

THEATRE PANEL

Arts Projects for Individuals and Groups

The most competitive applications

- allowed the voice of the artist to come through
- were written in first person, in plain English
- set out the artistic narrative and rationale for the project
- were for artistic projects rather than study or training at institutions: applications for study or training are better suited to Career Development Grants
- clearly defined the project's context, audience and community
- for projects that were personal in nature, explained the urgency and contemporary relevance of the work
- has strong supporting relationships with presentation partners
- had in-kind development support, co-funding or local community support
- chose and addressed the elective third assessment criterion carefully and convincingly - if you are not sure which criterion to select, speak to a grants officer
- had relevant, well curated and well collated artistic support material
- had working weblinks
- broke down large items in the budget, using the notes section to add more detail.

Arts Projects for Organisations

The most competitive applications:

- convincingly demonstrated the ambition and scope of the project
- had clear objectives
- were well planned
- engaged in supportive partnerships
- had a realistic and achievable project timeline
- convincingly argued that the project would have a significant impact.

The assessment panel offered the following advice to future applicants:

- Ask for the funding that you need to undertake the project.
- Ensure that artists are properly remunerated.
- Include all the costs for the activities you wish to undertake, whether these are in-kind contributions or cash.
- If your project includes multiple stages, set these out clearly, and show which stage(s) the funding will cover.
- For projects engaging young people or communities, describe the available pathways into the project, and what happens for those young people or communities after the project is complete.
- If you are engaging with diverse communities and artists, ensure that they are embedded within the creative teams.

Career Development Grants

The most competitive applications:

- were logical, well written and well planned
- explained the impact that the proposed activities would have on the applicant's career
- provided evidence of the applicant's career to date, including their body of work
- acknowledged specific gaps in their practice and explained how the activity would address those gaps
- where the application involved a residency, linked the activities to be undertaken at that residency to the applicant's career trajectory.