



Pictured: *Flourish* by Justine McAllister, Maidstone Community Centre.
Photography by Nicole Reed.

Guidelines – Maidstone Community Centre Writer in Residence Program

Maidstone Community Centre (located at 21 Yardley St, Maidstone) is a Council run multi-purpose community centre that provides an exciting range of community programs and activities focused on enriching and supporting our community. Programs include health and wellbeing; language and literacy; digital literacy; art and craft; and social and recreational programs.

The Maidstone Writer in Residence Program is a pilot program offering a local writer a **four-week artistic residency in a dedicated office space**, embedded within the Centre. The writer may write, read, converse and think in the shared parts of the Centre (such as the lounge room and gardens) and will be provided with a dedicated enclosed, private office space for more concentrated work.

The program is open to writers of all forms and styles who live, work or study in Melbourne's West or can demonstrate a connection to the City of Maribyrnong. The residency is suitable for writers who are looking for quiet writing space but are also interested in engaging with community as part of their creative process.

Artists are encouraged to connect to the Community Centre programs and community members while in residence in the form of one **community engagement offering**, to maximise the benefits of the program for artists and the local community. This might be a workshop, reading of your work, or other activity.

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Please note that as this is a pilot program, only **one residency** will be offered, during March 2026. Please ensure the dates listed below could work for your schedule before applying.

Inclusions:

- Four-week residency in Maidstone Community Centre from Monday 2 – Friday 27 March 2026.
- Stipend of \$1,000 toward artist fees and/or material costs for public programs.

- Access to Community Centre resources including printing, use of meeting rooms (dependent on availability) and assistance with connecting to the community and Centre programs.
- Marketing support in sharing community engagement opportunities and residency outcomes.

Artist expectations:

- Attend the residency a minimum of three times per week during the agreed residency period. Access to the residency space is only available during Maidstone Community Centre staffed hours (9am-5pm, Monday to Friday).
- Offer the public at least one engagement opportunity to be involved in the residency, such as a writing workshop, reading or otherwise.
- Provide a written evaluation and summary of the residency, including images of their residency outcomes, which the City of Maribyrnong can use for marketing and reporting purposes, within 30 days of the residency ending.
- If work created during the residency is published, performed, exhibited, recorded, adapted, or otherwise shared in any format (including print, digital, audio, visual, or live presentation), writers are required to acknowledge the residency opportunity offered by the City of Maribyrnong. Logos and acknowledgement details will be supplied to successful applicants.
- Provide evidence of Public Liability insurance to the value of no less than \$10 million.

Selection criteria:

- A demonstrated connection to Maribyrnong or Melbourne's West.
- A concise and clear residency proposal with outlining how you will use your time in the space to advance your practice.
- A proposal for engaging with the local community and users of Maidstone Community Centre via one specific engagement program or opportunity.
- Evidence of writing experience in the form of examples of previous work, publications, or projects.

How to submit an expression of interest:

Fill out the form available [at add new webpage](#), selecting the residency program you are interested in applying for.

Applications open: **Wednesday 10 September 2025**

Applications close: **Wednesday 15 October 2025**

Decisions advised within 4 weeks of Expressions of Interest closing.

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. The application form linked above accepts expressions of interest for multiple residency programs. Please ensure you select '**Maidstone Writer in Residence Program**' when filling out the section titled 'About your residency.'

For further information or to discuss your application in more detail, contact Arts & Culture Maribyrnong on 03 9688 0200 or arts@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au