

**Dance Individual Project Grant  
September 1, 2017  
General Expert Panel Comments**

Comments made by the Expert Panel during its assessment of applications submitted to the September 1, 2017 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.**

**Project Description**

1. The Expert Panel appreciated personal statements, in the applicant's own voice, 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 and its link to the applicant's development 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, including specific courses or techniques or specializations of the program.
2. 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.
3. The Expert Panel had difficulty assessing a small number of art creation applications where the project activity was vague, thin or confusing and where project components such as partnering stakeholders had not confirmed participation.
4. A number applications lacked video and other support materials that would allow the Panel to better appreciated applicant's creative ability and insight into proposed new work. A demonstration of past work and reviews of past productions were very helpful to the Panel.
5. The panel had difficulty assessing projects where production plans appear beyond the experience of the applicant.

6. Some large scale art projects rely on a cross section of community resources such as unconfirmed funding from multiple sources. As part of their proposal, applicants may wish to provide a plan “B” on how the project may be realized should such funding or other resources not be forthcoming.
7. Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide sufficient detail on project timelines.
8. Art creation projects requesting support for existing work should articulate in detail how the work will undergo significant redevelopment and a strong convincing rationale for the purpose of redeveloping the work.
9. The panel had difficulty assessing training projects that included competition activity. The panel believes that limited resources are better directed towards projects that focus on training activity.

## **Budget**

10. The Expert Panel noted that it was important that project budgets:

- Are as accurate and realistic as possible;
- Is in Canadian currency only throughout budget;
- Provide clear accounting break down of all expenses associated with the project;
- Training – demonstrate some level of personal contribution or rationale for the absence of personal contribution;
- Not include extraneous expenses such as additional multiple return travel, parent travel, outings, lost wages, or similar costs not directly associated with core project activity.
- Details on dancer or artist remuneration should be explained in the application and budget breakdown or budget notes. How were artists fees calculated?
- The panel looked favourably on projects where artists were properly remunerated, both in the context of industry standards, as well as the context of the project as a whole. Creation and production projects are encouraged to follow artist fees established by the professional community, ie. CADA.
- The cost of travel, accommodation, etc. should justify the value of the training or career development project, specifically the number of training hours and the quality of the proposed program.

## **Support material**

11. Artist resume, biographies should be provide clear explanation of an artist’s experience.

12. The Panel found it helpful when resumes, confirmation or invitation letters of partnering artists and project stakeholders were translated into either English or French.
13. The Expert Panel greatly appreciated DVD / USB and other support material that allowed for a comprehensive assessment of an applicant's technical and artistic ability.
14. Video audition material should be free of distractions such as verbal sideline instructions, non-applicants appearing in and out of frame and video special effects.
15. Video audition material should be as up-to-date as possible showing the applicant as close to their current age and ability.
16. Barre and centre work is only appropriate for very young applicants. Experienced older training applicants should provide appropriate solo audition pieces.
17. The absence or lack of visual support material made it difficult to assess some applications.
18. In a small number of cases the DVD / USB material did not download or play properly. Applicants should use universal recording formats that are can easily be viewed from a DVD or USB drive or cloud download file without password protection.
19. Post-secondary applicants are encouraged to include their most recent transcript or equivalent documentation.
20. Post secondary and other training projects should clearly identify which training stream or major the applicant is pursuing, accompanied by a description career objectives consistent with training focus.
21. Applicants are strongly encouraged to include current letters of reference from teachers or colleagues. Letters of support should speak to the applicant and the project itself.
22. Applicants are encouraged to have an objective third party proof read application content to ensure that it is concise and accurate.