

**Artists and Education Funding Opportunity**  
**May 2, 2022 Deadline**  
**Expert Panel General Comments**

The following comments provide a summary of the panel's assessment and do not necessarily relate to every application submitted to this deadline. **The panel does not provide individual comments.** The panel felt the overall quality of the applications was high and appreciated the scope of arts activities proposed for residency projects in schools.

Panelists prioritized funding for projects where schools demonstrated:

- Activities acknowledged appropriate cultural representation;
- Programming was delivered by actively practicing artists, with demonstrated experience in arts delivery, rather than hobbyists or amateurs;
- The specific barriers to schools, i.e., access to arts opportunities, lack of arts specialists on staff, socioeconomic factors, and language barriers that make it difficult for their students to experience the arts outside of the residency project;
- The challenges facing students participating in the arts, i.e., lack of budget, limited arts specialists on staff;
- Projects left students and staff with skills and techniques that extend beyond the duration of the residency and which leave a greater lasting impact on students and the school community;
- Students were taught and involved in all aspects of the artistic and creative process;
- Proposals were tailored specifically to address the unique benefits to the individual school and its students; and,
- Projects did not favour facilitating artists' own work or artistic visions over student learning, skill development, or collaborative creative processes.

Future applicants can strengthen their submissions by:

- Demonstrating appropriate representation amongst residency leaders and instructors;
- Describing how they are engaging appropriate knowledge keepers and elders;
- Describing the school's population, demographics, and values;
- Describing the school's existing and/or specialized programming and its connections within its community;
- Indicating if they have worked with the proposed artist in the past;
- Providing specific bios on instructors who are leading the residency, so panelists can assess suitability for the proposed project;
- Ensuring proposals are clear, readable, and have been proofread to correct any typos, grammatical errors, and inconsistent formats; and,
- Writing a customized project description rather than relying on cut-and-paste information from the artist or organization leading the residency.