

Literary Individual Project Grant September 1, 2021 General Expert Panel Comments

Comments made by the Expert Panel during its assessment of applications submitted to the September 1, 2021 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 individual application submitted to this deadline. **The Expert Panel does not provide individual comments.**

Project Description:

- Projects that were specific and well-conceived, with a clear direction, were supported. The panel can tell if a project description was thrown together quickly. As stated in the guidelines applicants are reminded that they are required to submit a detailed project description that includes:
 - brief summary or synopsis of the proposed work
 - objectives
 - proposed activities with timelines
 - expected results and benefits
- Applicants are encouraged to focus on the details of their project and avoid digressions.
- Applicants are encouraged to give their project a title, even if it is a working title.
 - Labeling the project a generic name such as “Novel Project”, “Poetry Project,” or “Work in Progress” does not immediately identify the project for the panel.
- Look at your timeline carefully and be practical with how much time a piece takes to write, and how much you can realistically achieve on a daily or monthly basis.
- When writing from a different cultural perspective and engaging additional consultation, applicants are encouraged to include the actual name of the consultant and not refer to a generic resource. Make sure payment is included in the budget for all services.
- If your project includes writing a collection of short stories, it is important to include an outline of the concept and individual story themes.

Budget:

- Do not include a one lump sum for basic living/subsistence expenses.
 - Assign a monthly cost for housing (rent or mortgage), food, local transportation, and child care (dependent care).
- Panelists appreciated those projects where the majority of costs were directed toward the artist's development rather than for services like extensive editing.

Support Material:

- Attachments should be named “Surname_First Name_attachment type.pdf” (Smith_John_ProjectDescription.pdf).
- When embarking on a new genre, it is important to include a writing sample that is relevant to the proposed work, even if it is a preliminary draft.
 - It is difficult for a panel to effectively assess a novel project if the writing sample is a play.