2025 Aboriginal Arts Grants application form
Form Preview

Information and eligibility

* indicates a required field

Applicants are advised to read the **2025 Guidelines** on our website carefully before proceeding with an application.

Aboriginal arts grants support artists at all career stages and across all art practices to develop and present ideas in 2025. Grants are available to Aboriginal artists and arts organisations.

Funding available:

- Grants up to $20,000 for presentation (venue and online). Examples of a presentation are a performance, exhibition or live music show.
- Grants up to $5,000 for creative development only (no public presentation).

If you need an accessible application format such as audio or video, please get in touch.

You can contact Laura Johnston for application support 9am - 5pm weekdays (except Wednesday) on 0411 776 324 (text and voice) or email laura.johnston@melbourne.vic.gov.au

IMPORTANT: Please check that your public presentation venue or location is located within City of Melbourne boundary:

- The City of Melbourne's municipal boundary *does not include the broader Melbourne metropolitan area*.
- Our local government geographic footprint encompasses Docklands, East Melbourne, Fishermans Bend, Jolimont, Kensington, North Melbourne, Melbourne's central business district, Parkville, South Wharf, West Melbourne and *parts of* Carlton, Carlton North, Flemington, Port Melbourne, South Yarra and Southbank.
- If you are unsure about the Melbourne Council suburb boundary, go to our interactive maps at City of Melbourne municipal boundary page

About the application form: your responses to each question will determine which further questions you will need to answer.

Eligibility

In submitting an application I/we confirm that I/we are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander or led organisation

In submitting my application, I agree to have complied with the following:

- I have read and understood the City of Melbourne 2025 Aboriginal Arts Projects guidelines and my proposal complies with the conditions, application and eligibility requirements.
- Only one application may be submitted to the Aboriginal Arts grant program.
- I have viewed and understood the City of Melbourne municipal boundary requirements.
- My application will not be accepted if a proposed outcome venue or location is not within the City of Melbourne boundaries.
- I understand that the proposed activity must occur in 2025.

- My application will not be accepted if it is not lodged by the stated close date through SmartyGrants or does not have all the required materials.
- I/my organisation have no outstanding acquittals or debts to the City of Melbourne.
- Applications for online presentation or a creative development only, must demonstrate a relationship to the City of Melbourne.
- I understand that I must contact City of Melbourne staff if my proposed activity occurs in a City of Melbourne manged outdoor space.
- I or the activities proposed in this application do not denigrate, exclude or offend parts of the community or breach Commonwealth and State anti-vilification laws.

Do you comply with the above eligibility? *

○ Yes
○ No. You are not eligible to submit an application.

How to apply

Within this application you can choose either a written response or uploading a file/ URL for describing your idea. Please note that other questions in this form regarding contact details and data do not have the option for a file upload.

We want you to tell us about your project idea in the format that is easiest for you. You can describe your idea through a:

- written response
- video
- audio message

Choose your question format for describing your idea *

○ Text
○ Video/audio
This question relates to pages

About the applicant

* indicates a required field

Applicant name *   ○ Individual   ○ Organisation
Organisation Name

[ ]

First Name   Last Name

[ ]   [ ]

Street address   Address

[ ]

[ ]

Must be a street address

Phone number *

Email *

Key contact name (if different to above)

First Name   Last Name

Key contact phone number (if different to above)

Key contact email (if different to above)

Applicant gender *

○ Non-binary/ gender diverse   ○ Other   ○ Prefer not to say   ○ Female   ○ Male

Which age group do you belong to? *

○ Under 24 years   ○ 35-44 years   ○ 55-64 years
○ 25-34 years   ○ 45-54 years   ○ Over 65 years

What career stage do you identify with? *

○ Emerging   ○ Mid-career   ○ Established

Is this the first time you have applied for a City of Melbourne arts grant? *

○ Yes
○ No

Are you being auspiced (another person or organisation is taking legal and financial responsibility for administering the grant on your behalf)? *

○ Yes
○ No
Being auspiced is not a requirement of the grant, it is your choice.

Auspice name *

○ Individual   ○ Organisation
Organisation Name

First Name   Last Name

d/Deaf and disabled applicants can contact Arts Access Victoria (AAV) for auspice services and support at info@artsaccess.com.au or phone (03) 9699 8299.

