

Dance Individual Project Grants
September 1, 2021
General Expert Panel Comments

Comments made by the Expert Panel during its assessment of applications submitted to the September 1, 2021 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 individual application submitted to this deadline. **The Expert Panel does not provide individual comments.**

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.
 - It was important to see the impact of how their project would affect them as an artist.
 - 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.
- A number of applications lacked video that would allow the Expert Panel to better appreciate the applicant's creative ability and provide them insight into proposed new work.
 - The Expert Panel encourages the use of video submission to both demonstrate the artist's ability and also as an opportunity for the applicant to introduce themselves, their goals and aspirations and how the project activities and objectives will help the applicant realize their artistic vision and professional aspirations.
- A well-written and concise grant proposal allows the Expert Panel to gain a full understanding of the nature of the project, the purpose and expected benefits and identifiable impact on the applicant and / or dance community.
 - Providing informative details about the applicant, their background and present situation and future goals, allows the Expert Panel to better understand the plan of action the applicant now wishes to pursue that would move the applicant towards fulfilling their stated goals.
- Some large scale art projects rely on a cross section of community resources such as unconfirmed funding from multiple sources. As part of their proposal, applicants may wish to provide a plan "B" on how the project may be realized should such funding or other resources not be forthcoming.
- It was helpful that projects took into consideration adaptive measures that may be required to address changing health and other restrictions.
- The Expert Panel appreciated when proposals from established artists contained artistic content and level of risk that demonstrated a notable departure from previous body of work.
- The Panel felt that creation projects that were significantly beyond the past experience of the applicant would benefit from utilizing "mentor" expertise.

- Training applicants should formulate a detailed project description of their chosen program of study.
 - A training program brochure from a third party (school) is not an appropriate substitute for a fully formulated training project description.
- Applicants are encouraged to have an objective third party proofread application content to ensure that it is concise and accurate.
- The Expert Panel encourages applicants to make use of writing tip sheet material available on the AFA web site. Applicants are encouraged to have an objective third party proofread application content to ensure that it is concise and accurate.

Budget:

The Expert Panel noted that it was important that project budgets:

- Are as accurate and realistic as possible;
- Provide clear accounting break down of all expenses associated with the project;
- Training – demonstrate some level of personal contribution or rationale for the absence of personal contribution;
- 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.

Support Material:

- Self-directed study 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 greatly appreciated polished high quality support material that allowed for a comprehensive assessment of an applicant's technical and artistic ability.
- 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.