

How to Approach Applications

1. Get a big ole cup of 'dirty brew' tea. I know you northern peeps know what I'm talking about and maybe some of you southern lovelies too.
2. See what they're looking for & see if it speaks to you
3. Remind yourself you are as worthy as anyone else and probably more so as you have a lot of lived experience to offer. And you've survived.
4. Do you need help? It's more than OK to know this. Reach out to a trusted group of friends or find a support worker if you live with some kind of disability, often there is access money for help with the application. In fact more and more organisations are offering this.
5. Reach out to a disabled arts organisation DASH.org Shape, Unlimited and see if they have anyone who can help you if you need it.
6. Give yourself time to apply and pace yourself so you're not pushing beyond any energy limits or getting stressed.
7. Bring the rare insight of your experience into the application - it will be compelling and different to the 'norm.'
8. Speak from the heart as much as you can, you don't need complex language structures, in fact simple and direct works really well rather than ridiculous art speak.
9. Allow enough time to do the application so you can leave it a day or two before looking it back over. You'll see it differently and know what's working and what needs more work.
10. Ask someone to look it over if you feel unsure.
11. Remember the whole arts funding practice is a crap shoot, if you don't get it this time, don't worry about it. Just keep on trying! It's not a reflection of your talent, more a reflection of the closed off art world.