

Theatre Project Grant September, 2018 General Expert Panel Comments

Comments made by the expert panel during its assessment of applications submitted to the September 2018 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 unsuccessful application submitted to this deadline. The expert panel does not provide individual comments.

The Expert Panel gave priority to applications that had a unique artistic vision that clearly stood out. The Expert Panel looked for applications that displayed excellence.

Applicants should not assume that panel members know them or their work. A context should be provided that allows the expert panel to see how the proposed works fits into their practice and growth as artists.

The expert panel were particularly supportive of projects where applicants demonstrated a real passion for their proposal along with realistic timelines, accurate detailed budgets, and indications of community support.

If the proposed work is not "traditional", panel found it helpful when applicants supplied support material that helped illustrate their process and artistic vision. Video and script samples were helpful.

The Expert Panel was pleased to see and support applications from diverse and under-represented artistic voices. They also supported activities targeted at underserved and diverse audiences.

Expert panel gave priorities to projects that had a relatively high community impact.

The Expert Panel were excited by new creations and non-traditional practices. Priority was given to projects that were exciting, risky and new.

There were many exciting ideas that the panel were unable to support as key details were missing (such as process and timelines), budgets that were vague or did not make sense with respect to the project.

The Expert Panel recommend that applicants avail themselves of the grant writing resources available on the AFA website and through the consultants.

Professional Development

Expert panel supported applicants that were able to demonstrate clearly how the proposed training fit within their artistic practice, and how and why this training would further their artistic practice.

Expert panel gave priority to professional development applicants where there was a clear indication of ties to Alberta and that the knowledge would be brought back to be shared.

Budgets

Expert Panel recommend following Equity salary recommendations.

Budgets should tie to project descriptions.

Expert panel appreciated when applicants demonstrated commitment to their own projects by fundraising, obtaining support in kind or finding other revenue sources rather than asking AFA to foot the entire project cost.

There is no need for large contingencies when budgets have been well thought out and researched.

Expert Panel members appreciate when budget “units” are explained eg: people, hours, weeks.