



Untitled by Liz Dalglish, West Footscray Library and Neighbourhood House

Guidelines – West Footscray Writer-in-Residence Program

In 2027 Arts and Culture Maribyrnong is supporting a writer-in-residence at the West Footscray Library and West Footscray Neighbourhood House. These are co-located at 539 Barkly Street, West Footscray, with the library on the ground level and the Neighbourhood House on Level 1.

The West Footscray Writer-in-Residence Program is a pilot program offering a local writer a **four-week artistic residency** embedded within the shared building, with writing and engagement opportunities available across both spaces and access to private working space.

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 writing space amongst community and whose work draws upon the local area for inspiration and ideas.

Artists are encouraged to connect to the Neighbourhood House and Library programs and community members while in residence, by offering one **community engagement activity**, thereby maximising the benefits of the program for artists and the local community. This might be a workshop, reading of your work, or other activity.

Please note that only **one residency** will be offered.

Inclusions:

- Four-week residency in 2027 in West Footscray Library and West Footscray Neighbourhood House.
- Stipend of \$1,000 toward artist fees and/or material costs for public programs.
- Access to Library resources including printing, use of meeting rooms (dependent on availability) and assistance with connecting to the community and programs.
- Access to private writing or working room upon prior arrangement with West Footscray Neighbourhood House.
- Marketing support in sharing community engagement opportunities and residency outcomes.

Artist expectations:

- Attend the residency a minimum of four times per week during the agreed residency period. Access to the residency space is only available during staffed hours (Library: weekdays 10am-6pm, Saturday 10am-2pm).
- 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 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 West Footscray Library and Neighbourhood House through 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 [the program website](#), selecting the residency program you are interested in applying for.

Applications open: **Monday 31 August, 2026**

Applications close: **Sunday 4 October, 2026**

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 '**West Footscray 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