Are you a d/Deaf, disabled, neurodiverse or chronically ill artist? *

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

Application details

* indicates a required field

Project type *

- ○ Projects presented to the public at a venue or outdoor space (up to $20,000)
- ○ Projects presented online to the public (up to $20,000)
- ○ Creative development only with no public presentation (up to $5,000)

Relationship to the City of Melbourne

IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY BEFORE RESPONDING TO THIS SECTION

Applicants who are proposing an online presentation or creative development must show a specific relationship to the City of Melbourne.

The City of Melbourne does not include the broader Melbourne metropolitan area. Our local government boundary encompasses Docklands, East Melbourne, Fishermans Bend, Jolimont, Kensington, North Melbourne, Melbourne's central business district, Parkville, South Wharf, West Melbourne and *parts of* Carlton, Carlton North, Flemington, Port Melbourne, South Yarra and Southbank.

If in doubt about our suburb boundary, check our interactive maps at http://maps.melbourne.vic.gov.au/ before proceeding with this application.

Refer to the Guidelines for further detail regarding this eligibility.

How can you demonstrate a relationship to the City of Melbourne (select one)? *
- ○ I live within the City of Melbourne boundary
- ○ I have an ongoing creative practice based within the City of Melbourne boundary (for example a studio)
- ○ My regular place of employment or study is within the City of Melbourne boundary
- ○ The project idea is about a specific part of the City of Melbourne. For example, a series of photographs depicting the physical environment and cultural significance of gathering places at Royal Park and Princes Park; a novel set against the waterways and wetlands along the Birrarung (Yarra).
- ○ I presented work at a venue in the City of Melbourne boundary between January 2022 and 1 October 2024

Select one option

What is the full street address for the permanent residence or studio *

Must be within the City of Melbourne boundary.

What is the name and full street address of your employer or study institution/ campus *

Must be within the City of Melbourne boundary.

Describe how the project is about a specific part of the City of Melbourne. Refer to the guidelines for further information. *

Applicants must identify what part or aspect of the City of Melbourne the project is specifically about. Avoid using 'Melbourne' in a general sense. Contact us for clarification.

What, where and when was the work presented? Include the name of the work/ project, name and street address of venue and date the work was presented. *

Must be within the City of Melbourne boundary.

Artform (select one only) *

☐ Circus, physical theatre   ☐ Theatre, live art   ☐ Multimedia
☐ Dance   ☐ Film   ☐ Visual, craft
☐ Music   ☐ Multi-artform   ☐ Writing

Only one can be selected - choose the most dominant

Select the primary artform *

This selection may determine where your application is assessed.

Will you be using Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander stories or cultural material that is not your own? *

○ No
○ Yes. Please provide evidence of community consultation and cultural permissions in your application.

Project summary

Project/development title *

Short project summary *

Word count:
Up to 50 words

Proposal - creative development (no public presentation)

* indicates a required field

Describe your project idea and how you will develop the work *

Word count:
Must be no more than 300 words.

Describe your project idea and how you will develop the work

URL	Upload	Password if required
Must be a URL.		

Grant request

Grant request (up to $5,000) *

$

Must be a dollar amount and no more than 5000.

Dates

When do you intend to undertake the development in 2025

Start date *

Must be a date and between 1/1/2025 and 31/12/2025.

End date *

Must be a date and between 1/1/2025 and 31/12/2025.

Proposal - presentation

* indicates a required field

Criteria 1: Creative excellence

- artistic and creative strength of the idea

Describe your project idea, what will be presented to the public and how it will be achieved (refer to Criteria 1). *

Word count:
Must be no more than 500 words.

Criteria 1: Creative excellence

- artistic and creative strength of the idea

Describe your project idea, what will be presented to the public and how it will be achieved (refer to Criteria 1).

URL	Upload	Password if required
Must be a URL.		

Assessment Criteria 2: Access, inclusion and equity

- embrace diversity of career stages, abilities, backgrounds, cultures, ages, genders and sexualities
- appeal to new or underrepresented audiences
- low cost or free to the public
- occur in new or unexpected places or at different times of the day or night
- different ways in which people can participate in and experience the arts

Tell us how your project will embrace access, inclusion and equity in the arts (refer to Criteria 2) *

Word count:
Must be no more than 200 words.

