

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 February 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 especially responded to applications that conveyed a clear sense of the themes and aesthetic qualities of their project.
4. The expert panel found it beneficial for applicants to identify their artistic experience and background, as well as their distinct role(s) within the project. Many of the applications the expert panel responded to most favourably began with a strong, concise statement explaining the nature of the project and the motivation of the artist.
5. 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 minutes (in the case of video samples) or fifteen pages (in the case of screenplays). 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.
6. Applicants must provide a clear, detailed and balanced budget as described in the Film and Video Arts Project Grant guidelines. Applicants are encouraged to carefully read the grant guidelines to ensure that their budget does not contain items that are ineligible for funding. The expert panel found it helpful in the case of projects with large or complex budgets when applicants used the Notes feature in the budget section to clarify potential areas of confusion or identify which items pertained to their AFA request.
7. Art production projects should demonstrate appropriate attention to pre-production, planning, and research. Quotes from vendors, visual effects shotlists, and the like are recommended.
8. Applicants were advised to include **either** subsistence costs **or** artist's fees for themselves in their budgets, but not both.
9. Applicants are encouraged to proofread their applications for spelling and grammatical errors.

