



First Nations Creators Program



Arts &
Culture

First Nations Creators Program 2023 Guidelines

Maribyrnong City Council acknowledges that we reside, work and create on the lands of the Kulin Nation, the Traditional Owners of this land. We celebrate the world's oldest living culture and recognise their creativity, beliefs and relationship with the land. We pay our deep respects to Elders past, present and emerging and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait people.

About the Program

The First Peoples of Maribyrnong (Mirring-gnay-bir-nong), the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong peoples have a connection to this land and its waterways lasting more than 40,000 years. This connection is deep, continuous and dynamic and contributes to a diverse and thriving community. Arts and Culture Maribyrnong supports and celebrates this knowledge, leadership and creativity. Maribyrnong City Council's *Arts and Culture Strategy* makes a commitment to profile and celebrate the arts and culture of our First Nations community through Theme 1: *First Peoples first*.

The **First Nations Creators Program** provides an opportunity for an individual creative practitioner, collective and/or organisation who **identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander** and is **based in Melbourne's West** with the opportunity to lead the creation of a new work anywhere in the City of Maribyrnong in 2023-2024. To support this Arts and Culture will:

- Provide a grant of up to \$10,000 towards the costs of a new work to presented or exhibited in Maribyrnong, including (but not limited to): artist fees, mentor fees, access costs such as interpreting and child care, marketing assets, materials, equipment hire, venue costs, etc.;
- Provide in-kind access to the Bluestone Church Arts Space for up to 2 weeks or connect the artist to other spaces such as libraries or community centres if more appropriate;
- Provide a dedicated theatre technician for 8 hours for the bump in / technical rehearsal day (if required);
- Cover the cost of hire fees for technical equipment in the Bluestone Church Arts Space;
- Provide marketing to promote the project through our channels, and provide producer support through a series of meetings over the course of the funded project as required.

Key Dates

Proposals OPEN	Monday 3 April 2023
Proposals CLOSE	11:59pm, Sunday 21 May 2023
Final decisions advised	Week of 29 May 2023
Contracting artist/s	Completed by 16 June 2023
Introduction and Welcome Meeting	Week of 3 July 2023
Projects to be delivered within Maribyrnong	1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024

Who Can Apply?

Eligibility

- Applications are welcome from artists of all disciplines who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and reside in Melbourne's West (Cities of Maribyrnong, Brimbank, Hobsons Bay, Moonee Valley, Melton or Wyndham). Individual creative practitioner, collective and/or organisation who live, work, study or have strong connections to the City of Maribyrnong are encouraged;
- The project must have an outcome in the City of Maribyrnong during 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024;
- Applicants must have an active ABN or be auspiced by an Incorporated Association;
- Applicants must have acquitted any previous Council grants;
- Applicant must have public liability insurance to the value of no less than \$10million and working with children checks (if the project involves young people) during the project;
- Applicants should remunerate artists in alignment with MEAA or NAVA and provide Workcover and superannuation;
- Applicants are encouraged to consider accessibility for artists and audiences, and are welcome to discuss this with the Arts and Culture team.
- Applicants must be aged 18 years or over.

Ineligible applicants

- Non-arts-related businesses or for-profit organisations;
- Arts organisations that already receive funding from City of Maribyrnong (auspicing of individual applicants is acceptable);
- Projects that are part of a course of study or assessment;
- Projects which require retrospective funding, such a projects which have commenced or are completed;
- Building, capital works¹ or facility maintenance;
- Ongoing staff salaries or core administration costs not specific to the project;
- Competitions, prizes, award exhibitions or fundraising events;
- Recipients who have not fully met previous funding or acquittal obligations.

Assessment Process and Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed by a First Nations industry peer panel. Should a panel member be part of, or associated with, an application, they will exclude themselves from assessment and discussion of that project. The panel will select a recipient based on the following criteria:

1. High quality artistic practice in any artform;
2. A commitment to the local Indigenous people, knowledge and stories in Melbourne's West;
3. An outcome in Maribyrnong that nurtures existing and/or develops new audiences;
4. Project management - demonstrated skills and relationships to successfully undertake the proposed project;
5. A complete, balanced, and realistic budget.

¹ Capital works are defined as projects undertaken to create a new permanent asset or space, or to permanently change the use, function or layout of an existing asset or space

How to Apply

Please complete the [online form via Smartygrants](#) by **11:59pm, Sunday 21 May 2023**.

If you have any questions or want to chat about your application, please contact a staff member from the Arts & Culture Unit via arts@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au or on (03) 9688 0200.

Useful links to support your application

- Connect with Auspicious Arts Projects [here](#) to chat about project auspice, WorkCover and superannuation
- Apply for a Working with Children Check [here](#)
- MEAA – Schedule of Artist Fees [here](#) and [here](#)
- NAVA – Schedule of Artist Fees [here](#)