

Dance Individual Project Grant

March 1, 2019

General Expert Panel Comments

The comments made by the Expert Panel during its assessment of applications submitted to the March 1, 2019 Dance Individual Project Grant program are outlined below.

Please note, 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.

The Expert Panel was impressed by the overall quality of grant submissions.

Project Description

- 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 develops the applicant towards their stated training needs and career objectives.
- 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 or connect with an AFA dance consultant.
- The Expert Panel had difficulty assessing a small number of art creation applications where the project activity was vague, thin or confusing. There needed to be a very clear timeline with an end performance date (if applicable). It was important to address the clear outcomes of the project.
- A number applications lacked video and other support materials that would allow the Panel to better appreciate the 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.
- The Expert Panel found it helpful when applicants identified (highlighted) the choreographer and performer(s) in video support materials, particularly when footage included group pieces.

- The Expert Panel felt it was important see when/how the applicant would impact and enrich the Alberta arts community.
- The Expert Panel were more favourable to training and art production rather than competition entrance fees or sports-based activities. While the Expert Panel members recognize that training can take many forms such as workshops, competitions and conventions, they gave the highest marks to emerging artists that were enrolled in nationally (and internationally) recognized and accredited programs.

Budget

- The Expert Panel noted that it was important that project budgets:
 - Are as accurate and realistic as possible.
 - Appear in Canadian currency only throughout budget.
 - Provide clear accounting break down of all expenses.
 - Should not include extraneous expenses such as additional multiple return travel, parent travel, outings, lost wages, numerous costumes or supplies.
- 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, e.g. AB-CADA.

Support material

- Artist resume should provide clear explanation of an artist's experience.
- Project proposals are greatly strengthened when accompanied by strong reference letters that provide the expert panel with greater insight into the project's impact and value to either the applicant and/or the applicant's community.
- The Expert Panel recommends that applicants who apply for career training submit current video material, e.g. created within the past 12 months.
- Applicants for art production and creation should submit support material that most accurately demonstrates their ability to be successful and achieve the intended outcomes or artistic visions of their projects.

- 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.
- Proof of acceptance to an official training program or course of study. When acceptance has not yet been confirmed, applicants must provide alternate options for study.
- Expert Panel members liked it when the applicants stated “thank you for considering me” at the end.