

Literary Arts Individual Project Grants

September 1, 2020

General Expert Panel Comments

Comments made by the Expert Panel during its assessment of applications submitted to the September 1, 2020 deadline are outlined below.

Please note these comments provide an overview of the common issues noted by the Expert Panel 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 appreciated project descriptions that explained clearly and concisely the applicant's role, the project concept, objectives, key activities, timeline, and expected results. The budget should reflect expenditures outlined in the project description.
- Be realistic with the scope of your project and how much you can realistically achieve on a daily or monthly basis. Respect how much time a piece takes to write (i.e. word count per day or number of finished pieces you can realistically complete in a month).
- The panelists appreciated how many applicants' projects expanded our understanding of the narrative of Alberta's myths and culture by bringing those myths more in line with the complexity of Alberta's real stories.
 - For example, reminding readers of our Black history, the reality of Indigenous life, the role of women in the creation of Alberta, the hidden history of sexuality and the law in Alberta political life, and the surprising variations of political thought and action in this province.
 - Conversely, the panelists also appreciated the way in which many authors paid no attention to the above but had projects that were deeply rooted in the exploration of language, stories, and imagination.
- The Expert Panel was also very impressed with those writers who brought a sense of environmental urgency to their applications and their faith that literature could make a difference on a global level.
- The Panel appreciated the willingness of applicants to collaborate with editors and other artists particularly when they are shifting to a new genre. Learning a new art

form is never easy but being willing to work with a mentor or editor particularly during your first draft is highly advisable.

- Emerging writers are encouraged to take advantage of community writing courses, writing groups, writers-in-residence in libraries, schools, and universities.
 - Panelists noted there is also writing assistance available through writing organizations like the Writers’ Guild of Alberta, The Canadian Authors Association, The Writers’ Union of Canada, and the Alexandra Writers Centre Society.
 - Additionally, there are independently offered workshops in person and online. Another source of information is local independent bookstores.

Support Material

- Writers are encouraged to spend extra time with their 15-page writing sample to make sure it is the best draft it can be.
- Consider that every application received is in support of an excellent idea and is sincere, is appropriate, and is believed in by its author.
- It is the care that you give to the writing, as writing, and to the project, as an achievable piece of work, that will make the difference.