

Dance Individual Project Grants
March 1, 2021
General Expert Panel Comments

Comments made by the Expert Panel during its assessment of applications submitted to the March 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:

- The Expert Panel appreciated personal statements, in the applicant's own personal voice, articulating why this project is important to the applicant's development and artistic vision. It was important to see the impact of how their project would affect them as an artist.
- In particular, a clear personal statement from training applicants, accompanied by a well-articulated rationale for the choice of study program or workshop and its personal benefits was looked upon favourably.
- The Expert Panelists welcomed when projects addressed alternate plans that would take into account creating and/or participating in their project during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- A well-written and concise grant proposal allows the Expert Panel to gain a full understanding of the nature of the project, the purpose, and expected benefits and impact on the applicant and/or dance community.
- Providing informative details about the applicant, their background, present situation and future goals allows the Expert Panel to better understand the plan of action the applicant intends to pursue that would move the applicant towards fulfilling their stated goals.
- The Expert Panel wanted to see projects with a detailed, clear and specific timeline. It is important for applicants to break down each step in their timeline. The Expert Panel had difficulty assessing project descriptions that lacked detail, or were vague or confusing in their timelines.
- The Expert Panel encourages applicants to make use of writing tip sheet material available on the AFA website. Applicants are encouraged to have an objective third party proofread application content to ensure that it is concise and accurate.

Budget:

- The Expert Panel noted that it was important that project budgets:
 - Are as accurate and realistic as possible;
 - Provide a clear accounting breakdown of all expenses associated with the project;
 - Demonstrate some level of personal contribution or rationale for the absence of personal contribution; and
 - Detail dancer or artist remuneration in the budget breakdown or budget note, i.e. "How were artists fees calculated?"
- The panel looked favourably on projects where artists were properly remunerated, both in the context of industry standards, as well as the context of the project as a whole. Creation

and production projects are encouraged to follow artist fees established by the professional community, i.e. the Canadian Alliance of Dance Artists (CADA).

Support Material:

- A number of applications lacked video that would have allowed the Expert Panel to better appreciate the applicant's creative ability and gain insight into the proposed new work.
- Video support material should highlight the artist's strength while supporting the proposed project. If submitting a video for a ballet-training project, it is important to observe the dancer's ability to move in different forms.
- Project proposals are greatly strengthened when accompanied by strong reference letters that provide the expert panel with greater insight into the project's impact and value to either the applicant and/or the applicant's community.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to include current specific letters of reference from teachers, mentors or colleagues. Letters of support should speak to the applicant and the project itself, and provide specific reference to the project and its expected outcomes.
- The Expert Panel greatly appreciated polished high quality videos and other support material that allowed for a comprehensive assessment of an applicant's technical and artistic ability.
- Applicants should submit one video file up to 5 minutes that demonstrates and articulates the project application.
- Training applications should include a proof of registration and/or an acceptance letter formally addressed to the applicant from the specific training program, when applicable.