



## **Guidelines – Bluestone Church Arts Space Artist Residency Program (Creative Development or Supported Season)**

### **About the Bluestone Church Arts Space**

The Bluestone Church Arts Space is a dedicated, intimate arts and performance venue located at 8a Hyde Street Footscray that is managed by Arts & Culture Maribyrnong. Originally a Wesleyan Church built in the late 1800s, the church has long served as a social gathering place and continues this legacy now as an active arts venue.

It is a highly flexible performance space for emerging, mid-career and professional artists. Offering high ceilings, white walls that can be projected on and a large open timber floor space totalling 246 square metres, the Bluestone Church Arts Space has been described by past users as versatile, unique and creatively inspiring. It is centrally located within close walking distance to Footscray Station.

### **About the Artist Residency Program**

The Bluestone Church Arts Space is offering two types of artist residencies in 2026:

- **Creative Development:** for artists seeking a space to develop their arts practice, and creatively develop a new work over a 2-week duration.
- **Supported Season,** for artists seeking a space to present a season of a performance-ready new work for 1-3 weeks duration.

These two streams aim to support artists at different stages in their project's lifecycle, whether it is a developing concept, an emerging draft, or a rehearsed production ready for its premiere season.

The program is open to performers, dancers, musicians and multi-disciplinary artists who live or work in Melbourne's West. Applicants that do not live or work in Melbourne's West, but can demonstrate a deep connection to the City of Maribyrnong, are also eligible to apply.

**Creative Development:**

Residencies are available for up to **2 weeks**, with an expectation of high usage during the time allocated. Please indicate your preferred time of year in the application form, with dates dictated by availability of the venue.

Applications that do not clearly outline a clear creative development aspect, and/or appear to be seeking a free rehearsal space will not be considered. Please clearly outline how your proposed creative development will advance a new work and/or your arts practice.

Applicants are encouraged to include at least one opportunity for the community to view a work-in-development during the residency period, or share their practice in some way.

Arts & Culture Maribyrnong will:

- Provide a stipend of **\$1,000** toward artist fees and/or production costs.
- Provide in-kind access to the Bluestone Church Arts Space to successful applicants.
- Cover the cost of hire fees for technical equipment in the facility for the duration of the residency.
- Provide marketing support in sharing community engagement opportunities and residency outcomes

**Supported Season:**

Residencies are available for **1-3 weeks duration**, with resident artists expected to bump in, technically rehearse, present a production to an audience that includes the general public, and bump out, all within this period of time.

Please indicate your preferred time of year in the application form, with dates dictated by availability of the venue.

Arts & Culture Maribyrnong will:

- Provide a stipend of **up to \$5,000** toward artist fees and/or production costs.
- Provide a dedicated theatre technician for an **8-hour work call** on the bump in / technical rehearsal day.
- The artistic team receives **full box office takings** for the production.
- Provide in-kind access to the Bluestone Church Arts Space to successful applicants.
- Cover the cost of hire fees for technical equipment in the facility for the duration of the residency.
- Provide marketing support in promoting the season (alongside the artists' own specific marketing campaign).

**Artists offered either residency will:**

- Provide a written evaluation and summary of the residency within 30 days of the residency ending. This evaluation will include images of their creative development or presentation, which the City of Maribyrnong can use for marketing and reporting purposes.
- Any future performances following the residency are required to acknowledge the City of Maribyrnong. Logos and acknowledgement details will be supplied to successful applicants.
- Pay a refundable \$200 security bond for the Bluestone Church Arts Space, prior to the start of the residency.
- Provide evidence of Public Liability insurance to the value of no less than \$10 million.
- Organise sufficient front of house and box office coverage for any public-facing activities.

**Eligibility & Selection Criteria:**

**Who can apply?**

- Applications are welcome from performing artists of all disciplines who reside in Melbourne's West (Cities of Maribyrnong, Brimbank, Hobsons Bay, Moonee Valley, Melton or Wyndham).
- Artists who live, work, study or have deep connections to the City of Maribyrnong will be prioritised.
- Presentations of original work (devised, written, or composed by the creative team) will be looked upon favourably.

**Other eligibility factors:**

- The application is received no later than **11.59pm on Wednesday 15 October, 2025**;
- Applicants must have an active ABN or be auspiced by an Incorporated Association;
- Applicants must have acquitted any previous Council grants or programs;
- Applicant must have public liability insurance to the value of no less than \$10 million and working with children checks (if the project involves young people) during the project;
- Applicants are encouraged to consider accessibility for team members and audiences, and are welcome to discuss this with the Arts and Culture team.

**Assessment criteria:**

Applications will be assessed by a peer panel that will select based on the following criteria:

<b>Creative Development</b>	<b>Supported Season</b>
A demonstrated connection to Melbourne's West.	A demonstrated connection to Melbourne's West.
A clearly articulated project demonstrating strong artistic practice.	A clearly articulated project demonstrating strong artistic practice and a presentation-ready work.
A creative team with the demonstrated skills and relationships to successfully undertake the proposed project.	An marketing plan that nurtures existing (and/or develops new) audiences.
Clear aims and objectives for the creative development of a new work.	A creative team with the demonstrated skills and relationships to present a successful performance season.
	A complete, balanced, and realistic budget.

**To apply:**

Complete the appropriate application form for your artist residency at the Maribyrnong Arts and Culture website:

[Bluestone Church Arts Space Residency Program - Maribyrnong Council Arts and Culture](#)

**Applications open: Wednesday 10 September, 2025**

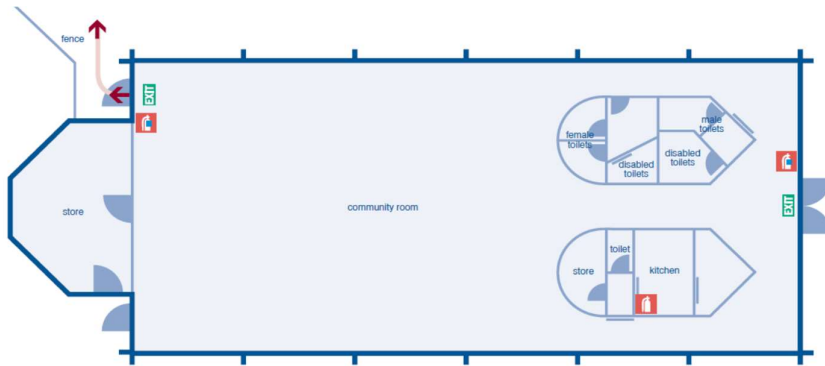
**Applications close: Wednesday 15 October, 2025**

Other residency programs are currently accepting expressions of interest at the same time. If you wish to apply for any of these programs, please visit our [Artists in Residence page](#) to scroll through the opportunities and read those program guidelines. You will be required to submit a separate application addressing the questionnaire for each Artist Residency stream.

NB. Due to multiple programs accepting Expressions of Interest at the same time, make sure you select either **Bluestone Church Arts Space – Creative Development** or **Bluestone Church Arts Space – Supported Season** when filling out the section titled 'About your residency.'

Artists will be informed of their application outcome within four weeks of submission. For further information, to discuss alternative ways to submit an expression of interest, or to discuss your application in more detail, contact Arts & Culture Maribyrnong on 03 9688 0200 or [arts@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](mailto:arts@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au)

## Bluestone Church Arts Space floorplan



**Dimensions:** 10.5m x 23.5m, approximately 246m<sup>2</sup>

