



How to Submit Your Application for the Cole Foundation's Intercultural Conversations Program – Spring 2026 Intake

An original theatre project to encourage dialogue between the various cultures in Montreal and beyond (religious, ethnic, race) to be performed in the greater Montreal area.

Step-by-Step Guide for Theatre Companies

Application Deadline (for the online application form):

Friday, March 20th, at 5:00 PM

What You Must Submit

Your application must include:

1. Online Application Form

[Submit it here](#) (the deadline for this online form is March 20th; and the deadline for the inclusion of the digital uploads (explanation to follow) is noon on March 23rd). Please include your usual email address as well as an email address associated with a Google account so that we can share the drive link with you.

2. Upload your files to your assigned Google Drive folder when prompted to do so by Katie John kjohn@colefoundation.ca (see below – this needs to be done by March 23).

Digital File Upload Instructions

Once you've [completed the application form in Google Forms](#), Katie will send you a personalized folder link. This folder will be named with your company and project name and will be accessible only to you (hidden from other applicants).



36. Le Théâtre des Merveilles_Une pièce qui changera tout



35. Theatre of Dreams_Play of Wonders

What You Need to Do

Once you receive your Google Drive folder link, you must upload your materials to your private Google Drive folder as **four separate PDF files**, using the **exact file names** listed below. This step is mandatory in order for your application to be considered.



01_ApplicationForm.pdf 



02_Budget.pdf 



03_Script.pdf 



04_SupportingDocs.pdf 

Required File Names (Exactly as written)

01_ApplicationForm.pdf
02_Budget.pdf
03_Script.pdf
04_SupportingDocs.pdf

Important:

- Do **not** alter the format of the file names in any way.
- Do **not** add extra characters, spaces, or change the file extensions.
- Upload exactly **four** PDF files — no additional files or alternate formats are acceptable.

File Descriptions

01_ApplicationForm.pdf

A PDF version of your completed [Google Form submission](#). If you log into your Google account while completing the form (recommended), you can save your progress. Then, print and save as PDF before renaming. This process has been tricky for some past applicants, so if you're having trouble generating a PDF of your form, it's ok – just email kjohn@colefoundation.ca and Katie can do this for you.

02_Budget.pdf

Your project's projected revenues and expenses.

Use your own format or refer to the [CALQ budget sample found here](#).

03_Script.pdf

*Required for Production grants.

If no script is available:

- Upload a PDF containing a brief explanatory note (e.g., “No script.” plus an explanation)
- For Commission or Translation grants, include a synopsis, outline, and samples of the author and/or translator’s past work in this section (and still name the file as shown: **03_Script.pdf**).
- Additionally, you can include links to videos, if available.

04_SupportingDocs.pdf

- Biographies of key participants
- Contracts with playwright or translator
- Press kit (if available)

Final Reminders

- Upload exactly **four** PDF files
- Use **only** the file names listed above
- Submit your [Google Form](#) by **Friday, March 20th, 2026, at 5:00 PM**
- Upload your files to your assigned drive folder (once given) **no later than March 23rd at noon**
- **Incorrectly named or incomplete submissions will not be considered**

For help:

 kjohn@colefoundation.ca |  (514) 409-8125

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.

The Intercultural Conversations program is committed to celebrating the vibrant, multi-cultural mosaic of Montreal, Quebec, and the rest of the world by supporting professional theatre that does more than simply showcase diverse voices. **We seek projects that bring those voices into meaningful exchange — where different cultural perspectives meet, interact, and even confront one another. The strongest works in this program are those that reveal points of connection and points of tension, fostering true *intercultural* dialogue that can challenge audiences, spark reflection, and encourage empathy.**

The Foundation will contribute financially to the production, creation, and translation of such plays. This program is juried by bilingual theatre professionals. Among the criteria are the quality of the play, the depth and significance of the intercultural themes raised in the script, and the **racial, religious, linguistic, and cultural*** composition of the creative team. The budget, outreach strategies, and postproduction activities are also considered.

About the Program

The **Intercultural Conversations – Conversations Interculturelles** program supports professional theatre productions, commissions, and translations that encourage dialogue between cultures in Montreal and beyond. The goal is to address issues of **racism, religious intolerance, and cultural diversity (ethnic and religious diversity)** through high-quality theatrical work here in the greater Montreal area.

* We recognize that culture can also encompass queer culture, deaf culture, and other areas of culture, however **this program specifically focuses on race, religion, and ethnicity** and not the aforementioned areas of culture.

Key Points

- Applications are accepted **twice a year** (Fall and Spring).
- The Spring 2026 intake applies to productions taking place **on or after June 15th, 2026**, and presented in the **2026-2027 season or 2027-2028 season**.
- Companies or artists may apply for more than one grant.
- Grants fund expenses directly related to the production, creation, or translation of a play — such as readings, additional rehearsals, and audience engagement activities.
- Funding is **not intended** to replace federal, provincial, municipal, or private funding sources and must be proportionately allocated with other arts grants.
- The Foundation is **not** an arts council and does not offer operational funding. Awards are **project specific**.

Grant Categories

Production Grants

- Up to **\$25,000** (to cover no more than 25% of the total budget)
- Full scripts are required
- Collective creations may combine commissioning and production
- Payment: 90% at the start of rehearsals, 10% after the closing night of the play and submission of the final artistic & financial reports

Talk-Back Grants

- Up to **\$150 per performance** for audience discussions
- There is no limit on the number of talkbacks
- Talk-back grants are not available for young audience shows where talkbacks are part of the performance
- The payment will be included in the final grant payment after the reports are completed

Commissioning Grants

- Grants of up to **\$10,000** for original scripts are available
- Grants may include workshop readings
- Payment: 50% at the start of the writing process, 25% after the first draft is accepted by the theatre company, and 25% on the opening night of the play

Translation Grants

- Up to **\$10,000** for translations into French and/or English
- The grants may include workshop readings
- Payment: 50% at the start of the translation process, 25% after the first draft of the translation is complete, 25% on the opening night of the play

Eligibility

- Companies must be professional theatre companies with **professional actors**, have a history of past performances, and pay all artists and participants for their work
- Young audience companies are eligible if students can understand the intercultural themes
- **There must be performances in Montreal** (or the greater Montreal area) for any funded project
- Plays must be primarily in **French or English**
- Translation applicants:
 - The translator must have at least one published literary translation
 - Written permission from the author is required
 - The work to be translated must already be complete

Note: 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 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 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. ***Applications from companies that have already received a grant from the Cole Foundation and have completed their project, but have never submitted their artistic and financial report, will not be considered.***

The Jury

Bilingual theatre/arts professionals and members of the artistic community will be on the jury that assesses all applications. The decision will be announced after our board meeting in June.