

Midsumma Festival 2024 at the Bluestone Church Arts Space



Arts &
Culture

midsumma
festival



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST:

Bluestone Church Arts Space - 2024 Midsumma Festival Season

About the Program

Maribyrnong City Council is calling for Expressions of Interest from LGBTQIA+ artists to perform in the Bluestone Church Arts Space in Footscray during Midsumma Festival 2023. Selected artists will receive in-kind access to the venue, as well as technical, front of house and marketing support through Council's channels. To support the Maribyrnong LGBTQIA+ community, we will be offering a \$1,000 stipend towards production costs, plus all box office takings.

Key Dates

Bluestone Church Arts Space EOIs OPEN	Wednesday 12 July, 2023
Bluestone Church Arts Space EOIs CLOSE	Friday 11 August, 2023 (10.00am)
Applicants Notified	Friday 18 August, 2023
Midsumma Festival Registrations Close	Friday 1 September, 2023
Midsumma Festival Program Launch	Tuesday 28 November 2023
Midsumma Festival	Sunday 21 January – Sunday 11 February 2024

About Midsumma Festival

Midsumma Festival is Australia's premier queer arts and cultural festival, bringing together a diverse mix of LGBTQIA+ artists, performers, communities and audiences. The Midsumma program shares the lived experiences of those voices at the margins, the expression of queer history, and the celebration of new ideas that come to life through world-class art and performance.

The Midsumma festival program is made up of diverse art forms and genres, including visual arts, live music, theatre, spoken word, cabaret, film, parties, sport, social events, and public forums featuring over 200 events in 2023, with involvement by over 5000 culture-makers in over 100 different venues across Melbourne and wider Victoria - to audiences averaging 255,202 attendees over the past four years.

The Opportunity

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

- A stipend of \$1,000 to assist LGBTQIA+ artists in covering production or artistic costs for their performance.
- In-kind (free) use of the Bluestone Church Arts Space for up to 6 performance days with a maximum of 2 performances per day.
- 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 Midsumma Festival season.
- A dedicated 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.
- Front of house staff for your performance season. Artists will be required to provide at least 1 volunteer from their team to assist with front-of-house.
- Marketing support through MCC channels, including:
 - *Art Bytes* eNews (~800 subscribers)
 - Instagram (~1,900 followers)
 - Facebook (~2,800 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](#)')
- Maribyrnong City Council reserves the exclusive right to operate a bar during the Midsumma Festival season. Artists/shows will not receive a cut or percentage of bar sales.

About the Bluestone Church Arts Space

The Bluestone Church Arts Space is a flexible performance space located at 8A Hyde Street, Footscray (behind 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 120m², 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.

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.

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. 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 visual guide to accessibility in the venue is available at [this 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.
- Securing all rights and permissions for scripts or other artists' work, including APRA License for music.
- 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 at least 1 additional Front of House volunteer.
- 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 (upon request).
- 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 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. 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 Council area will be prioritised. Artists from neighbouring municipalities in the Western suburbs will also be looked upon favourably.
- Artists have communicated a compelling project concept with a strong creative vision.
- A strong creative team that can demonstrate capacity to create, produce and market a successful production.
- Consideration will be given in the selection process to artists whose EOIs reflect Themes 2 & 5 (Access All Areas, and Participation) in the Maribyrnong City Council [Arts and Culture Strategy 2018 – 2023](#).

How to Apply

Complete the [online form here](#) by **Friday 11 August 2023, 10am**.

If you require assistance with the application process or have any questions, contact Maribyrnong Arts & Culture, via arts@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au or on **(03) 9688 0200**.

