

# VISUAL ARTS PANEL

## Arts Projects for Individuals and Groups

The assessment panel noted that this was a strong round with compelling projects from a diverse range of artists.

The most competitive applications

- were written in clear, simple language
- described what the applicant wanted to do, why they wanted to do it, and why they wanted to do it now
- clearly explained the artistic rationale
- outlined the key outcomes intended for the project
- where possible, presented assessors with an idea of what the work might look like
- introduced the applicant, their practice and their career trajectory without assuming the assessors knew of them and their work
- included letters of support which spoke directly to the value and benefits of the project
- provided a clear and detailed budget which included artist fees.

The assessment panel gave the following advice to future applicants

- Communicate clearly, avoiding jargon or academic language.
- Provide support material that is relevant to the proposed activity. Consider including drawings, sketches, plans or image boards of what you are planning to make.
- Consider scaling your artistic support material down so that it is relevant and targeted.
- If your project involves international activity, provide reasons for going overseas. For example, is it because the activity cannot be undertaken locally?
- Choose your elective third assessment criterion carefully. The 'Creation' criterion should not be the default for this grant category.
- If you are a curator, provide information about the artists you are engaging in your project. Include examples of their work. Be clear about the respective roles of curators and artists in the project, particularly if you are seeking support for group shows.
- Show your workings rates for artists fees – it is vital that artists and collaborators are paid.
- Break down items in your budget. Avoid lump sum figures.
- If your project centres around a publication or journal, please include your distribution and marketing strategy. Justify significant printing costs. For example, if you are printing a glossy catalogue rather than a normal print catalogue, explain why.
- If you are proposing to work with First Nations or other communities and artists, it is important to provide clear plans of engagement as well as relevant and appropriate letters of support. Assessors also wanted to see evidence of genuine community consultation, particularly in those applications proposing to work with bushfire affected communities.

Other observations

- Assessors were pleased to see strong applications from first time applicants in this round.

- The assessors commended applications where artists and collaborators presented a clear, honest and impassioned account of what they wished to do.
- Assessors would have liked to have seen a greater representation of applications from the craft and design sectors.

## **Arts Projects for Organisations**

The assessors considered this to be a strong round. They acknowledged the wide diversity of projects which included international activity, artist-run initiatives, touring, public art, arts writing, ceramics and First Nations art.

The most competitive applications

- convincingly and rigorously demonstrated the impact that the project would have
- where First Nations communities or artists were involved, evidenced best practice through engagement and consultation
- provided strong support letters from partners that explained why, and how, they were supporting the activity
- were original and innovative.

The assessors had the following advice for future applicants:

- Always address the assessment criteria, even if your application has a strong commercial focus.
- Projects asking for significant funds should seek diverse funding and show evidence of it in the income section of the budget.
- Ensure the artistic work you provide is of high quality and relevant to the objective of the application.
- Where you have invested in a curatorial process, explain why you consider that this will improve the quality of work.
- If the application is for an individual artist, consider that the artist could apply to Arts Projects for Individuals and Groups.

## **Career Development for Individuals and Groups**

The assessment panel were impressed by the number of ceramics-based activities in the round. They also noted the number of projects that focused on the environment. Many applications were cross-artform. Established, mid-career and emerging artists were all represented.

The assessment panel offered the following advice for future applicants:

- If applying for a residency, explain the significance of the residency to your practice.
- Ensure your budget is realistic. Where relevant, give details of your own financial or in-kind contribution to the project.
- Some applications would have been better suited to Arts Projects for Individuals and Groups than this category, as they were for projects rather than for career development. Speak to a grants officer to determine the best category for your application.

- If you are applying for funding for study, explain the impact that you expect the opportunity will have on your practice and career trajectory.
- Explain how your proposed activity will extend or expand your practice.
- Where your proposal involves a mentor or a residency, attach a letter from the mentor or residency to your application confirming their involvement.