

**Dance Individual Project Grant
February 1, 2016
General Expert Panel Comments**

Comments made by the Expert Panel during its assessment of applications submitted to the February 1, 2016 Dance Individual Project Grant program are outlined below. Please note that these comments provide an overview of common issues 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 for each application.**

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 reasons listed in comments below.

1. The Expert Panel appreciated personal statements articulating why this project is important to the applicant's development and artistic vision. In particular, a clear personal statement from training applicants accompanied by a well-articulated rationale for the choice of study program or workshop was looked upon favourably. This includes an explanation of how a specific training program, relative to similar available training programs, would further develop the applicant towards their stated training needs and career objectives.
2. Cut and paste program information from training program website is not an appropriate substitute for a fully formulated project description written by the applicant.
3. Applicant background and project description should be written in a clear concise manner. The Expert Panel encourages applicants to make use of writing tip sheet material available on the AFA web site.
4. The Expert Panel greatly appreciated DVD support material that allowed for a comprehensive assessment of an applicant's ability. It is helpful for the applicant and Panel that audition or support material demonstrate the applicant's unique individual technical and artistic ability.
5. Training applicants should ensure two audition pieces are included as part of the application. The absence or lack of visual support material made it difficult to assess some applications.
6. Barre exercises and centre work is only appropriate for very young applicants. Experienced older training applicants should provide appropriate solo audition pieces.
7. In a small number of cases the DVD material did not play properly.

8. Applicants are strongly encouraged to include letters of reference from teachers or colleagues.
9. The Expert Panel had difficulty assessing a small number of applications where the project description was vague or confusing and / or the application lacked support materials such as DVD samples of past work and reviews of past productions.
10. Budget – The Expert Panel noted that it was important that project budgets:
 - Are as accurate and realistic as possible;
 - Provide clear accounting break down of all expenses associated with the project;
 - A budget and budget notes should clearly articulate relationship between “hosting” company and choreographer;
 - The absence of dancer or artist remuneration should be explained in the application and/or budget notes.
 - Training – demonstrate some level of personal contribution or rationale for the absence of personal contribution;
 - Not include extraneous expenses such as additional return travel, parent travel, outings, lost wages, loans/mortgages or similar costs not directly associated with core project activity.
11. Large scale art projects reliant on a cross section of community resources such as mentors should include confirmation letters. The project plan should sufficiently demonstrate how the project quality and stated outcomes will be realized.