

Artists and Education Funding Opportunity April 1, 2021 Deadline General Expert Panel Comments

Outlined below are comments made by the Expert Panel during its assessment of applications submitted to the April 1, 2021 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.
- A well-written and concise project proposal allows the Expert Panel to gain a full understanding of the nature of the project, the purpose and expected benefits, goals and outcomes that would impact the school community. The Expert Panel found it useful to have a detailed project description that intended to connect to the students learning experience, and growth as young artists.
- 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 in a meaningful way during the residency.
- The Expert Panel prioritized projects with the most student creative engagement and involvement that gave opportunities to build their school community, with the potential to have impact in the broader community.
- 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. Schools should demonstrate the rationale in choosing the specific artist for their residency.

- 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:

- Students should be the focal point of your proposal. Proposals by schools that focus on the artist's work as opposed to student engaged participatory learning, art skills development and creative process were not scored as strongly.
- Any residency with cultural themes needs to have meaningful cultural representation. It is important that cultural themes be presented in a safe, authentic and meaningful way.
- It is not recommended that applications rely heavily on cut and paste replicated information from the artist. Schools that made less effort to develop a unique tailored proposal specific to their school 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.
- When projects demonstrated that teachers were actively engaged in support of the project, the Expert Panellists then felt the teachers would be better equipped to further empower the students' artistic experience both during and after the residency.
- 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.