



Take Over! 2020 FAQs

Why has Take Over! changed its format in 2020?

We have rigorously considered what the Take Over! program might look like in 2020. We made a decision that we wanted to invest in more ideas and distribute the philanthropic funding we have for this program to more artists. We considered how artists could develop work through this time. We also imagined what an event bringing all the performances together might look like during Melbourne Fringe and we're excited by the possibility of gathering for a durational experience.

We acknowledge that this is a competitive process and we are extremely grateful to anyone who submits an application. We hope that we have made the application process transparent, quick, easy and clear.

We value your ideas and if your proposal is not curated into this program we encourage you to look for other opportunities to realise them. We will update this FAQ with other opportunities to develop your ideas at this time.

Who is this commission for?

This commission is for mid-career to established independent artists who have a minimum of eight years professional practice and a strong track record of self-generating artistic projects; in which they are the lead artist. This is an opportunity for artists who are living in Victoria.

We encourage applications Deaf and Disabled artists, First Nations artists, CALD artists and LGBTIQ+ artists.

What art-form is this program for?

This commission program is open to all genres of live performance, made for adults, including Circus (no rigging available), Live art, Theatre, Dance, Spoken word, Participatory arts, Contemporary performance, Sound art, Comedy, Cabaret, Puppetry, Music. We encourage applications from artists who are interested in exploring the potential of the relationship between the artist and the audience.

Is this opportunity only for solo artists?

Arts Centre Melbourne is able to invest \$3000 towards artist fees for the creative development of these works. We would like artists to develop a project that is viable and mindful of time and available resources. If you can involve more people in your project through appropriate allocation of this money, other partnerships or through other available resources then do so.

How many projects will be supported?

We have the resources to fund up to ten projects.

Where do I develop the work?

The world is changing daily and quickly. Rules on gatherings, work and physical distancing will continue to evolve and change and therefore we have imagined this project is developed in your home or in a space that follows government work and physical distancing guidelines.

What is expected of me during the at home residency?

We want you to connect with audiences online at least twice during the time you are developing the work. We'd love you to engage with audiences at the start of the project to let them know about you and what you are thinking about - what you will explore in the residency. We then want you to share a part of the work online at the end of the residency. How will you meaningfully engage with your audiences as part of this process? How can you use this online presentation to impact what your live work will be in November?



Should the finished artwork be an online event or one designed for a live physical experience?

We anticipate that we will be able to gather in person in November at Arts Centre Melbourne to present the work, and you should plan on this format at this stage. If things change, you should be ready to adapt the work to an online presentation down the track.

Is there a theme?

There is not a theme but please consider these questions:

- Is there an idea that you've always wanted to explore but have not yet pursued it?
- Has there been an idea that you have been thinking about during this time of lock-down and isolation? Can this investment help you explore it?
- What do you want to say now?
- What do you want to say to your audiences online? What does meaningful online engagement look like?
- How do you want to engage with audiences when we can be in the same space again?
- Is this a chance to re-set? What do you want coming out of this crisis?
- Is this a chance to consider access as a creative element in the development of your idea and for audience engagement?

When do you expect that the first online showing will take place?

We will work with selected artists to schedule the works at a mutually convenient time but we anticipate that artists will work across two weeks (full time) or multiple weeks (part time) to develop their works. The development period will run throughout June, July, August and September 2020.

How will the work be shown live in November as part of Melbourne Fringe?

It is anticipated that each work will be presented as part of a larger durational performance event at Arts Centre Melbourne during the Melbourne Fringe. Therefore each work will need to be able to share technical resources and be programmed as part of a durational performance event.

Will the audience be seated?

Yes the audience can be seated. However if your idea requires a different relationship with the audience other than audience sitting in chairs (ie participatory, groups, dancing) please let us know about this in your EOI. We want to design the Take Over! event based on your ideas.

Will a performance fee be paid for the work in November?

Yes each project will be paid a performance fee on top of the development seed funding to include final rehearsals, technical rehearsal and presentation of the work in November. Performance fees will be finalised following the creative development. Arts Centre Melbourne will have budget for production and technical requirements of the live event and final technical riders will be negotiated following the creative developments.

How much rehearsals are you paying for in November?

We anticipate there will be funds available for a one week engagement to include final rehearsals and presentation.

How long should the work be?

