

Application Deadline: Friday, March 28, 2025, 5:00 pm

Intercultural Conversations

*(An original theatre project to encourage
dialogue between the various cultures in
Montreal)*

Application for Funding

(For 2025-2026)

INTERCULTURAL CONVERSATIONS APPLICATION

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 Cole Foundation is committed to celebrating the vibrant multi-cultural mosaic of Montreal, Quebec and the rest of world by supporting professional theatre that features the stories of many different cultures and so addresses issues of racism, religious, and ethnic intolerance.

The Cole 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 significance of the themes raised in the script, in addition to the racial, religious, linguistic, and cultural composition of the creative team supporting the script. The budget, outreach and postproduction activities are also considered.

THE PROGRAM

Applications will be accepted in the Fall and the Spring (see details below – Deadlines). Our current application intake applies to **theatre productions that will take place on or after Monday July 1st 2025** and for presentations in the 2025-26 seasons. Companies or artists 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 educational, or informative activities surrounding the performances to engage the audience in dialogue about the play. The funds available are not meant to replace the current federal, provincial, or municipal funding, private fund raising, nor box office revenues.

Municipal, provincial, and federal arts grants are to be proportionately allocated to this project.

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 budget.

Grants will be awarded to professional theatre companies or artist collectives and through them to playwrights and translators with whom they have entered into 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 commissioning 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 [post-production questionnaire](#) and financial report (final budget / cost 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 talkbacks to be funded
- Theatre performances for young audiences (AYA) are not eligible as talkbacks are integral parts of the performance
- Payments for talkbacks 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 translation process, 25% upon acceptance of the first draft, and 25% on opening night

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.

The Jury

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

Deadline

Friday, March 28th, 2025, at 5:00 PM. Cole Foundation Board decisions will be announced in June 2025.

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 that is 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 original author's permission to translate the 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.

Please note that for this competition, we define culture specifically in terms of **racial, ethnic or religious** aspects. 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.

Please fill in and submit the form linked below and **note the requirement to email AND physically mail us a copy of the documents requested below** (postal address also below).

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfawyU755D0o9gXBQOM4RHslZGxDfBr6q70j4Daima9uLCBbQ/viewform?usp=header>

Please supply the additional information requested below both in **digital format** (to the email address nwells@colefoundation.ca, with bcole@colefoundation.ca and kjohn@colefoundation.ca in CC) and in a **print format** to:

310 Victoria Ave., #404, Westmount, Qc H3Z 2M9.

Use a separate page for each item.

Section 1 — Short biography of principal individuals involved in the project

Section 2 — Copy of the script if it exists (essential for all production applications, unless the work is improvised, in which case, please submit other support material). If it is a commissioned work, what is the theme or story line? Also, if it is a commissioned work, enclose some past work of the proposed author so that the jury can judge the ability of the author to complete the commissioned work satisfactorily.

Section 3 — Copy of contracts in force with playwright and translator

Section 4 — Copy of the Press Kit, if available

Section 5 — Budget: Please include a budget for the proposed production, commission or translation, showing all projected & expenses. We have included a [sample budget from CALQ as outlined here](#) which you may use as a loose base for your own budget.

Please note:

All paper documents submitted with the application (scripts, contracts, financials, etc.) must be **recto only and not recto - verso**.

Declaration:

I certify that the information provided in this application for financial assistance is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signed:

Please forward a paper copy of the documents requested, in good form, to this address:

<p>The Cole Foundation 310 Victoria Ave., #404 Westmount, Quebec, H3Z 2M9</p>	<p>Tel : (514) 878-3682 E-mail : bcole@colefoundation.ca E-mail: nwells@colefoundation.ca</p>
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