

Artists and Education Project Grant Stream
April 1, 2016 Deadline
General Expert Panel Comments

Outlined below are comments made by the Expert Panel during its assessment of applications submitted to the **April 1, 2016** Artist and Education Project Grant Stream deadline. Please note that these comments provide an overview of common deficiencies noted by the Expert Panel 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 was impressed by the overall quality of grant submissions. **A number of applications may be unsuccessful as a result of a finite program budget relative to the high number of deserving submissions** and not necessarily because of any reasons listed in comments below.

1. While an artist's resume may reflect a strong artistic practice, the Expert Panel would also like to have had a better understanding of an artist's experience teaching youth.
2. It was important for the jury to have sufficient description of the creative process and clear description of arts activities. Generic proposals with residency descriptions where students appeared to be "plugged" into arts activity without being engaged in an identifiable creative process challenge were not as compelling for Expert Panel consideration.
3. Schools that made less effort to develop a tailored proposal and relied mostly on "template" information provided by the artist were not scored as high by the Expert Panel. Artist residency information is an important component, but should not be used as a substitute for a fully developed proposal. 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. Specific, compelling stories of human interest often differentiate one proposal from another.
4. While the Expert Panel appreciated that some residencies concluded with a permanent display of art work, some residencies resembled more of a visual arts commission and less of a student art residency. The ratio of how much residency time and cost was allocated to student interactive creative workshops versus the artist's "collating / assembling" design installation was a factor considered by this Expert Panel.
5. Artists and Education program guideline 2.3 requires that a residency "... provide opportunity for students to observe and actively participate in the creative process", and "...encourage students to discover and express their creative potential". Proposals that explained how the creative process will engage and challenge students' imagination were appreciated by the Expert Panel.

6. The Expert Panel appreciated residency programming that helped generate greater cultural understanding by having a unique and comprehensive approach to integrating cultural learning into the arts activity.
7. Panel assessments were greatly facilitated when applications contained clearly articulated age appropriate art activity with a well-defined creative process and sufficient links to curriculum. A minority of proposals may have placed too much emphasis on the arts residency teaching curriculum.
8. The Panel found that a small number of applications proposed activity that was overly ambitious that may be beyond the capacity of the artist, students and school within scheduled timelines.
9. 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.
10. It was important for the Panel that applications are 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.
11. The Expert Panel recognized and appreciated the effort that was made in formulating the many quality proposals it reviewed.