

Creative Spaces

Aboriginal Creative Studio Space

2026 Guidelines

Boyd Studios
Boyd Community Hub
207 City Road
Southbank VIC 3006

EOI (Expression of Interest) Timeline

Applications open	9am, Wednesday 5 August 2026
Applications close	4pm, Wednesday 2 September 2026
Assessment period	Early-September
Notification of outcome	Mid-September
Licence term (7-months)	1 October 2026 - 30 April 2027

The City of Melbourne respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land we govern, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong Boon Wurrung peoples of the Eastern Kulin and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and honour the unbroken spiritual, cultural and political connection the Wurundjeri, Bunurong, Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wadawurrung peoples of the Eastern Kulin have to this unique place for more than 2000 generations. We are committed to our reconciliation journey, because at its heart, reconciliation is about strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples, for the benefit of all Victorians.

Introduction

Operating since 2008, Creative Spaces is a City of Melbourne program providing affordable work and exhibition space and soft infrastructure via the Creative Spaces website. Currently supporting more than 150 artists and creative organisations, the program has a strong reputation and is seen as a leader in creative space provision. It partners with government and the private sector to identify, secure, develop and manage space across the municipality for creative use.

Creative Spaces is pleased to offer Studio 6 at Boyd Studios for a 7-month licence term*.

*Licence term may be extended (with notice) due to redevelopment timelines, see below.

About Boyd Community Hub

Boyd is the City of Melbourne's first integrated community service space, currently housing the Southbank Library, a cafe, family services, meeting rooms, artist studios, residency spaces and is surrounded by Boyd Park.

The Boyd Community Hub is undergoing a redevelopment to better serve the rapidly growing and diverse Southbank community. The project involves relocating and expanding the Southbank Library into a new 900m²-space within the adjacent Boyd Village building and refurbishing and enhancing the existing Boyd Community Hub to provide expanded family and children's services, as well as introducing new spaces and programming for the community.

To stay up to date with these developments, please visit [Participate Melbourne](#) and sign up to the mailing list.

Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following eligibility:

- be an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander artist
- undertake the licence between October 2026 and April 2027
- submit only one (1) application by the closing date
- attend a site visit, send a proxy, or complete the 3D virtual tour

Limitations

- Applicants who are currently City of Melbourne employees and contractors are not eligible to apply.
- The studio is suitable for up to 2 practitioners at one time.
- The studio is not well suited to artforms and practices that require wash-up facilities, generate loud noise, or require the use of heavy machinery, extractor fans and open flames. There is no grease trap sink. If your practice falls in these categories, please contact Creative Spaces to discuss suitability of Boyd Studios.
- Due to the heritage nature of the building, the studio is not suitable for suspension of equipment or artwork from walls or ceiling.

Aboriginal Creative Studio Space at Boyd Studios

A free studio space for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander artists provides a valuable opportunity to spend time researching, experimenting, developing and creating new work.

The aim of the Aboriginal Creative Studio Space is to support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander artists and creative practitioners to advance their practice through the provision of a space to create and grow.

This opportunity is for creative development, and no public outcome is required.

Site Visits

It is recommended that you attend a Boyd Studios site visit. Inspections are available throughout the EOI period. Please contact Creative Spaces on (03) 9658 9893 or at creativespaces@melbourne.vic.gov.au to arrange a time.

Applying as a group

Creative Spaces supports expressions of interest from organisations, businesses and individuals working in partnership who may wish to share a space. One application with all parties' details is to be submitted.

Opportunity details

- Number of studio spaces available: One
- Duration: Seven (7) months. Artists are required to work from their studio a minimum of twice per week on average.
- Studio rent: There is no cost to the successful applicant. The studio is provided rent-free, with the in-kind rental contribution valued at \$312.10 per month. Over the 7-month residency period, this represents a total value of \$2,184.70 (exclusive of GST).
- Dates: From 1 October 2026 to 30 April 2027

Site details

- Location: Boyd Studios, Level 1, 207 City Road, Southbank
- Studio specifications: Studio 6 is approx. 17sqm, secure and features a large window with good natural light, wooden floors, high ceilings, heating and air conditioning.
- There is a shared kitchen, bathroom, end of trip facilities and dining area close by.
- Access: Artists will have 24/7 swipe card access to the studio and the Boyd building facilities.
- Boyd Studios comprises of seven Creative Spaces studios and two Arts Residency spaces. Some of the current artists in close proximity include, Scotty So, Brent Lukey, Bianca Easton, Thread Architecture and Kosmovation Foundation Ltd.

