

Dance Individual Project Grants
March 1, 2022
General Expert Panel Comments

Comments made by the Expert Panel during its assessment of applications submitted to the March 1, 2022 Dance Individual Project Grant program are outlined below. Please note that these comments provide a summary of the Expert Panel's assessment and do not necessarily relate to every unsuccessful application submitted to this deadline. **The Expert Panel does not provide individual comments.**

Project Description:

- The 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.
- A well-written and concise grant proposal allows the panel to gain a full understanding of the nature of the project, the purpose, 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 is helpful when projects take into consideration adaptive measures that may be required to address changing health, travel, and other restrictions.
- Training applicants are strongly encouraged to formulate a detailed project description of their chosen program of study.
 - An acceptance letter or training program brochure from a third party (school) is not an appropriate substitute for a fully formulated training project description.
- The 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.

Budget:

- The Expert Panel noted that it was important that project budgets:
 - Are as accurate and realistic as possible; the scope of the project should be accurately reflected in the expense and revenue details to allow the panel to understand how the project will be realized;

- Should provide a clear accounting breakdown of all expenses associated with the project;
 - Clarify substantial supportive expenses, such as dance apparel and childcare, with documentation;
 - Explain artists' remuneration and how artists' fees were calculated in the budget notes; and,
 - Clarify how participants volunteering their services are accounted for in the budget notes section.
- The panel looked favourably on projects where artists and major collaborators 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, ie: CADA.

Support Material:

- A number of applications lacked video that would allow the panel to better appreciate the applicant's creative ability and provide them insight into proposed new work.
 - The 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.
 - The 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.
- Self-directed study project proposals are greatly strengthened when accompanied by strong reference letters that provide the panel with greater insight into the project's impact and value to either the applicant and/or the applicant's community.
 - 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.