

## Theatre Project Grant

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 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.**

#### General Comments

- The Expert Panel gave priority to applications that articulated a unique artistic vision that clearly stood out. It was beneficial when the individuals would present their own personal artistic voice.
- The Expert Panel wanted to see innovative ways for theatre to survive during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as the use of technology in new ways rather than waiting for the pandemic to end.
- The Panel would have liked to see more expenses dedicated to adjusting to, and finding solutions for, pandemic-related public health restrictions.
- The panelists were impressed with those applicants that had detailed COVID-19 public health-related safety planning to show how they were keeping cast, crew and audiences safe during the pandemic.
- With the COVID-19 pandemic in mind, the Expert Panel was concerned with applications that had no contingency plans if live theatre is still not viable during their proposed dates; e.g. what if Fringe does not happen?; what if the venue they propose is still closed?; what is Plan B?
- The Expert Panel was very supportive of original projects or works from Alberta artists.
- The Expert Panel was pleased to see many emerging artists had good support from senior artists within the community.
- The strength of the artistic team was important for the Expert Panel, not just the lead applicant.
- The Panel appreciated applications which clearly articulated which portion of their AFA funds were going to specifically support, e.g; this is to support the workshop portion only.

- There were many exciting ideas the Panel was unable to support as key details were missing. There needs to be a clear, concise project description.
- The Expert Panel was particularly supportive of projects where applicants demonstrated a real passion for their proposal along with realistic timelines, accurate detailed budgets, specific venues and indications of community support.
- The Expert Panel appreciated it when artists provided information in the project name to indicate what the project was about, e.g. “Rehearsal and production of My New Play” vs “My New Play”.
- It was appreciated when artists provided a PDF of their project description vs using Word as then formatting is not lost.
- The Expert Panel appreciated the diversity of social issues the projects tackled.

### **Professional Development**

- The Expert Panel supported applicants who able to demonstrate clearly how the proposed training fit within their artistic practice and how and why this specific training would further their practice. The panelists appreciated those who had thoroughly researched programs that were a “good fit” for their talents and articulated long term goals.
- The 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**

- Compensation rates for artists need to be a living wage.
- Budgets should be reflective of the project descriptions. Artists may want to ensure all production elements are accounted for in their budgets.
- The Panel appreciated it when applicants demonstrated confirmed additional revenue sources when applicable.
- The Expert Panel appreciated when applicants showed diverse revenue sources.
- Panelists appreciated it when budget “units” are explained e.g., people, hours, or weeks.
- The Expert Panel suggests artists check the guidelines to ensure all expenses listed are eligible. Ineligible items included capital expenses and taxes.