Literary Arts Individual Project Grants
September 1, 2022 Submissions
General Panel Comments

Comments made by the panel during the assessment of applications submitted to the September 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 application submitted to this deadline. **The panel does not provide individual comments.**

Project Description:

- The panel recognizes there were more worthy applications than may receive funds and would extend encouragement to unsuccessful applicants to apply again.
- The panel found it helpful when a project description began with a clear and concise opening summary of the project, e.g. "I am applying for subsistence funds for 12 months to finish the first draft of a novel."
- The project description should be no longer than two to three pages. Applicants are encouraged to include a brief summary of the storyline or proposed work, and focus the rest of the project description on objectives, proposed activities with timelines, and expected results and benefits.
- Project timelines should be practical. Provide the panel a timeline breakdown outlining how much work can realistically be undertaken on a daily or monthly basis.
- The panel appreciated applications that stretched the artistic boundaries of the artist either by writing in a different genre or with a project that marked a shift in the artist's process, complete with details outlining the impact the project will have on applicant's career.
- The panel appreciated projects that provided an explanation on how proposed activity would not only benefit the applicant's own practice but would also simultaneously strengthen the artist's connection to Alberta's literary community.
- Writing samples should be of an appropriate length respecting the 15 page limit. In some instances "less is more" in terms of generating a positive reader impact.
- Projects that include travel, particularly extended stay and multiple destinations, would be further strengthened with a strong rationale for such activities and expenses elaborating on how travel is a critical component in the realization of project goals.
- Projects that included the contracting of an editor should provide the name of the individual complete with literary credentials.
- Editing fees should be clear and reflect industry standards.
- Publishing contracts should include publisher's name, publishing date and information from the publisher confirming their commitment to the work and substantiating all contractual details.
- Applicants should consider the rationale of including marketing activities and expenses for a book that is not yet written. The panel was not clear on the need of marketing at this stage of the works development.

- Career development projects should provide confirmation of acceptance in a workshop or course and, if applicable, letter from mentor confirming planned activity and commitment to applicant's development.
- Projects that addressed diversity, inclusion, socio-demographic and historically marginalized or underserved communities, etc. should provide details on the process of engagement.
- Projects that include indigenous themes, stories or history should provide information and confirmation from the indigenous community, elders and knowledge keepers demonstrating community input on the appropriateness of the project and how best to approach the project in a culturally respectful manner.

Budget
- Subsistence should reflect basic necessities, such as rent, food, transportation and daycare, etc. Expenses outside basic necessities should not be included unless the applicant can make a compelling rationale that explains how and why other "living" expenses are necessary or pertinent to their specific project, e.g. gym membership, literary subscription.
- It is highly recommended to make use of the budget notes box to provide the panel a clear understanding of project expense and revenue line items.