

Arts Centre Melbourne Public Realm Commission

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

THE COMMISSION

Who is this commission for?

This commission is for artists living in Victoria who identify as Deaf and/or having a lived experience of disability, and their collaborating allies.

We encourage applications from First Nations artists, culturally and linguistically diverse artists, LGBTQI+ artists and artists living in regional Victoria.

Artists, companies or collaborations considering applying must have a minimum five years of professional practice and a record of self-generating artistic projects in which they are the lead artist.

We encourage companies to engage emerging artists/practitioners as a part of their project team.

How many projects will be supported?

One project will be supported through this commission.

Is there an artform preference for this commission?

No. This commission for the public realm is open to all genres and forms of live performance that foster inclusive participation, including Circus, Theatre, Dance, Spoken Word, Participatory Installation, Contemporary Performance, Sound Art, Comedy, Cabaret, Puppetry, Music – and more!

We are open to multi-artform and hybrid works from artists who currently work or are interested in exploring the potential of the relationship between the artist and the audience in public spaces.

What is the partnership between Arts Centre Melbourne and Metro Tunnel Creative Program?

Arts Centre Melbourne and Metro Tunnel Creative Program's partnership builds from a similar moment of disruption, while Melbourne transforms its commuter routes towards the future and Arts Centre Melbourne renovates areas of the Theatre's Building.

The Metro Tunnel Creative Program's collaborative approach to develop and deliver performance works by the local community meets with ACM's vision to create and present inclusive, participatory and celebratory performances, not just on our stages but in public spaces of the Arts Centre Melbourne precinct.

What is the Metro Tunnel Project and the Metro Tunnel Creative Program?

The Metro Tunnel will create a new end-to-end rail line from Sunbury in the west to Cranbourne/Pakenham in the south-east, with high capacity trains and five new underground stations.

The Metro Tunnel will create capacity on the network to enable more than a half a million additional passengers per week across Melbourne's train network to use the rail system during the peak periods.

You can read more about the project – and see videos of works happening underground [here](#).

The [Metro Tunnel Creative Program](#) delivers temporary creative works that contribute to offsetting the disruption across the project's worksites, keeping Melbourne a vibrant and attractive destination as this city-shaping project is built.

The Program's curatorial theme is *Movement, Repetition and Time*.

Objectives:

- Keep the city vibrant and moving
- Think laterally about space and place
- Remain quintessentially 'Melbourne' in our approach
- Stay true to local character
- Keep Melbourne livable

Is there a theme?

We encourage submissions that respond to the Metro Tunnel Creative Program curatorial theme of *Movement, Repetition and Time*. The project must demonstrate an inclusive approach to audience participation and integrate accessibility as a creative input.

Some questions to be considered when planning:

- Is there an idea that you've always wanted to explore but have not yet pursued?
- With access at the forefront, how do you want to engage with audiences when we can be in the same space again?
- Are there existing or new artistic collaborations that you want to foster as part of this work?
- How do you imagine access to be embedded as a creative element in the development of your idea and for audience engagement?

Who is on the Selection Panel?

The Selection Panel is still being finalised and will be announced at the culmination of the selection process. The Panel will include representatives from Arts Centre Melbourne and Metro Tunnel Creative Program alongside First Nations artists and cultural leaders with lived experience of disability.

THE APPLICATION

Video submissions - can I submit my question responses in Auslan?

Absolutely! We will interpret/caption all video submissions as needed, however respect that some applicants may want to caption their video themselves. Just let us know when you submit your application if your video is already captioned or not.

Reminder here that your video response will make up only one part of your application. You still need to send through a budget, artist biographies and two types of support material as part of your submitted JotForm application form.

Can I submit in an alternative format?

Yes. Please email publicrealm@artscentremelbourne.com.au in advance of the application close date to discuss what will work best for you.

I'm navigating the JotForm application form with a screen-reader program. Any hot tips?

Yes! We have received feedback that JotForm is easy to complete with screen-reader programs, however there can be confusion with error messages not noting which compulsory application fields need attention. If you are using a screen reader program and receive the message "There are errors on the form. Please fix them before continuing" we recommend that you use your screen reader's search function to locate text that reads "This field is required" and navigate from there.

What spaces at Arts Centre Melbourne (ACM) should I consider when developing my application?

- ACM Theatre's Building Main Entrance
- ACM Theatre's Forecourt
- ACM Lawn Areas
- Hamer Hall Upper Terrace

BUDGET

What do I need to include in the project budget?

The budget for the creative development is \$40,000.

When drafting your budget for the application, please consider and include:

- Artist fees: The minimum weekly award rate for artists fees is \$1,145 fee + \$240.45 to cover Superannuation, WorkCover and holiday loading
- All access service and support costs
- For regional artists: accommodation and travel costs

Please note that ACM and Metro Tunnel Creative Program want to support artists to work in whatever way best supports them and the project. To that end we support budget lines for

childcare, partner/companion support costs, local transport costs for collaborators and community consultation fees. However you would like to allocate the \$40,000 in relation to the creative development is up to you.

For the creative development showing, ACM will also cover

- technical equipment and production staff costs up to the value of \$2,000
- access service costs for invited audience/participants

Artist fees for the showing and additional showing requirements will need to be factored into the \$40,000 creative development budget.

Do I need to include an auspicing fee in my budget?

No, an auspice fee is already accounted for in the fee ACM has paid to Performing Lines (PL) for producing support.

Do I need to budget for insurances?

Public Liability will be covered by Performing Lines.

WorkCover should be calculated at 2.8% of wages/fees paid to project collaborators and included in the project budget.

Additional insurances (volunteer, travel etc) would also need to be factored into the project budget, if required.

