

## **Theatre Project Grant September, 2017 General Expert Panel Comments**

Comments made by the expert panel during its assessment of applications submitted to the September 2017 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.

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

Don't just rely on your track record

How did you get artists fees if they are outside the equity schedule?

Artist fees important -- even in workshops

In kind income needs to be balanced against specific expenses

Much of the training is available in Canada so international studies were scrutinized carefully

Box office projections should be based on something explained to jury

When working with a partner organization indicate what, if any expenses they are covering.

The expert panel felt some applicants applied too early in the development process -- key creators had not yet been chosen, an artistic vision had not yet been solidified. This makes it difficult for the panel to fully assess and difficult for the applicant to compete.

If your process of creation is non-traditional, then it should be described fully in the application. Additionally, the logistics of set up, audience location, box office etc. should be fully outlined.

Support materials should be carefully curated. Chose writing samples that immediately grab attention, choose compelling video clips. Expert panels usually watch between 1-4 minutes of an artists' support video.

Artists should not assume that the panel members are familiar with them or their work. Explain your art and process fully.

Expert panel liked to see artists remain committed to Alberta.

Applicants should familiarize themselves with standard rates for actors (equity charts), designers, etc., and identify which equity contract (if any) they are operating under. This would allow for clearer and more standardized budgeting.

The more detailed and the specific the budget (both on the revenue and expense sides), the easier the panel found it to follow and make meaningful funding decisions.

## **Support Material**

The Expert Panel encourages all applicants to supply support material. This helps to clarify what the artist is proposing. It also allows the panel to assess the applicant's artistic ability. Many applicants would have benefitted from the inclusion of audio visual support material and/or letters of reference. Venue confirmations are also helpful to include. Those applicants that did not have samples were given a lower priority.

The panel found letters of support from those in the industry helpful when reviewing emerging artist and artists that were diversifying into art forms that had not previously practiced.

Professional development and training applicants should have letters of support and support materials demonstrating skill level.

Support materials should demonstrate a track record of producing or ability to do this work. Resumes for key team members should be fully fleshed out as well.