Assessment Criteria 2: Access, inclusion and equity

- embrace diversity of career stages, abilities, backgrounds, cultures, ages, genders and sexualities
- appeal to new or underrepresented audiences
- low cost or free to the public
- occur in new or unexpected places or at different times of the day or night

- different ways in which people can participate in and experience the arts

Tell us how your project will embrace access, inclusion and equity in the arts (refer to Criteria 2) *

URL	Upload	Password if required
Must be a URL.		

Budget

- **Applicants must provide a project budget using the template below.**
- Income and project cost totals must be equal. Applicants are advised to double check their budget figures before submitting.

Grant request (up to $20,000) * $\qquad$ $
Must be a dollar amount and no more than 20000.

Income

Include all sources of income you will need to make the project happen (confirmed and unconfirmed), such as:

- City of Melbourne grant request
- other grants or sponsorship (from government, philanthropic, private, your own funds, corporate)
- earned income (for example ticket and publication sales)
- in-kind support.

Add/remove rows as required using +/- or 'add more' buttons

Income description	$	Is the income amount confirmed?
How will the project be financed - list where you are sourcing your income from (including cash and other grants, earned income such as ticket or book sales, own contribution, or in-kind support)	Must be a whole dollar amount (no cents).	
City of Melbourne arts grant	$	
	$	
	$	

Project costs

The grant can be used to cover costs such as:

- artist fees **(compulsory).** You can find information on artist fees for different art forms and roles under Arts grants FAQs on our [website](#).
- administration costs (for example auspice fee, non-artist salaries)
- production costs (for example venue hire, materials, technical, equipment hire, permit fees, framing, installation, freight, project management)
- promotion and marketing costs (for example design, printing, publicity, advertising, documentation)
- public liability insurance (for further information about insurance, visit [Creative Spaces](#) or the [Arts Law Centre of Australia](#))
- costs to make project outcomes accessible to Deaf and Disabled audiences (for example Auslan, captioning, audio description).

Project cost item	Total amount for each cost item	City of Melbourne contribution
For example: artist fees, materials, production, technical, venue hire	Must be a whole dollar amount (no cents).	Must be a whole dollar amount (no cents).
Artist fees	$	$
	$	$
	$	$
	$	$

Totals

Note: These totals are automatic calculations from the above tables.

Total income	Total project costs	Total City of Melbourne contribution
$	$	$
This amount is calculated and must be the same as the Total Expenditure amount	This amount is calculated	This amount is an automatic calculation and should be the same as the grant request.

Is the public presentation *
- ☐ Free
- ☐ Ticketed ($20 or less per ticket)
- ☐ Ticketed ($21 or more per ticket)

Average ticket price *

$

Must be a dollar amount.
Total earned income from ticket sales should be listed in the income table.

Budget notes

Use this section to clarify any aspect of the budget in the comments box (for example the calculation used to achieve earned ticket income) or attach a file below.

Attach any relevant files here that support your budget
Attach a file:

Artists

* indicates a required field

List the **key artists** involved in the project and attach their artistic CV's (combine into the one file where possible).

Add/remove rows using the +/- or 'add more' buttons.

Artist name	Upload CV summary document	or provide a direct URL link to the CV
	Combine CVs into the one file if possible	Must be a URL.

Total number of artists involved *

Must be a number.

Age of the artists involved *
☐ up to 24 years
☐ 25-54 years
☐ 55+ years

To the best of your knowledge, will the project involve artists from any of the following groups? *
☐ Emerging
☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
☐ LGBTQIA+
☐ Multicultural communities
☐ Deaf, Disabled, neurodiverse or chronically ill
☐ None of the above

Access requirements

* indicates a required field

In addition to the grant request, an amount of up to $2,000 will be considered for specific access costs to help reduce barriers for Deaf and Disabled, neurodiverse and chronically ill artists/arts workers involved in the project (for example transport, support worker, carer, Auslan).

Do you require access costs to undertake the project? *
○ Yes
○ No
These costs are specifically to support artists involved in the project.

Access costs requested amount *

$

This amount is in addition to your grant request and should be identified in your budget income and expenditure

Describe what the access funds will be used for *

Public presentation

* indicates a required field

WHEN WILL THE PROJECT OUTCOME BE PRESENTED TO THE PUBLIC?

Start date for the public outcome *

Must be a date and between 1/1/2025 and 31/12/2025.

