

Artists and Education Funding Opportunity May 1, 2020 Deadline General Expert Panel Comments

Outlined below are comments made by the Expert Panel during its assessment of applications submitted to the May 1, 2020 Artists and Education funding opportunity deadline. 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.

Expert Panel Comments:

The Expert Panel felt that the overall quality of the applications was high and appreciated the scope of arts activities proposed for residency projects in schools. Priority was given to projects where applicants demonstrated the following:

- Schools should describe at the beginning of their application a profile of their school population, programming and community. Please indicate clearly the school name, location, grade range, specialized programming (if applicable) and population demographic. In addition, schools should indicate if they have worked with the proposed artist in the past. The project title should include the school name with artist.
- The Expert Panel found it useful to have a detailed project description that intended to connect to the students learning experience. It was valuable to see grade-specific curriculum links that had project outcomes demonstrated.
- It is very significant when project descriptions also provide a detailed schedule demonstrating the arts activity for each grade/class. The Expert Panel appreciated having a detailed schedule of the amount of time each grade engaged in the creative process with the artist(s).
- While the Expert Panel appreciated some residencies concluded with a permanent display of artwork, applications should demonstrate that students are actively engaged in all aspects of the work's creation. It is beneficial to have the students be a part of the entire process during the residency.
- The Expert Panel prioritized projects with the most student creative engagement.
- Applicants should not assume the Expert Panel's knowledge of their residency partners' work. Project descriptions and resumes should provide sufficient information for panelists to understand the merit and capability of artists to achieve the residency aims and goals.

- The Expert Panel is responsible for reviewing numerous applications. Clarity and ease-of-reading is essential. Applicants should also ensure proposals have been proof-read to correct any typos, grammatical errors, and inconsistent formats. Please use headers to define your sections.

The Expert Panel also advised that future applicants should consider the following:

- It is not recommended that applications rely heavily on cut and pasted information from the artist. Schools that made less effort to develop a tailored proposal and relied mostly on template information provided by the artist were not scored as highly by the Expert Panel.
- A school can compete more effectively and distinguish its proposal with a personalized description of the school and community outlining how the project will enrich school culture and student creativity through the arts. Students should be the focal point of your proposal.
- Artist residency information is an important component, but should not be used as a substitute for a fully developed proposal. Please ensure your proposal addresses all defined criteria.
- Residency projects that include cultural themes need to describe how they are delivering the creative process in the school.
- Proposals by schools that focus on the artist's work as opposed to student learning, art skills development and creative process were not scored as strongly.