

2025 City of Melbourne Annual Arts Grants Fact Sheet

Acknowledgement

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 Kulin and pays respect to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge and honour the unbroken spiritual, cultural and political connection they have maintained to this unique place for more than 2000 generations.

We accept the invitation in the Uluru Statement from the Heart and are committed to walking together to build a better future.

Overview

The City of Melbourne Council embraces the transformative role that the arts and creativity plays in building all aspects of the city.

Our [Council Plan 2021-25](#)¹ sets the framework for Melbourne as a creative city, guided by the values of integrity, courage, accountability, respect and excellence.

Read our [Creative Strategy 2018-28](#)²

Read our [Creative Funding Framework 2024-30](#)³

Our creative funding aims to support:

- artists of all backgrounds and abilities
- artists at all stages of their careers
- artists working in any art form
- public presentations that contribute to the creative invigoration of Melbourne
- artists to develop their creative practice through residencies

Application dates

Applications open: Wednesday 15 May 2024

Applications close: 11.59pm Sunday 23 June 2024

Notification to applicants: September 2024

Aboriginal artists please also note: Applications for [Aboriginal Arts Project grants](#)⁴ open on 1 August 2024 for projects taking place in 2025.

¹ <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/about-council/vision-goals/Pages/council-plan.aspx>

² <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture/strategies-support/Pages/creative-strategy-2018-28.aspx>

³ <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture/strategies-support/Pages/creative-funding-framework.aspx>

⁴ <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture/strategies-support/funding/Pages/aboriginal-arts-projects.aspx>

Are you eligible?

Applications are open to artists and small to medium arts organisation for public presentations and residencies in 2025.

You can only apply to one grant category.

You cannot apply if you have an overdue acquittal or unpaid debts to the City of Melbourne.

Make sure the public presentation of your project is in the City of Melbourne [Council boundaries](#)⁵

There are extra eligibility requirements if your project is presented online.

Not all types of projects are eligible for funding. [Contact us](#) to find out if your project is eligible.

Grant categories

The following grants are available for activities taking place in 2025.

Arts projects

These grants are open to artists and small to medium arts organisations.

You can apply for up to \$20,000 to create and present a project to the public.

Arts residency: Boyd Studio-1

This residency is open to artists and small to medium arts organisations.

Successful applicants will receive \$5,000 plus the free use of a studio space.

There are two six-month residencies:

- 13 January to 30 June 2025
- 4 July to 15 December 2025

Writing residency: Boyd Garret

This residency is open to writers of any genre.

The successful applicant will receive \$5,000 plus free use of a studio space. The only way to get to the Garret studio is via a steep staircase.

There is one 12-month residency from 12 January to 15 December 2025.

Writing residency: Libraries

The Libraries residency is open to writers of any genre.

Successful applicants will receive \$5,000 plus the free use of a library space.

There are two three-month residencies during 2025 (dates and library location will be negotiated).

⁵ <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/about-melbourne/melbourne-profile/Pages/city-maps.aspx>

Arts residency: Art and Heritage Collection

This residency is open to individual artists.

The successful applicant will receive \$5,000 plus access to the Art and Heritage Collection at the Melbourne Town Hall.

There will be one residency of up to 12 months during 2025.

Find out more about the grant categories and assessment criteria

[City of Melbourne Website: Arts Grants⁶](#) – you will find all the grant information including the guidelines, links to the application forms and FAQs on this webpage.

SmartyGrants online application forms

[2025 Arts projects SmartyGrants application⁷](#)

[2025 Arts residencies SmartyGrants Application⁸](#)

How to apply

1. Read the guidelines thoroughly
2. Watch the grants briefing presentation and the applicant top tips video on our website
3. Preview the application form
4. Contact us with any questions
5. Allow plenty of time to plan and gather the information you will need to draft your application.
6. Apply via the SmartyGrants online application form (log in or create an account)
7. Complete and submit your online application by 11.59pm 23 June. Late applications are not accepted.

Accessibility

We aim to make the arts grants accessible to all people.

Applicants should also do their best to make their project accessible.

Access funds are available for d/Deaf, disabled, neurodiverse and chronically ill artists.

Artists can apply for up to \$2,000 to cover access costs.

For more information, please [contact us](#).

⁶ <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture/strategies-support/funding/arts-grants/Pages/arts-grants.aspx>

⁷ <https://melbourne.smartygrants.com.au/ArtsGrants2025>

⁸ <https://melbourne.smartygrants.com.au/ArtsResidencies2025>

Help is available

Contact the City of Melbourne Arts Grants team

For more information check out the FAQs or contact the Arts Grants team.

Email: artsgrants@melbourne.vic.gov.au

Phone: 03 9658 9658 (voice only) / The National Relay Service: 133 677

Get help with the application format

Call us if you need an accessible application format such as video or audio.

d/Deaf, disabled, neurodiverse and chronically ill applicants

You can contact Will Box for application support.

Email: will.box@melbourne.vic.gov.au

Phone: 0481 099 439 (text or voice).

You can also contact Arts Access Victoria (AAV) for auspicing services.

Contact AAV

Email: grants@artsaccess.com.au

Phone (03) 9699 8299 (voice only)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait artists and organisations

Contact Laura Johnston for application support (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday).

Email: laura.johnston@melbourne.vic.gov.au

Phone: 0411 776 324

Artists from multicultural communities

Contact Laura Johnston for application support (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday).

Email: laura.johnston@melbourne.vic.gov.au

Phone: 0411 776 324

You can also contact Multicultural Arts Victoria (MAV) for auspicing services.

Contact MAV

Email: miriam@mav.org.au

Contact the City of Melbourne [Interpreting Services](#)⁹ to access translators.

⁹ <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/community/health-support-services/multicultural-services/Pages/translation-services.aspx>

Get technical help with the online SmartyGrants application form

Check out the [SmartyGrants Help Guide](#)¹⁰

You can contact the support desk 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday

Email: service@smartygrants.com.au

Phone: 03 9320 6888 (voice only)

Other funding opportunities

The City of Melbourne offers a wide range of [opportunities](#)¹¹ to support artists and the broader Melbourne community to deliver a range of quality programs and activities including opportunities through:

- [Arts House](#)¹²
- [Signal](#)¹³
- [ArtPlay](#)¹⁴
- [Yirramboi Festival](#)¹⁵

Stay up to date on the latest city of Melbourne opportunities by:

Visiting our [website](#)¹⁶

Following us on [social media](#)¹⁷

Subscribing to our [e-newsletters](#)¹⁸

¹⁰ <https://applicanthehelp.smartygrants.com.au/help-guide-for-applicants/>

¹¹ <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/about-council/governance-transparency/Pages/grants-and-sponsorships.aspx>

¹² <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture/arts-house/Pages/arts-house.aspx>

¹³ <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture/signal/Pages/signal.aspx>

¹⁴ <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture/artplay/Pages/ArtPlay.aspx>

¹⁵ <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture/aboriginal-torres-strait-islander-arts/Pages/yirramboi-first-nations-arts-festival.aspx>

¹⁶ <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/about-council/governance-transparency/Pages/grants-and-sponsorships.aspx>

¹⁷ <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/pages/social-media.aspx>

¹⁸ <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/news-and-media/pages/news-and-media.aspx>