Artists work in different ways and at different paces. We are excited to hear from you about what you imagine the final duration of your work will be for the November event.



Can the work have previously been developed or presented?

This opportunity is for new work. We want artists to use this opportunity to test out and develop a new idea.

Who owns the work created?

The work is owned by the artist. ACM and Melbourne Fringe want the work to premiere as part of the Take Over! 2020 durational performance event during Melbourne Fringe. After this premiere artists may independently continue to develop the work, tour the work and present in other contexts. ACM and Melbourne Fringe can help the artists with advice about other opportunities for the works.

Will I get any technical support to connect with audiences during the residency and when showing the creative development?

The ACM Programming, Marketing and Broadcast teams will support you connect with audiences and help with technical advice.

What date is the durational event during the Melbourne Fringe?

We are currently working through the ideal date for this project and given the changing nature of the current situation we will advise selected artists as we finalise the projects. The Melbourne Fringe runs from Nov 12-29 and this event will take place on one of the Saturdays during this time.

What if audiences cannot gather in November?

Each piece will be presented online.

I have further questions or need more information. Who can I contact?

We welcome any and all questions! Simply email takeover@artscentremelbourne.com.au and we will get back to you as quickly as we can. If you have a question, it's likely other applicants do too, so we'll update this FAQ on a regular basis so that all applicants have access to the same information.

Arts Centre Melbourne and Melbourne Fringe value a transparent process and therefore advise:

- We will share the number of applications received
- Following the curation process, we will publish the names of the panel members who took part in this process. The team will be made of Melbourne Fringe and ACM representatives.
- We will publish a document that aims to capture feedback on the overall applications received for this opportunity. We will not be able to provide individual feedback at this time.

The panel will use the following criteria for each proposal:

- Viability of project: Has the artist considered the time and resources available for this project?
- Track record of artist: Does the experience of the artist demonstrate the potential to realise the idea?
- Artistic Practice: Does the idea have the potential to extend the artist's practice?
- Future potential: Does the idea have the potential to find other presentation contexts, either online or live, following the ACM/Melbourne Fringe presentation
- Innovation: Does the idea support artistic discovery, demonstrating an innovative or original approach to artmaking in form or content?
- Equity and representation: Does the project support the representation of diverse voices and experiences on our stages

We will consider each of the projects alongside each other and curate a balanced program that offers audiences an exciting and surprising journey of new art works.



FAQ Updates – Fri 29 May

Question: Am I eligible to apply if I might be considered emerging but I am working with an established director?

Answer: If you are applying as a creative team then you would be eligible for this program

Question: I'm interested in applying for the current commission opportunity, but I am not able to make a work for \$3000. As an independent company artist I've limited all my applications to \$5000 plus, as a \$3000 fee only covers my wages for 2 weeks. So I'm keen to hear your thoughts on this. At the same time it's great to see so much experimentation with funding & structures at this time. A lot of constructive and promising changes are being made by organisations like ACM and that's very heartening.

Answer: We had anticipated a solo artist would spend about 2 weeks now developing a concept and testing this out with the audience online during their residency. Then we would pay an additional performance fee to include a final week of prep and performance in November. Although we can't finalise the final presentation fee at this stage, it certainly will be within industry standard for a week's work. All fees are exclusive of super, which would be in addition to the fee if applicable.

We are interested in artists presenting what they can within these resources. So what, if anything, could you develop over a 2 week residency and a final week before presentation? The work doesn't have to be fully finished for the final outcome in November as it sits among a number of other performances in a larger durational performance event.

Question: How long are you wanting the video pitches to be?

Answer: We will need the application questions answered in the video. As a general guide, no more than 5 minutes is necessary.

The Arts Wellbeing Collective

Arts Centre Melbourne and Melbourne Fringe Festival are proud members of the Arts Wellbeing Collective. We are committed to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of all applicants throughout the Take Over 2020 process.

We recognise that paid opportunities for performing artists continue to be significantly impacted by the COVID-19 closure period and take our responsibility to commission and showcase new works by Australian creatives seriously.

The Arts Wellbeing Collective has a range of resources available to support your mental health and wellbeing, including the Support Act Wellbeing Helpline (1800 959 500), a 24/7 phone counselling service available to anyone who works in the Australian performing arts industry. For more information, visit www.artswellbeingcollective.com.au