricted gift tied to a named fellowship, not a publicly posted open grant program for 2026.

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

3

Mellon Foundation
Future of American Theatre Cohort

PRIOR FUNDING RELATIONSHIP

Award	\$500,000 over two years (Future of American Theatre cohort)
Status	Prior funding relationship identified: invitation-based cohort, no open reapplication cycle confirmed
Confidence	High
Risk	Medium. The grant is confirmed, but cohort membership was by invitation and there is no verified 2026 open window.
Discovery	American Theatre magazine and Cleveland Public Theatre announcements, January 2024
Verification	Confirmed via mellon.org and americantheatre.org (Jan 2024)

ELIGIBILITY Likely Eligible	GEOGRAPHIC FIT Strong (national funder)
MISSION FIT Strong	APPLICATION COMPLEXITY High

Fit score: 70 / 100

Why it appears promising: In January 2024 the Mellon Foundation named Cleveland Public Theatre to its five-member Future of American Theatre cohort, with \$500,000 over two years to each company for capacity building, innovation, and ambitious artistic programming. This is national recognition of CPT as a professional producing theatre, alongside peers such as Company One and Perseverance Theatre.

Potential obstacle: Cohort membership was by invitation. Whether Mellon will open a comparable cycle, or whether CPT could reapply, is not confirmed on the funder's site.

Recommended action: Check the Mellon Foundation's current performing arts grantmaking and ask whether a comparable cohort or open program is expected. Treat the existing grant as a relationship to maintain.

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.
-

This Snapshot maps your funder relationships. The Audit finds what is open now.

This Snapshot found strong institutional ties but no open application window today. The full Grant Fit Audit™ sources the currently-open opportunities Cleveland Public Theatre actually qualifies for, confirms each active funding window, prioritizes them by probability of success, and gives funder-specific positioning for the applications worth writing.

The Snapshot is free. The full Grant Fit Audit™ is \$497, delivered within two business days.

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.