Application questions

Applicants are required to respond to the following three questions:

- Tell us about your practice
- Describe how you will use the studio space at Boyd Studios
- Describe how the studio space at Boyd Studios will benefit and extend your practice

Assessment criteria

Applicants will be assessed against the following:

- Creative excellence, boldness and experimentation
- How the studio space will benefit and advance their practice
- Viability of the proposed creative medium and suitability to the space

Support Material

Artistic and other support materials can strengthen and inform your application and will be reviewed as part of the assessment process. We encourage applicants to include support material related to their artistic or creative practice and/or proposal for the studio space.

Examples of support material could include:

- current, proposed or past works
- peer/industry support letter/s and reviews.
- social media and/or website links

How to apply

1. Before you begin, **read** the guidelines and **review** the application form to understand the information required.
2. **Call** or **email** the Creative Spaces team with any queries or if you need help with any part of the application process.
3. **Complete** and **submit** only one online application by 4pm on the closing date (Wednesday 2 September 2026).

We support diverse application methods and are happy to accept applications through a variety of formats (handwritten, recorded voice, video).

For any questions or to arrange a time to view the studio space, please contact Creative Spaces on (03) 9658 9893 or by emailing creativespaces@melbourne.vic.gov.au.

Assessment process

All applications are assessed by a panel of 3 people including 2 Aboriginal arts peers and one representative from Creative Spaces.

Applications are kept confidential and the contents will not be disclosed to any person outside the application and assessment process. A summary description may be used in reports to Council.

The City of Melbourne reserves the right to request further information in considering any application, as well as the right to reject any application that is ineligible or does not meet the criteria.

Unsuccessful applicants are eligible to re-apply in future rounds in accordance with Creative Spaces guidelines.

The successful applicant will be published via City of Melbourne and Creative Spaces channels including social media, website/s etc.

Terms and conditions

- The successful applicant is required to sign a licence agreement.
- Licensees are required to obtain Public Liability Insurance to the sum of \$20 million.
- All electrical items that enter the studio space must be tested and tagged.
- Licensees are required to work from their studio a minimum of twice per week.
- Any work created in the building and published in the public domain must contain the Creative Spaces logo and acknowledge the program.
- Licensees must contact [Creative Spaces](#) for approval before publishing or distributing any material containing the City of Melbourne and Creative Spaces logos.
- Intellectual property: Copyright of any works created during the licence term remains with the creator.
- Licensees will allow Creative Spaces or City of Melbourne's property team to conduct building inspections or maintenance as required.
- The licensee must keep the licensed area clean and in good repair and condition.
- The studio space must not be damaged or altered.
- City of Melbourne reserves the right to invite artists to apply.

Help available

If you would like to talk to someone about your application and eligibility, please contact Creative Spaces on (03) 9658 9893 or by emailing creativespaces@melbourne.vic.gov.au.

Application support

Artists who have specific needs or require help to view, complete and submit an application (which could involve submitting an application using an alternative format) are encouraged to contact the Creative Spaces team. Applicants can also seek assistance in the following ways:

d/Deaf and Disabled artists

Applicants can contact Arts Access Victoria (AAV) for application support. Contact info@artsaccess.com.au or phone (03) 9699 8299.

If you are d/Deaf, hearing-impaired, or speech-impaired, contact us via the National Relay Service 133 677.

Technical assistance

Refer to the SmartyGrants [Help Guide](#) or contact the support desk 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday on (03) 9320 6888 or email service@smartygrants.com.au.

Floorplan, Level 1

