

Literary Individual Project Grant

March 1, 2019

Expert Panel General Comments

The comments made by the Expert Panel during its assessment of applications submitted to the March 1, 2019 Literary Individual Project Grant program are outlined below.

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

Project Description

- The panel valued those projects with a strong artistic exploration of subject matter that was original, well-conceived and stretched the applicant's creative abilities.
- When writing from a different cultural perspective, applicants are encouraged to consider forming a partnership with a co-writer who will ensure an informed cultural voice is heard. Feel free to self-identify if relevant to your project.
- The panel appreciated descriptions that articulated the project concept and key relevant activities in a concise and genuine manner. Know what you want to do and what your goal is.
- The panel strongly recommends applicants attach their best work in progress from the submitted project, as well as a sample from previous, more polished work. Remember to not exceed the requested 15-page limit.
- Applicants are encouraged to explore routes to publication that offer invaluable editorial advice and suggestions that will improve craft in the long run.
- The panel was glad to see applicants had optimistic goals, but recommend these aspirations match the applicant's current development.
- If a project has been unsuccessful multiple times the panel encourages applicants to find a writing community, seek out mentors and attend workshops. One good mentor and one good workshop, with adequate time and space to write, is invaluable experience for learning.
- While projects do not have to include Alberta subject matter, the panel valued those projects that identified an Alberta connection.

- If you are involved in a multi-disciplinary project, make sure you describe clearly your role and any other principal artists involved in the project.

Budget

- If applying for funding for courses, residencies, or workshops please include proof of application and/or confirmation of acceptance.
- If travel expenses are included in your project, ensure that the travel is an essential part of your project.
- Please note, in Canada copyright costs do not need to be purchased because the writer automatically holds copyright.
- It is important to be specific about each budget line item and break down subsistence into amounts for housing, rent, food, child care, utilities, transportation and materials as opposed to providing a lump sum for monthly expenses .
- Use the comment boxes provided on the budget expense page in GATE to explain any expenses that are not readily understandable to a third party, e.g. rental of separate office space in addition to subsistence.
- If you apply for subsistence, e.g. rent or artists fees, please explain why you need living expenses to complete the project. Are you taking a leave of absence from your job, declining other income to work on your project, etc.?
- If you request funds for a residency along with general subsistence, make sure the two reflect the total number of months, e.g. one month for residency and eight months general subsistence for a total of nine months. This total should also match the timelines provided in the project description.
- Costs associated with printing and publishing, plus capital expenses like sound recording equipment, computers and software are not eligible.