

Dance Individual Project Grant

September 3, 2019

General Expert Panel Comments

Comments made by the Expert Panel during its assessment of applications submitted to the September 3, 2019 Dance Individual Project Grant program are outlined below.

Please note: these comments provide a summary of the Expert Panel's assessment 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 number of applications may be unsuccessful as a result of a finite program budget relative to the high number of deserving submissions and not necessarily because of reasons listed in comments below.

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, relative to similar training programs, would further develop the applicant towards their stated training needs and career objectives. Project descriptions should provide specific details of courses or techniques or specializations of the program and timelines.
- A well-written and concise grant proposal allows the funding agency 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.
- The Expert Panel had difficulty assessing a small number of project descriptions that lacked detail, were vague or confusing. Applicants are encouraged to have an objective third party proofread application content to ensure that it is concise and accurate.

- A number of applications lacked video and other support materials that would allow the Panel to better appreciate the applicant's creative ability and provide them insight into proposed new work. A demonstration of past work and reviews of past productions were very helpful to the Panel.
- 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.
- The Expert Panel encourages applicants to make use of writing tip sheet material available on the AFA web site.

Budget

- 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;
 - 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 artist's fees calculated?
 - Should pay the applicant once and not compensate the applicant on multiple expense items, e.g. artist's fee and subsistence.
 - 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's fees established by the professional community, i.e. CADA.
 - Provides reasonable expense for material that reflects a mindfulness for the need to minimize the use of non-renewable resource based materials and that demonstrates and maximizes re-use, recycling and other environmental practices as much as possible.

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 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.
- In a small number of cases the DVD/USB material did not download or play properly. Applicants should use universal recording formats that are can easily be viewed from a DVD or USB drive or cloud download file without password protection or expiry limitations.
- 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.