



# Melbourne Fringe 2023

at the Bluestone Church Arts Space



Arts &  
Culture

MELBOURNE  
**FRINGE**

## Expressions of Interest – Supported Melbourne Fringe Season at the Bluestone Church Arts Space

Do you need a venue for your Fringe show? Maribyrnong Arts and Culture is offering in-kind venue hire and technical support at the Bluestone Church Arts Space to independently produced shows by local artists from Melbourne's West for the 2023 Melbourne Fringe Festival.

Selected artists will receive free venue hire and marketing support through Council's channels, while retaining all box office takings. They will remain responsible for producing and marketing their own shows, including paying Melbourne Fringe Festival's registration fees.

What Maribyrnong Arts and Culture will provide:

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

- In-kind (free) use of the Bluestone Church Arts Space for up to 6 performance days with a maximum of 2 performances per day.
- A dedicated Venue Manager, who will be the point of contact for selected artists and manage the Front of House services, including the bar. Artists will be required to provide a volunteer from their team to assist with front-of-house, especially for busy performances.
- Basic lighting and sound setup, portable theatre drape system and HD web camera for livestreaming which may be shared by all the artists/shows throughout the Melbourne Fringe season.
- A dedicated Venue Technician to assist in providing sound and lighting during the performance. Please note: bump-in and out is the responsibility of the Selected Artist along with hiring any additional tech requirements outside of the venue's provision, and providing your own Stage Manager.
- Marketing support through Council channels, including:
  - Art Bytes eNews (~800 subscribers)
  - Arts and Culture Instagram (~1,900 followers)
  - Arts and Culture Facebook (~2,800 followers)
  - Arts and Culture website
  - Inclusion in Melbourne Fringe and Westside promotions

- Artists will keep 100% of box office income, less any booking fees Melbourne Fringe Festival may charge.
- Maribyrnong City Council reserves the exclusive right to operate a bar during Melbourne Fringe. Artists will not receive a cut or percentage of the bar sales.

## Key Dates

<b>Bluestone Church Arts Space EOIs OPEN</b>	Friday 21 April 2023
<b>Melbourne Fringe Registrations Open</b>	Monday 1 May 2023
<b>Bluestone Church Arts Space EOIs CLOSE</b>	Sunday 28 May 2023, 11.59pm
<b>Applicants Notified</b>	Friday 2 June 2023
<b>Melbourne Fringe Registrations Close</b>	Friday 16 June 2023
<b>Maribyrnong Marketing Material Deadline</b>	Friday 21 July 2023
<b>Melbourne Fringe Program Launches</b>	Mid-August 2023
<b>Venue Available for Hire for Rehearsals/Runs</b>	Saturday 16 – Friday 22 September 2023
<b>Melbourne Fringe Festival</b>	Tuesday 3 – Sunday 22 October 2023. <b>IMPORTANT:</b> Slots in the Bluestone Church Arts Space are available from <b>9 – 22 October 2023</b> .

## About the Bluestone Church Arts Space

The Bluestone Church Arts Space is a flexible performance space located at 8A Hyde Street, Footscray (beside Footscray Town Hall). Managed by the Maribyrnong Arts and Culture team, the Bluestone Church Arts Space 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 80 seated audience members. The venue includes a small kitchenette and bar, and is suitable for small-scale performances including comedy, cabaret, live music, dance, theatre or similar.

**IMPORTANT: All hirers will be required to adhere to the venue's COVID-Safe plan. Please be aware that the safety of our community is our priority, and Maribyrnong City Council reserves the right to cancel or modify events if required by State Government public health advice.**

## About Melbourne Fringe Festival

The annual Melbourne Fringe Festival is Open Access – meaning all applications are accepted and anyone with something to say can put on a show. Every year the program features around 450 events by Melbourne's most interesting (and independent) artists and community members across every possible artform imaginable. Through broadcasts and live streams, interactive virtual experiences and digital art, physically distant or in-theatre experiences...big names stand-by-side with emerging artists and everyday citizens with creative bones and a bright idea. **All selected artists will need to complete the registration process with Melbourne Fringe Festival.** [More information is available on their website here.](#)

## 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 five heritage-listed bluestone steps. Within the venue, it operates all on one level – there are no stairs, steps or lifts within the building.

General parking is available directly behind the venue. There is also a designated wheelchair accessible parking space in this parking lot. Footscray station is located 500m from the Bluestone Church Arts Space, and has ramps and elevators as well as accessible toilets. [A full guide to accessibility in the venue is available at our website.](#)

A portable USB HD Webcam is available for use by artists, but please note you will need to provide your own laptop and internet connection for livestreaming.

## Your Responsibilities

Selected artists will be responsible for:

- Providing all creative and production requirements for a high-quality theatre or live music performance at the agreed times and dates in the Bluestone Church Arts Space, including stage management for your performance.
- Paying a refundable \$200 security deposit for the Bluestone Church Arts Space, 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 Melbourne Fringe 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 Melbourne Fringe Festival requirements. MCC may require up to 5 x complimentary tickets per season.
- Supplementary production staff required in surplus to Maribyrnong City Council's provided Technician. This includes a Stage Manager, and any additional Technical Operators that may be required (such as projection).
- Additional Front of House person to assist the designated Venue Manager.
- Supplying high resolution images and performance information to Maribyrnong City Council, 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 logos on all promotional and other public materials produced. Any public materials featuring these logos must be approved by Maribyrnong City Council prior to use.

## Selection Criteria

- Artists who live, work, study in, or have a strong connection to the Maribyrnong City Council area will be prioritised. Artists from neighbouring municipalities in the Western suburbs will also be looked upon favourably.
- Artists must be independent practitioners with the capacity to create, produce and market their own work.
- Consideration will be given in the selection process to the principles and themes articulated in the [Maribyrnong City Council Arts and Culture Strategy 2018 – 2023](#)

## How to Apply

Complete the online form by **11.59pm, Sunday 28 May 2023**.

If you would like to apply in a different format that meets your access requirements, please contact the Arts Engagement Officer. If you have any questions, or would like to discuss your show concept, technical or venue needs, please also contact the Arts Engagement Officer via [arts@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](mailto:arts@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au) or on **(03) 9688 0233**.

