

## Bluestone Church Arts Space: Midsumma 2022

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Due to current State Government regulations, the maximum capacity at the Bluestone Church Arts Space is 30. All hirers will be required to have a COVID-Safe Plan for your event and to follow BCAS' COVID-safe measures. To assist with this reduced capacity, Arts and Culture can provide assistance and access to live-streaming equipment upon application. Please be aware that the safety of our community is our priority, and Maribyrnong City Council reserves the right to cancel events if required by State Government public health advice.

### About the Program

Are you a Queer artist based in or connected to Melbourne's West? We want to hear from you!

As part of Midsumma Westside, Maribyrnong City Council is calling for Expressions of Interest for LGBTIQ+ artists to perform in the Bluestone Church Arts Space in Footscray. Selected artists will receive free venue hire and marketing support through Council's channels, plus keeping box office takings and the opportunity to run their own bar.

Contact Arts Engagement Officer via [arts@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](mailto:arts@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au) or on (03) 9688 0233 to discuss your show idea or tech and venue needs.

### Key Dates

Bluestone Church Arts Space EOIs OPEN	9:00am, Monday 13 September 2021
Bluestone Church Arts Space EOIs CLOSE	5:00pm, Wednesday 22 September 2021
Applicants Notified	Friday 24 September
Midsumma Festival Registrations Close	Monday 27 September
Midsumma Festival	Sunday 23 January – Sunday 13 February 2022

### About Midsumma Festival

Midsumma Festival is Victoria's premier LGBTIQ+ cultural festival, made for and by communities who live with shared experiences around diverse gender and sexuality. For three weeks in summer, Melbourne and surrounding areas become home to a spectacular program of visual arts, performance, film, parties, sports, talks and social events as part of Midsumma Festival. Held annually since 1988 Midsumma Festival has become one of Australia's most significant arts and cultural Festivals. Midsumma works year-round to provide artists with support and tools to create, present and promote their work at Midsumma Festival.

## **The Opportunity**

Maribyrnong City Council (MCC) are offering the following to selected artists:

- In-kind (free) use of the Bluestone Church Arts Space
- Payment of Festival Registration Fee

Marketing support through MCC channels, including:

- Art Bytes eNews (~800 subscribers)
- Instagram (~1,500 followers)
- Facebook (~2,500 followers)
- Maribyrnong Arts and Culture website
- Inclusion in Midsumma Westside promotions

Artists keep 100% of box office income, less any fees Midsumma Festival may charge (full details available on their website under 'Ticketing: Prices and Fees')

Artists have the exclusive right to run a bar during the season of performances, and to keep any profits

Portable theatre drape system and PA system, which may be shared by all the artists/shows throughout the Midsumma season (additional equipment will be at the artist/show's cost)

Assistance with live-streaming performances due to reduced in-person capacity at the venue

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

The Bluestone Church Arts Space (BCAS) is a flexible performance space located at 8A Hyde Street, Footscray (behind Footscray Town Hall). Managed by the Maribyrnong Arts and Culture team, BCAS hosts a range of residencies, events and performances for and by the local arts community throughout the year.

Offering an open plan, flat wooden floor space and exceptionally high ceilings, the Church offers a performance area of approximately 120m<sup>2</sup>, and can accommodate 30 audience members whilst adhering to the four square metre rule for COVID-safe performance standards. Maribyrnong Arts and Culture will assist with live-streaming plans due to the reduced capacity at the venue in 2022. The venue includes a small kitchenette and bar, and is suitable for small-scale performances including comedy, cabaret, live music, dance, theatre or similar, and will become home to a range of quality programming during Midsumma Festival again in 2022.

## **Accessibility**

The Bluestone Church Arts Space is a wheelchair accessible venue with an accessible bathroom. Accessible entry to the building is via the door located next to the Footscray Town Hall carpark. The main double doors where the box office is located are not accessible due to a set of 5 heritage-listed bluestone steps. The venue operates all on one level – there are no stairs, steps or lifts within the building.

General parking is available directly behind the venue in the Footscray Town Hall car park. There is also a designated wheelchair accessible parking space located outside the entrance to Footscray Town Hall, approximately 40m from the entrance to the venue.

Footscray station is located 500m from the Bluestone Church Arts Space, and has ramps and elevators as well as accessible toilets.

### **COVID-Safe Planning**

As part of the 2022 program, selected participants will be required to complete a COVID-safe plan for their event, with the assistance of the Arts Engagement Officer.

### **Your Responsibilities**

Selected artists will be responsible for:

Paying a refundable \$200 security deposit, though no hire fees will be charged. The security deposit will be refunded following the season, and will be retained by Council if damage is incurred.

Providing a certificate for Public Liability Insurance to the value of no less than \$10 million

Agreeing to the Bluestone Church Arts Space Terms and Conditions of Use

All Midsumma registration procedures and fees. However, if the registration fees are a barrier to your participation, please do get in touch as we may be able to assist.

Ticketing, including complying with Midsumma Festival requirements. MCC may require up to 5 x complimentary tickets per season.

All staff for a production including Lighting and/or Sound Operators, Stage Manager/Front of House Manager and any other staff.

Obtaining a liquor license if you intend to run a bar. A copy of the license MUST be provided to Council prior to your event or access to the facility will not be granted.

Supplying high res images and performance information to MCC in order to promote your show. In addition, artists/shows are expected to promote their own shows and manage their own specific publicity campaigns.

Referring to the facility by its full name, being the Bluestone Church Arts Space, and including the Maribyrnong City Council Arts & Festival City logo lockup on all promotional and other public materials produced.

### **How to Apply**

Complete the **online form here** by 5pm, **Wednesday 22 September 2021**.

If you require assistance with the application process or have any questions, contact our Arts Engagement Officer via [arts@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](mailto:arts@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au) or on (03) 9688 0233 to discuss your show idea or tech and venue needs.

