

Film and Video Arts Project Grant

September 1, 2020 deadline

General Expert Panel Comments

Comments made by the Expert Panel during the assessment of applications submitted to the September 1, 2020 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 application submitted to this deadline.

The Expert Panel does not provide individual comments.

Project Description

- The Panel valued those projects with a personal exploration of content that was original and stretched the applicant's creative abilities in terms of artistry and/or medium. It was refreshing to see experimentation and a departure from previous work.
- Applicants are encouraged to do their due diligence on subject matter and demonstrate a clear understanding of what they are writing about.
- Panelists appreciated project descriptions that were formatted with headings and outlined steps. Describe clearly and concisely what you want to do on the first page, e.g. five-minute, non-narrative, animated short, writing of first draft, post-production of a 30-minute narrative film, etc. Do not forget to proofread your application.
- It was helpful to the panelists when budget details were included in the project description.
- Descriptions that included pictures or images assisted the panelists in connecting with the project.
- Applicants should provide a clear understanding of how their project will advance their career and impact their artistic development.
- Watch the scope of your project and make sure it is not too large or includes too many elements for the budget.
- If you are an emerging artist, make sure you include experienced personnel on your project and explain what these artists will bring to the project. The Panel appreciated seeing letters of support from established artists or organizations.

Budget

- Add budget detail, especially for higher amounts. Reach out to suppliers and contractors for accurate rates.

- For emerging artists, connect with experienced artists when creating the budget to ensure realistic numbers. Be careful not to undervalue your project, and consider including a fee for mentorship.
- Be clear as to which phase the funding will be allotted and when the phase starts, e.g. pre-production, production, post-production.
- Break down all costs associated with the budget and use the comment boxes to provide detail. Clarify the number of units in the budget and what the units are, e.g. hours, days, weeks, months.
- If you are using different locations explain where you are shooting and, if applicable, the fee.

Support Material

- The Expert Panel found it difficult to assess the artistic ability and merit of an application without video support materials. Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide a downloadable link to some video support material or previous work including writing samples or other relevant material.
- If you have completed production on a project, and are applying for post-production funding, please include a downloadable link showing a sample of the footage shot.
- If you are requesting funds for a writing project, include evidence of past work and experience. This can include an outline, treatment, or previously written and produced scripts, e.g. include an early draft if you are asking for funds to complete the final draft.
- If your project involves the production of a film, applicants are encouraged to upload the entire script.