

Grantwriting Workshops Fall 2015: Common Questions and Answers

One of the great things about the workshops was being in the room with so many wonderful artists. Below are just some of the questions that came up during the sessions. They might answer some situations/concerns that aren't covered directly in the presentation materials. – June Park, Project Manager

If I'm applying for a grant that includes "cost of living" expenses, how do I calculate the amount to ask for?

As this is a general interdisciplinary workshop, we aren't able to suggest a set amount. If it's not in the application guidelines or the website, call the Program Officer/grant liaison and ask. If not, create reasonable amounts keeping in mind the budgetary restrictions of the funding bodies themselves. Looking up government cost of living charts is a good place to start.

Can I include child care expenses when asking for "cost of living" amounts?

In general no; however, again please get in touch with the appropriate contact person and ask. Some particular grants may take this into consideration.

I'm an emerging artist and don't have much in way of a portfolio. How do I apply for a grant?

The grant application guidelines should give clear eligibility requirements. The Canada Council for the Arts, CALQ and CAM all have their own specifications about what these entail. All funding bodies realize that artists all have a starting point. What will matter is evidence of your commitment, dedication, and the time you've put into the realization of your project and your development as an artist.

I'm older. I have come to my artistic practice late in life and don't have a very big portfolio/experience/publications etc. Do I have a chance at getting a grant?

Please see the response for emerging artists. You can also include a very brief explanation of what you did, if there is a break in your artistic pursuits, or if you are starting at a later point in life.

What if I receive a grant and then find that I am unable to complete the project. Do I have to give back the money?

If there are any changes to your project or its execution, you will need to notify the Program Office or grant liaison immediately. They will tell you if paying back the money is necessary, whether or not the work can be completed at a future date, or if any other adjustments can be made.

I have some great comments from people who are excited about my work. Can I include them in my application?

Only include in an application, things that the form allows for. Reviews, letters of support etc. can often be incorporated, but make sure they are accepted. If there is no checklist that includes the items that you think might make a difference in your application, call the Program Officer to see if its possible to include. If not, and you feel the comment is essential, you can try to incorporate it into your Project Description.

We acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, which last year invested \$153 million to bring the arts to Canadians throughout the country.

Nous remercions le Conseil des arts du Canada de son soutien. L'an dernier, le Conseil a investi 153 millions de dollars pour mettre de l'art dans la vie des Canadiennes et des Canadiens de tout le pays.