



From vacant
to vibrant.

Creative Places - Co-Working Space Guidelines

About Creative Places

Creative Places is a pilot program by Maribyrnong City Council that aims to transform underutilised commercial properties in the Footscray Central Business District into dynamic, vibrant and accessible creative spaces.

This program, supported by investment from the Victorian Government's Creative Neighbourhoods Partnerships Pilot Program, will foster community involvement, stimulate economic revitalisation, and address the need for affordable venues for the local creative community.

The pilot program will span from 10 February – 30 May 2025 (bump-out on 30 May 2025).

About the Co-Working Space Opportunity

In-kind co-working office space will be made available for creative practitioners, small arts organisations or creative businesses at the VU Connectivity Centre (Shop 1-13 at Metro West Shopping Centre), in partnership with Victoria University through the Footscray University Town Initiative.

Co-working space will be available from 10 February – 30 May 2025 from Monday to Friday 9am-5pm at no cost to the selected participants. Access to the office spaces outside of these hours will incur security costs. There is an expectation of regular usage amongst selected participants during the Creative Places pilot program.

The co-working space is suited to creative practitioners, small arts organisations or creative businesses seeking a comfortable and well-appointed working and meeting space in close proximity to other creatives. The co-working space has wireless internet, office furniture, breakout space, toilets, kitchen facilities and concierge.

Access to business support workshops will be offered to the selected participants as part of the pilot program.

Key dates

- Expressions of interest open: Monday 6 January 2025.
- Expressions of interest close: **11.59pm Thursday 30 January 2025.**

- Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application within three weeks of applications closing.
- Selected participants can move in from Monday 10 February 2025.
- Creative Place pilot program will be available to selected participants until 30 May 2025. Beyond this date, any future negotiations would be between the participants and the building owner.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be able to demonstrate a connection with Melbourne's west.
- Applicants must be ready to commence from Monday 10 February 2025.
- Applicants must have acquitted any existing Council grants or other residency programs but may be current recipients of Maribyrnong City Council's Triennial Arts Partners program.
- Applicants are limited to one application per program type (eg: exhibition opportunity, co-working).
- If the applicant's planned program involves working with children, applicants must be able to provide evidence of a Working with Children certification.
- Applicants must be over the age of 18.
- Applicants must have Public Liability Insurance to the value of \$20 million.

Selection Criteria

- A meaningful connection to Maribyrnong and/or Melbourne's West.
- A strong case made for why this creative business or organisation would benefit from provision of in-kind office space.
- Skills and experience demonstrated by the business or organisation.

How to apply

- Please fill out the application form at the end of this webpage, ensuring that you select "Co-Working Space" when asked to nominate the opportunity you are applying for.
- For any questions about your application, and to discuss your application with a Council officer (highly recommended) please get in touch with Maribyrnong Arts & Culture via (03) 9688 0200 or arts@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

This co-working space opportunity has been developed through a collaboration between Maribyrnong City Council, Victoria University and Footscray University Town Initiative. The Creative Places pilot program is supported by the Victorian Government's Creative Neighbourhoods program.

