

INTERCULTURAL CONVERSATIONS

BACKGROUND

The Cole Foundation is a private family foundation based in Montreal. It has two main programs: the Intercultural Conversations–Conversations Interculturelles program and a program supporting research and childcare in pediatric and young adult leukemia and lymphoma.

Montreal is a multicultural city, open to the world, welcoming people of all ethnic origins and religions. The Cole Foundation wants to encourage theatre companies, playwrights, and Montreal theatregoers to have a greater awareness of the voices and stories from and about Montreal's diverse cultures/communities and believes that dialogue leads to better understanding, appreciation, and a greater social harmony amongst the cultural communities. The challenge is to encourage this intercultural conversation.

In 2009 The Cole Foundation initiated the Intercultural Conversations-Conversations Interculturelles program to stimulate the production of theatrical events featuring intercultural dialogue, as a way of introducing Montrealers to other cultural heritages, social realities, and religions. This program also highlights diversity in the theatrical production, creation and translation process, with a goal of supporting theatre companies in their mission to create and present high quality intercultural stories.

THE PROGRAM

The goal of this program is to encourage theatre companies to present existing works and create new ones about racial and/or ethnic diversity.

Applications will be accepted in **the Fall** and **the Spring** (see details below – Deadlines) for theatre productions that take place on or after June 15th, 2023, and for presentations in the 2024-25 seasons. Companies may apply for more than one grant. The Cole Foundation grants are given to support expenses incurred for all aspects of the production of the play, such as readings, additional rehearsals, and most importantly, educational, or informative activities surrounding the performances to engage the audience in dialogue about the issues that the play raises. Funds available are not meant to replace the current federal, provincial, or municipal funding, private fund raising, nor box office revenues. The Cole Foundation is not an arts council, and does not give operations grants. The awards are project-specific, and are adjudicated by a jury who is asked to consider the nature and strength of the inter-cultural content in the play as well as the quality of the production process and values.

Grants will be awarded to professional theatre companies and through them to playwrights and translators with whom they have entered a contract for the commissioning, translation and/or performance of the original script. The financial assistance granted is not allocated for an advance or compensation in respect of royalties or residual rights. Rights to the final product remain the property of the author.

The grant categories are as follows:

Production grants:

- Amounts up to \$25,000, but not exceeding 25% of budget
- Applications must include the full script
- For companies that work in a collective creation format, the creation and production aspects can be combined in a production grant
- Payment structure: 90% at the beginning of rehearsal and balance (10%) after the show closes and upon reception of the artistic and financial report

Talk-Back grants:

- Up to \$150 per show, to compensate artists, theatre management or hired facilitators who animate the discussion with the audience
- There is no limit on the number of Talk Backs to be funded
- Theatre performances for young audiences (AYA) are not eligible as Talk Backs are integral parts of the performance
- Payments for Talk Backs will be included in the final payment, after reception of the final artistic and financial report

Commissioning grants:

- Amounts up to \$10,000
- For playwrights to write original scripts
- Companies may include workshop readings as part of the commissioning
- Payment structure: 50% at the start of writing process, 25% upon acceptance of the first draft, and 25% on Opening night

Translation grants:

- Amounts up to \$10,000
- For the translation of original plays into French and/or English
- Companies may include workshop readings as part of the translation
- Payment structure: 50% at the start of writing process, 25% upon acceptance of the first draft, and 25% on Opening night

Note that companies may submit applications for either or both deadlines each year.

A credit of the Cole Foundation's contribution to the project must appear in printed programs, publications, broadcasts and in any other media disseminating the work. For commissions and translations, this credit is to appear in perpetuity.

If a substantial change is made to the project, the budget, or to its work schedule, the Cole Foundation must be immediately contacted to make the appropriate arrangements. Should the artist/theatre company fail to comply with this condition, the Cole Foundation reserves the right to withhold final payment or to demand repayment of the grant

THE JURY

Theatre/arts professionals and members of the artistic community will be on the jury that assesses all applications.

DEADLINES

Deadline 1: Friday March 31st, 2023, at 5:00pm. Cole Foundation Board decisions will be announced in late June 2023.

Deadline 2: Friday, September 29th, 2023, at 5:00pm. Cole Foundation Board decisions will be announced in December 2023.

ELIGIBILITY

Theatre companies must be recognized as 'professional'. The artists are paid for their services, the companies have a history of past performances, and the standard of performance is recognized by theatre community peers. Theatre companies that cater to young audiences and/or adult audiences are equally eligible. Young audiences are to be students in at least primary school who will be able to appreciate the intercultural issues contained in the plays.

The program is reserved for theatre companies based in Greater Montreal, including the off-island suburbs. Applications from Montreal-based companies wishing to co-produce with companies outside Montreal are eligible. While some companies may tour, there must be performances in Montreal of the production granted financial assistance. Final payment of grants will not take place until after the date of the Montreal performances and the artistic and financial reports have been received.

All plays must be written, translated, and produced primarily in either the French or English language.

Special notes regarding Translations: Translators must have already published at least one translation of a literary work from the language of the work under application. A letter confirming the author's permission to translate his work must be submitted with the application.

The work to be translated must have already been written or published. Productions of Quebecois plays translated for an Anglophone audience and productions of English Canadian plays translated for a francophone audience are eligible for grants. The plays must show a dimension of the culture (historical or social, for example) that is unique to it and which will in turn broaden the perspective of the audience.

All theatre companies must be not-for-profit and be able to provide a tax receipt for the funds received. If a company does not have charitable status, the Conseil des arts de Montréal offers a program that may facilitate this support. To apply, we refer you to the information that can be found on their website: <https://artsmontreal.org/fr/programmes/parrainage-fiscal>

As an alternative, some larger companies have already mentored young companies and have been able to process grants received through their accounting system. Such agreements between companies must be supported by an explanatory letter attached to the grant application.

Applications will not be considered from companies which have received grants in the past, have completed their project, but who have not yet sent in their final artistic and financial report.

HOW TO APPLY

Please complete the “Application for Funding” document. Follow instructions for submission. These documents are available on our website. (www.colefoundation.ca)