

Artists and Education Funding Opportunity April 1, 2018 Deadline General Expert Panel Comments

Outlined below are comments made by the Expert Panel during its assessment of applications submitted to the April 1, 2018 **Artists and Education** funding opportunity deadline.

Please note that these comments provide a summary of the Expert Panel's assessment and do not necessarily relate to every unsuccessful application submitted to this deadline. **The Expert Panel does not provide individual comments.**

Expert Panel Comments:

The Expert Panel felt that the overall quality of the applications was high and appreciated the scope of arts activities proposed for residency projects in schools. Priority was given to projects where applicants demonstrated the following:

- Schools directly addressed the benefits and value of the artistic residency specific to its students, outlining how the school would engage and work collaboratively with its resident artists. Generic presentations from artistic partners on behalf of the school, and that were not unique to the applicant, were not seen as favourably.
- Activities that were student-led and actively engaged youth in the programming and outcomes saw more favour than applications that were driven by the artistic partner's existing programs.
- Expert Panelists also saw benefit in providing support to schools that were undertaking residency projects for the first time in their history.
- While the Expert Panel recognized the value of programs that addressed physical education or other areas of school curricula, preference was given to projects where visual or performing arts were clearly the primary focus of the proposed activities. Future applicants are asked to directly address how the arts inform interdisciplinary activities as part of their projects.
- The Expert Panel appreciated proposals that articulated how the arts activity will continue post residency and how learned skills will be utilized and integrated by the school in the future.
- The Expert Panel also appreciated when schools addressed cultural sensitivities and diverse practices in conjunction with artistic processes.

The Expert Panel also advised that future applicants should consider the following:

- Schools that made less effort to develop a tailored proposal and relied mostly on template information provided by the artist were not scored as highly by the Expert Panel.

- Artist residency information is an important component, but should not be used as a substitute for a fully developed proposal that addresses the impact of the residency on the school and its students. A school can compete more effectively and distinguish its proposal with a personalized description of the school and community, and how the project activities, directions and objectives will be realized as a unique arts experience for their students.
- Residency projects that incorporate Indigenous practices, protocol, and/or Reconciliation need to demonstrate adequate cultural consultation with Indigenous artists or elders.
- Expert Panelists cannot know the work of all organizations or artists. Applicants should not assume knowledge of their residency partners' work and history. Project descriptions and resumes should provide enough information for panelists to understand the merit and capability of artists to achieve the residency aims and goals.
- When applying on behalf of a group of artists or an organization, applications should indicate the principal artists and provide resumes where appropriate.
- While the Expert Panel appreciated that some residencies concluded with a permanent display of art work, applications must demonstrate that students are actively engaged in all aspects of the work's creation.
- Proposals by schools that focus on the artist's work as opposed to the learning process were not seen favourably.
- Submissions should consider whether proposed activities are within the scope and ability of the resident artists and not overly ambitious within the project timelines.
- Other additional support material for participating artists, such as testimonials, letters of reference, examples of past work, etc., to strengthen applications can be included as part of the submission.
- It was important for applications to be concise, well presented and appropriately formatted. The over or insufficient use of formatting, e.g. paragraph breaks, bolding, upper case and underlining was found to be distracting in reading a high volume of applications. The Expert Panel is responsible for reviewing numerous applications and clarity and ease-of-reading is essential.
- Applicants should also ensure proposals have been proof-read to correct any typos, grammatical errors, and inconsistent formats.