

Literary Arts Project Grant General Expert Panel Comments on Applications Received

Comments made by the expert panel during its 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 panel was unanimous in recommending fresh and innovative projects by capable writers at all levels of experience, as evidenced by their supporting materials and strong writing samples.
2. Unsuccessful applications were often characterized by one or more of the following issues:
 - Inconsistent, incomplete, inflated, or insufficiently detailed budgets
 - Unprofessional resumes/literary CVs
 - Failure to submit a detailed workplan or timeline
 - Overall lack of vision for the project
 - Project goals not clearly stated or persuasive
 - Failure to make a compelling case for project/artist need
 - Discrepancies and inaccuracies within the application
 - Sloppy, unedited, or poorly proofread applications
 - Lack of market research
 - Further artistic development or understanding of craft recommended
 - Failure to follow grant guidelines (e.g., writing sample too long, ineligible expenses claimed, crucial details omitted)
3. It is important to include a writing sample that reflects the proposed project in order for the expert panel to accurately assess the quality of the project. Applicants should focus on sample pieces that *demonstrate their abilities and highlight their artistic voice*.
4. Applicants are reminded that the online budget form contains a notes feature that may be useful in providing context to listed expenses and revenues.
5. Applicants are encouraged to review the AFA guidelines and expert panel comments, and seek advice from their Arts Development Consultant, in advance of future submissions.
6. The panel was inclined to support training and career development which focused on workshops, seminars, and individual courses, as per the guidelines, and not requests to fund post-graduate degrees.