

THE AUBREY AND MARLA DAN FUND FOR NEW MUSICALS

# GUIDELINES

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**1. ABOUT**

The Aubrey & Marla Dan Fund for New Musicals is the first ever fund exclusively for the commissioning of new Canadian musical works. This opportunity is managed by The Musical Stage Company ('TMSC'), with funding from the Aubrey & Marla Dan Foundation. The fund offers financial and dramaturgical support to creators in creating and developing a first draft of a new musical. Ideas that exemplify the most potential will be awarded an \$8,000 commission to cover a 5-week writing period, and a private reading of the first draft.

**2. ELIGIBILITY**

Individual musical theatre creators, teams of musical theatre creators, and theatre creation collectives are all welcome to apply. Projects should be in an early phase of conception or development. If a completed first draft already exists, the project may be too far along for this program unless writers are looking to do substantial reconceiving, essentially generating a new first draft.

### 3. SUBMISSION STREAMS

The fund is granted via two streams:

#### A. INVITATIONS

TMSC may identify prospective projects and directly invite creators to submit a proposal and subsequently present more information about the project to TMSC team at any time of the year.

#### B. OPEN CALL

An Open Call for submissions shall be announced and broadly circulated in February/March of each calendar year with selected projects receiving an invitation to meet a TMSC jury for a presentation.

All submissions are reviewed and assessed by a TMSC jury. Each year, 2 projects will be selected for commission. While TMSC endeavours to select at least 1 project for commissioning through each stream, there is no guaranteed minimum.

Because the commissions will be awarded through either stream, funding decisions will be made on a rolling basis. Funding decisions may not be immediate and further follow-up may be required. However, feedback from presentations will be available in written form upon request.

### 4. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

TMSC is committed to the development and production of new Canadian musical works. As such, commissioned projects may subsequently be offered additional development or production opportunities upon completion of the commission. The commission contract will outline the terms of these continued opportunities.

### 5. IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE OPEN CALL

February 22, 2021 – Submissions open  
April 2, 2021 – Submissions due  
April 16, 2021 – Notification of selection for presentation  
May 18-20, 2021 – Presentations

### 6. HOW TO APPLY TO THE OPEN CALL

Submissions shall be comprised of:

#### A. A ONE-PAGE PROJECT PROPOSAL (PDF)

This should include: what the project is about, what you need developmentally/creatively, why it is a fit for TMSC, and a list of any existing developmental partners.

**B. TWO AUDIO SAMPLES (MP3)**

Two audio samples from the proposed project (preferred), or from a previous work by the applicant(s).

**NOTE FOR RE-SUBMISSIONS:**

If you are re-applying with a piece that was submitted and not selected in a previous year, we ask that you address any new developments with the piece since its previous submission.

Projects invited to submit via Invitations will prepare the same submission package as noted above.

All of the above should be submitted to [submissions@musicalstagecompany.com](mailto:submissions@musicalstagecompany.com) with the subject line “[**COLLABORATOR’S NAMES**] - 2021 Dan Fund Submission” by April 2, 2021.

**7. PRESENTATIONS IN THE OPEN CALL**

Creators who have submitted projects through the Open Call that have been selected for presentations will be notified of their selection via e-mail by April 16, 2021.

Presentations shall be made to a jury of TMSC staff, possibly including but not limited to: Artistic & Managing Director, Deputy Artistic Director, and Intern Artistic Director. Some presentations may be audited by select invited guests. Presentations will be held virtually on Zoom.

Presentations will be allocated a 45-minute time slot (30 minutes for presentation & 15 minutes for questions). While the presentation may be in whatever manner the applicants deem most helpful, it is recommended that each presentation includes the following:

- o A synopsis;
- o Excerpts of scenes; and
- o At least 2 songs (one of which must be from the project being presented).

Creators are responsible for assembling any additional resources they require for their presentation. The presentation is intended to be casual and conversational – while the creators may curate their presentation as they wish – it is not the intention to make creators feel obligated to integrate additional artists or incur any costs.

Projects invited to submit via Invitations will prepare the same presentation content as noted above.

**8. SELECTION AND FEEDBACK**

All applicants will be notified of all decisions regarding their submission.

For those who are invited to present, feedback from the TMSC jury may be requested by creators via Ray Hogg (Deputy Artistic Director) at [ray@musicalstagecompany.com](mailto:ray@musicalstagecompany.com).

**9. COMMISSION TERMS**

We stress that selection results in a commission and not a grant. Standard terms for commissions will apply including billing in future productions, and a small share in future proceeds from subsidiary rights and commercial productions.

**COMMISSION SCHEDULE**

- Upon signing the Commission Agreement, creators will receive \$4,000 (of the total \$8,000 commission amount).
- Creators will select a 5-week writing period falling within eight months of notification of selection to dedicate their time to the writing of a first draft.
- At the end of the writing period, creators shall deliver the first draft to TMSC, defined as a minimum 50-minutes of material along with synopses of missing scenes and a minimum of eight (8) songs.
- On the final days of the writing period, TMSC shall fund an informal two-day reading of the first draft with a cast of professional actors.
- Upon TMSC's receipt of the first draft, creators shall receive the remaining \$4,000 (of the total \$8,000 commission amount).
- Following the receipt of the first draft, TMSC may exercise the right to pay an additional development fee of \$2,000 to the creators in order to acquire further development rights.

**10. QUESTIONS**

For any questions about the Aubrey & Marla Dan Fund for New Musicals, please email Ray Hogg (Deputy Artistic Director) at [ray@musicalstagecompany.com](mailto:ray@musicalstagecompany.com).