End date for the public outcome *

Must be a date and between 1/1/2025 and 31/12/2025.

Venues and outdoor spaces for project presentations must be located within the City of Melbourne Council boundary. This does not include the broader Melbourne metropolitan area. If in doubt about the suburb boundary, check our interactive maps.

What is the name and full street address of the proposed venue where the public outcome will take place *

Is the venue accessible for people with disabilities? *
○ Yes   ○ No

Attach a tentative booking quote, evidence of communication with the venue manager or relevant staff about using the space for your project presentation. *
Attach a file:

Talk with the venue manger or City of Melbourne staff (for outdoor spaces) to understand the availability and costs for using the space. This is important to the viability of your application.

Where will you present your work online?
provide URL if available

How many days will the project outcome be available to the public in 2025? *

Must be a number.

How many people do you anticipate will attend or view the public outcome? *

Must be a number.

Is the project proposed as part of a festival? *

○ Yes　　　　　　　　　　○ No

Name of festival *

Support material

Artistic support material is an important part of an application and assists the assessment panel in understanding your project and creative practice. Applicants are encouraged to submit quality support material that is relevant and strengthens the project proposal.

- Please do not attach duplicate files already uploaded in other sections of this application.
- Keep your file size under 5MB each if possible.
- File names should give an indication of the content.
- Make it easy for assessors to view your attachments and URLs.
- We do not accept wixsite.com URLs
- Attachments must be in a format compatible with Microsoft Office 2016/365, Adobe Acrobat Reader version 23, Microsoft Internet Edge version 111, and Microsoft Windows Media Player version 12.

Support material you must include in this section:

- examples of current, proposed or past works. Limits: up to 10 images consolidated into one file / up to five minutes of moving image / script excerpts up to 10 pages / up to three audio tracks / up to three specific URLs.

Optional support material:

- project timeline
- peer/industry support letter (up to three consolidated into one file)

Add/remove rows as required using +/- or 'add more' buttons.

Support Material	Attach a document	or a direct page link to a URL	Password if applicable
		Must be a URL.	

Applicant website

Must be a URL.

Support material notes

You can use this section to make any comments or clarification relating to support material if required

Applicant experience

* indicates a required field

How did you hear about the arts grants? *

☐ City of Melbourne website
☐ City of Melbourne Instagram
☐ Email
☐ I'm a previous applicant / recipient
☐ City of Melbourne Twitter
☐ Word of mouth / referral
☐ Social media (other than City of Melbourne)
☐ Internet search / Google
☐ Other:
☐ City of Melbourne Facebook
☐ Arts Hub

Select the types of contact you made with the Arts Grants team for this application *

☐ Email correspondence
☐ Phone call
☐ Information session
☐ I didn't make any contact with Council

We welcome feedback on any aspect of the arts grants program and how we might improve our service to you.

Applicant declaration

* indicates a required field

- I understand that all information provided in this application is securely stored by Smarty Grants and City of Melbourne. Any personal information will only be disclosed to those relevant to the assessment of my application or payment of the grant. It will

not be disclosed to any other external party without my consent, unless required or authorised by law. City of Melbourne [Privacy Policy](#).
- I give the City of Melbourne a non-exclusive licence to reproduce and communicate the support material in which I have intellectual property rights for the sole purpose of assessing my application.
- I have sought and received a non-exclusive licence from the owners of any intellectual property rights in the support material for this application to the City of Melbourne, to reproduce and communicate the support material for the sole purpose of assessment of the application.
- I understand that the assessment decisions are final.
- I consent to Council publishing the successful applicants on the City of Melbourne website.
- I understand that if this application is approved I must provide an ABN (Australian Business Number) and meet the Australian Taxation Office requirements.
- If this application is part funded, I agree to submit a revised budget and project plan for approval.
- If this application is approved, I consent to the media being given information about the funded project and acknowledge that I may be contacted directly by them.

I agree to the above statements and confirm that the information contained in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. *
○ Yes

Review and submit

Click 'review and submit' in the navigation menu to review your application. This action will highlight any corrections that must be made before you can 'submit' your application.

You can download a PDF of the application at any time by clicking 'download' on the last page of the application form.

Contact [SmartyGrants](#) for technical assistance with this form or refer to the SmartyGrants [help guide](#).