

Theatre Project Grant

September, 2015

General Expert Panel Comments

Comments made by the expert panel during its assessment of applications submitted to the September 2015 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 unsuccessful application submitted to this deadline. The expert panel does not provide individual comments.

General:

The Expert Panel funded applications that had a unique artistic vision that clearly stood out. The Expert Panel looked for applications that displayed excellence.

Expert panel felt that many applicants had strong backgrounds and production histories, however, if the proposals submitted did not address the questions of artistic impact, why here, why now and were short on specifics, then the project was not funded.

Expert panel gave a higher priority to those applications where the presenting/supporting company wrote letters of support/intent.

When applicants mention collaborators, expert panel would like to see agreements or a letter of support indicating that the team member has "signed on" in addition to a compilation of resumes.

When artists revisit previous work, the expert panel wanted a clear artistic justification. How does this advance this career? What have you done in the intervening years that will change what you will do here —formally, compositionally, character development etc. Why this instead of new work?

Senior artists should not assume that everybody on the expert panel knows who they are and what their artistic practice, so providing career context becomes key in your application.

Don't disregard your past work. It gives the panel an idea of who you are as an artist and what your artistic trajectory is.

Make results and benefits specific to artist practice. And if there are benefits to the larger community articulate how and why.

Expert panel gave a higher priority when it was clear that there would be some benefit to the artistic community in Alberta.

Budgets:

Panel was concerned when projects included a public presentation but the budget showed no revenue. Were the performances free or did the applicants forget to calculate box office?

Support Materials

Expert panel members found letters of support helpful for both emerging and more senior artists.

Artistic resumes should include dates.

A producer resume is different than an actor resume. Producer resume should include evidence of past productions, Also include dates, any awards, prizes, previous funding.

Some audio/visual materials won't play or aren't recognized on PC, which is what the AFA uses. Please pre-test your media support materials on a PC to ensure it can be played.

Artists should edit videos for length and ensure that they put up front the portions they want the panel to see.

Provide a clear description of your support material. Did you direct the show, did you choreograph the fight. Also includes dates.

Many applicants would have benefitted from the inclusion of audio visual support material. Prior work that is relevant would have been helpful to see. Panel feels it is important that artists document the work they're creating.