

Commercial Theatre Development Fund

The Commercial Theatre Development Fund (CTDF) is funded through the Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT), an agency of the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI) and administered by the Toronto Alliance of the Performing Arts (TAPA) and MHSTCI.

OBJECTIVES

- To assist the Ontario commercial theatre sector by supporting Ontario-based Producers who seek to produce mid-sized to large-scale Workshops that will have a high likelihood of concluding in a Commercial Presentation in Ontario;
- To assist Producers with their Workshops that are chosen on the basis of their profit-making potential;
- To encourage mid-sized to large scale Ontario-based Workshops of at least one full professional equity work week in duration, with a requirement for the work to be majority original Canadian created content, and a particular emphasis on development initiatives within Ontario outside of Toronto; and
- To assist theatre arts workers who are residents in Ontario and who can be employed as the Commercial Production company.

Complete Eligibility Criteria & Requirements

I. Applicant Eligibility Criteria and Requirements

(1) Must be Canadian or Permanent Resident Status

An eligible applicant must at all material times be:

- a) In the case of an individual: a Canadian citizen or permanent resident; and
- b) In all other cases: a "Canadian-controlled entity" within the meaning of sections 26 to 28 of the Investment Canada Act.

(2) Must be Situated in Ontario

The base of operations and production control for both the eligible applicant and all persons who directly or indirectly control the applicant must be situated in Ontario.

TAPA shall consider, without limitation, such factors as the residency of the Board of Directors and officers of the applicant and the residency of the "mind and management" of the applicant, in determining the location of the bases of operations and production control.

(3) **Must be in the Theatre Production Business**

The principal business of the applicant must be in the production of works for commercial theatre unless TAPA determines that an applicant, who does not satisfy this criterion, fulfills all other criteria required hereunder and has the necessary skills to mount a commercial theatre production.

Non-profit companies in partnership with commercial theatre producers are eligible to apply but may not use any of their government project-based or otherwise dedicated or restricted funding towards the Workshop budget.

II. **Workshop Project Eligibility Criteria and Requirements**

(1) **Demonstrates Commercially Viability**

Project proposal demonstrates commercial viability, including how the Workshop will meaningfully advance development towards a Commercial Production within 2 years

(2) **Private Investment**

The Producer demonstrate that they have secured private investment for a minimum of 50 per cent of the cash costs of the Workshop (in-kind contributions are not applicable). The Producer may not be seeking or relying upon any project-based or otherwise dedicated or restricted funding support from any government or quasi-governmental arts funding body. (private donations or capitalization accepted)

(3) **Scripting and Venue Characteristics**

An eligible Workshop must be "scripted" in that the stage manager has a house book or "script" to follow. Dance productions with set choreography, and musicals with house books are considered scripted; standup comics, dance improvisation, etc. are not considered eligible. Such scripted Workshop must be workshopped in a space of which the primary business is theatrical rehearsal or presentation, however, where TAPA so determines, a scripted project such as a cabaret performance with theatrical potential may be eligible.

(4) **Creative Participants**

Workshop must include the participation of a writer (or team of writers/composers), a director, actors, stage management as well as other possible participants including a music supervisor, music director, choreographer, dramaturg, designers and/or musicians.

(5) **Workshop Budget Ceiling**

Total cash budget for the Workshop shall not exceed One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000).

(6) **Must not have Excessive Financial Participation by a Non-Canadian**

A non-Canadian entity or person (and/or any related, associated or affiliated entity) may not provide greater than forty-nine percent (49%) of the production financing/final costs (i.e. via license fees, distribution advances, goods and services, equity investment, etc.) and/or of the interim financing for the eligible production (e.g. loans) unless TAPA determines such funding

would be beneficial to Canadian theatre and Canadian theatre actors and arts workers. Interim financing provided by an arms-length entity in the business of lending money and taking security therefore is permitted.

(7) **Must provide Employment Opportunities**

Theatre actors and arts workers resident in Ontario must comprise fifty percent (50%) or more of the Workshop's cast and creative/production company. However, preference will be given where theatre actors and arts workers resident in Ontario comprise seventy-five percent (75%) or more of the Workshop's cast and creative/production company.

(8) **Chain of Title**

The Producer must provide Licensing/Rights Agreement for the Play/Musical and any associated underlying rights.

III. **Workshop Project Eligible Expenses**

The CTDF is designed to assist Producers in defraying the full expense of mid-sized to large-scale Workshops.

Ineligible workshop expenses incurred directly in connection with the Workshop shall include, but are not limited to:

- direct or indirect payments to Producers or investors in a Workshop are not considered eligible expenses
- commission fees for writers/composers/orchestrators/arrangers
- preparation fees for directors/choreographers

Eligible workshop expenses incurred directly in connection with the Workshop shall include, but are not limited to:

- fees for artists during the scheduled workshop period including but not limited to - playwright, composer/lyricist, director, music director, music supervisor, choreographer, dramaturg, actors, musicians, designers, stage management, company management, etc.;
- rental of the rehearsal venue;
- miscellaneous production costs not to exceed 5% of the Workshop budget
- miscellaneous administrative costs not to exceed 5% of the Workshop budget
- accessibility support costs not to exceed 10% of the Workshop budget
- travel expenses not to exceed 10% of the Workshop budget
- General Management not to exceed 10% of the Workshop budget

On approval and signing of the contract, the applicant will receive 90% of payment, with 10% held back until after the completion of the Workshop.

TAPA is contractually entitled to request documents, invoices or other proof that the payments have been used only for eligible expenses as listed above.

If the Workshop is not produced, all CTDF support to the Workshop must be repaid to the CTDF by the Producers or by other investors in the Workshop or both.