

## **Dance Individual Project Grants**

**September 1, 2020**

### **General Expert Panel Comments**

Comments made by the Expert Panel during its assessment of applications submitted to the September 1, 2020 deadline are outlined below.

Please note, these comments provide an overview of the common issues noted by the Expert Panel and do not necessarily relate to every application submitted to this deadline.

**The Expert Panel does not provide individual comments for each application.**

#### **General Comments**

- The Expert Panel was impressed by the overall quality of grant submissions.
- 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 wishes to pursue that would move the applicant towards fulfilling their stated goals.
- Panelists wanted to see projects with a detailed clear timeline of their project. The Expert Panel had difficulty assessing a small number of project descriptions that lacked detail, were vague, or confusing.
- 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. If submitting a video for a ballet-training project, it is important to have contrasting solos to observe the dancer's ability to move in different forms, e.g. barre, centre, classical solo, or contemporary solo.
- The Expert Panel encourages applicants to make use of writing tip sheet material available on the AFA website. Applicants are encouraged to have an objective third party proofread application content to ensure that it is concise and accurate.

#### **Budgets**

- The Expert Panel noted that it was important that project budgets:
  - Are as accurate and realistic as possible;

- Provide clear accounting breakdown of all expenses associated with the project; and
- 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, e.g. CADA.

### **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 DVD/USB and other support material that allowed for a comprehensive assessment of an applicant's technical and artistic ability.
- Video material should be as up-to-date as possible showing the applicant as close to their current age and 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.
- When submitting an acceptance letter from the training school please make sure it is addressed to the applicant, not just a cut and paste format.