

## **Film and Video Arts Project Grant General Expert Panel Comments on Applications Received**

Comments made by the expert panel during the assessment of applications submitted to the September 1, 2016 deadline are outlined below. Please note that these comments provide a summary of the expert panel's assessment and do not necessarily relate to every application submitted to this deadline. **The expert panel does not provide individual comments.**

1. The expert panel favoured applications that presented projects of strong artistic merit, original concepts, opportunities for artistic growth, and a willingness to take on artistic risk.
2. Several applications proposed poorly defined or poorly conceived projects. The expert panel favoured applications that clearly and concisely defined the nature of their project, as well as a clear description of the project's goals and artistic intent. With some applications, the expert panel was unsure of whether the project in question was a short or a feature, a documentary or a narrative, or what phase of the project the applicant was seeking to fund.
3. The expert panel appreciated applicants who succinctly summarized in the first paragraph of their proposal what the project was, the running time, and how much funding they were requesting.
4. Proposals that were disorganized, contained typos and spelling errors reflected poorly on the professionalism of the applicant. Proposals should be proofread prior to submission.
5. Editors, DOP, other technical personnel should be identified and CV's supplied as they all have a material effect on the outcome of the film.
6. Running time should be clearly indicated. Proposals that makes sense for a 5 minute short makes less sense for a feature length project.
7. The expert panel encourages applicants to make use of the support available from the film collectives such as FAVA in Edmonton and CSIF, EMMEDIA and Quickdraw in Calgary and PRIMAA in Grande Prairie etc.. They have expertise that can be tapped for everything from putting together a proposal to supplying equipment at lower rates.
8. When a film or topic is being revisited, the expert panel would have liked the film-maker to explain why they were artistically compelled to re-visit the subject. What would the artist gain out of this?
9. The expert panel appreciated when artists thought ahead to the future of the film, such as future festivals etc once they had finished creating the film.
10. Applicants requesting funding for a series would have been given a higher priority had they requested funding for only the pilot. Funding for the remainder of the series could be applied for in subsequent applications using the pilot as support material.

## **BUDGETS**

11. Applicants should define the units the budget. Do they represent days, hours or weeks or a flat rate. Please indicate in the notes what it is,
12. The expert panel liked to see valuations in kind. This indicates that the artist understands the true cost of film-making and the value of themselves as film-makers.

## **13. SUPPORT MATERIALS**

14. The expert panel urges all applicants to supply video support materials. This allows them to determine skill level and artistic style. Many applicants would have been given a higher priority had video support material been supplied. Applicants are strongly encouraged to include recent support material relevant to the proposed project. Applicants should focus on support material that demonstrates their technical abilities and highlights their artistic voice. Applicants should consider limiting their support material to a maximum of five minute. In the case of applications for post-production or marketing support, the expert panel found having video from the project extremely useful in the decision-making process.

## **TRAINING**

15. Good film maker training, especially at the emerging/intermediate level can be obtained locally. The panel gave priority to professional development applicants that stayed within Canada and would build long term capacity to the Alberta film community.