Film and Video Arts Individual Project Grants
March 1, 2022 Submissions
General Expert Panel Comments

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

Project Description:

- The panel appreciated artistic endeavours that experimented visually, expressed passion for the subject, and pushed artists out of their comfort zone.
- Applicants are reminded that due to the large number of applications received, their project description should be clearly organized, succinct, and no more than four pages to ensure it is concise and easily readable.
- The panel found a one to two sentence synopsis at the beginning of the project description very helpful as a summary of the project.
  - It is critical that applicants identify what they are asking for and what the proposed project is about, e.g. post-production, production animated short, feature length script.
- The panel encourages emerging filmmakers to learn the craft by acquiring training at an Alberta-based general film studies program or connect with media arts collectives like the Calgary Society of Independent Filmmakers (CSIF) or Film and Video Arts Society in Edmonton.
- It is recommended emerging writers engage a mentor or experienced story editor to assist in developing concept and shaping the script.
- There are always more worthy projects than there are available funds, so the panel encourages unsuccessful applicants to revise their applications and reapply.

Budget:

- Applicants should make sure the script or project is not too ambitious for the budget and timelines. If the project is too large, applicants should apply for funding in stages, i.e. pre-production, production, and post-production.
- Make sure budget line items include sufficient detail for the panel to understand the applicant has knowledge of what is involved.
- The panel found it helpful when applicants included the budget as part of the project description in addition to the GATE form.
- The project description and budget should support and complement each other.
  - Activities defined in the description should have a matching line item in the budget and vice versa.
- Applicants are encouraged to provide remuneration to professional collaborators participating in their project.

Support Material:

- The panel found it difficult to assess the artistic ability and merit of applications related to production without video support material.
    - Support material is vital to the panel understanding your capabilities. Please provide a downloadable link of current or past work in the application or in a separate e-mail as per the program guidelines.
- If you are requesting funds for a writing project, include a sample (no more than 15 pages) of past work or preliminary writing from the proposed project.
    - Because of the number of applications received, panels may find it difficult to read a full script. You will want to put your best foot forward and pick the best scenes.
- Applicants should include a storyboard, animatic, or specific planning document for animated projects to demonstrate they have thought through the storyline.
- It is advantageous to include support material relevant to the genre and media proposed in the application. For example, if you are seeking funds for a dramatic project it is helpful to supply a dramatic video sample than a short documentary sample.