ELIGIBILITY

Do I have to identify as having a lived disability to submit an application?

This commission is for applicants who are Deaf and/or identify as having a lived experience of disability. That is not to say that all members of the project team must identify this way, but the artistic approach and creative process must be disability-led.

Non-disabled project team members can also be noted as the Main Contact and submit an application on behalf of an artist or artists with lived experience of disability as part of the application process, as needed.

Is this an opportunity for solo artists?

Arts Centre Melbourne is able to invest \$40,000 towards the creative development of this work. We would like artists to develop a project that is viable and mindful of time and available resources. We encourage solo artists to build a delivery team to support their vision for this commission, as part of the application process.

Can the work have been previously developed or in development?

This commission is for new works and works in-development that have not yet premiered and can be presented in the context of Arts Centre Melbourne public spaces. We encourage artists to use this opportunity to test out and develop new ideas and/or collaborations.

I live in regional Victoria; can I apply?

Arts Centre Melbourne and Metro Tunnel Creative Program encourage applications from anyone who lives in the State of Victoria. Regional artists should consider travel and accommodation costs related to project development and factor these into their budget.

I am collaborating with an artist who also wants to apply for this commission with another project. Would our collaboration be eligible or would one of us have to forfeit one of the EOI applications to be considered?

There's no limit to how many applications you can be attached to. We know that artists may want to work in different ways - and teams - to deliver different concepts, and don't want to restrict collaborative possibilities or application eligibility in that regard.

THE CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Do I have access to Arts Centre Melbourne to develop the work?

The public realm at Arts Centre Melbourne is vital to the development of this work. We will work with you to provide the relevant access and support to work safely and productively onsite, and can also assist with access to meeting spaces, as required.

When will the creative development be?

The scheduling and design of the creative development period is completely up to you. You may wish to use funds to hold multiple one week developments over the full five month period, work full-time over a month or work part-time with collaborators over three-months. (Pending size of team, budget and availability of ACM spaces.)

The creative development of your project must occur between January – June 2021, with the creative development showing taking place prior to 1 July 2021.

Arts Centre Melbourne will liaise with the successful artist on space availability and access related to their development schedule during this period.

What happens if we are faced with COVID-19 restrictions during the creative development?

The world is changing daily and quickly. Rules on gatherings, work and physical distancing will continue to evolve and change and we will remain in constant communication with the successful applicant on access to Arts Centre Melbourne sites in line with government guidelines and social distancing rules.

Initial phases of the work may need to take place at home, with meetings, site visits and on-site development occurring at Arts Centre Melbourne when the successful applicant and broader project team are confident that the health and safety of all personnel can be assured.

ACM, Metro Tunnel Creative Program and Performing Lines will all work with you to facilitate the best outcome possible.

What access service support will be provided during the creative development?

The level of access service support you and your collaborators receive is decided by you, and should be factored into the \$40,000 budget. ACM recognise that access services and support need to be bespoke to the group making the work and do not want to set a potentially constricting budget limit in this regard. The integration of access as an aesthetic also means that service providers could be engaged as collaborators, further blurring budget lines. At the end of the day we want to give you control over the full budget amount, so that you can make the best work possible, with the level of support that you require.

In addition, Arts Centre Melbourne will:

- ensure any online marketing videos/digital assets generated have access considered in their delivery
- cover access service costs for audience/participants at the creative development showing
- help connect you to relevant support services or organisations as needed

What other sort of support will I receive during the creative development period?

During the development period:

- Performing Lines will auspice your commission, provide producing support and can act as a liaison between you and Arts Centre Melbourne, if needed
- ACM Programming will be your key venue contact and can also provide producing support
- ACM Production will be on hand to provide technical advice
- ACM Marketing & Publicity will oversee a marketing and publicity campaign in support of the artist and the creative development process, to help connect the project with audiences and industry.

THE CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT – SHOWING

What date is the showing?

The development showing must be held before 1 July 2021. The date will be negotiated with Arts Centre Melbourne, in alignment with space availability and your creative development dates.

Who will be the audience for the showing?

Representatives from Arts Centre Melbourne and Metro Tunnel Creative Program will be in attendance, along with relevant industry personnel, community members and/or participants. Leading into the showing, we will liaise with the selected artist/s as to who they feel should be included in this moment.

What additional support do I receive for the showing?

For the creative development showing, ACM will support

- Up to \$2000 of production staffing and technical equipment costs
- Access service costs for invited audience/participants

PRESENTATION

What will the presentation budget be?

The budget for presentation in late 2021 will be \$40,000 plus additional support for technical equipment, Production and Front of House staff.

Who owns the work created?

The work is owned by the artist. After the work's premiere in late 2021, artists may independently tour the work and present it in other contexts. Both ACM and Performing Lines can help the successful artists with advice about touring and securing other opportunities for the work during 2021.

MORE INFORMATION

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

You can email publicrealm@artscentremelbourne.com.au at any time with questions around the application or development process.

Please note:

- Arts Centre Melbourne staff are currently working remotely and are unable to be contacted via phone, unless pre-arranged.
- If you specifically require a member of our team to call you, please email us with your phone number, when you are available to answer our call, what you'd like to discuss and if we should call you via the National Relay Service. We'll aim to respond within one business day for requests sent during the week, and on Mondays, for requests sent over the weekend.

Reminder that we are updating our FAQs every Wednesday during October, so please check back regularly to see if we have responded to your question here.

The Arts Wellbeing Collective

Arts Centre Melbourne are proud members of the Arts Wellbeing Collective and are committed to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of all applicants throughout the Public Realm Performance Commission process.

We recognise that paid opportunities for performing artists continue to be significantly impacted by COVID-19 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