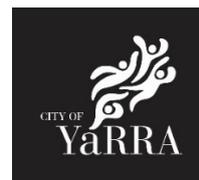


# Expression of Interest LGBTIQA+ Memorial Commission Guidelines



## Introduction

Yarra City Council (Council) is collaborating with the LGBTIQA+ community to create a permanent memorial for the City of Yarra recognising the loss of all LGBTIQA+ community members who have died of suicide. Many individuals within this community endure bullying, violence, discrimination, and social rejection solely due to their sexual or gender identity. As a significant public art commission, it is envisioned that the memorial will create a sanctuary where individuals can come alone or with friends to reminisce, find solace amid grief and celebrate the authentic lives of loved ones who were integral members of the LGBTIQA+ community.

With a total project budget of \$350,000 subject to Council endorsement of the 2025-2026 budget, the memorial is anticipated for completion and installation at the Collingwood Town Hall Park (formally St. Phillips Reserve), Abbotsford in 2026.

## Background

A proposal for a memorial to commemorate LGBTIQA+ community who have died of suicide was initially brought to Council by a community member (2023) as per Council's Civic Recognition Policy.

Council has undertaken initial scoping for the commission and is committed to delivering Stage 1 (Concept and Development Stage) within this 2024-2025 financial year. This stage includes a two-step artist commission process.

Stage 2 (Creation and Installation Stage) is subject to Council approval of the 2025-2026 Budget which is anticipated to be confirmed by June 2025.

## 2 Step Artist Commission Process

### Step1: Expression of Interest - Tuesday 11 February – Tuesday 11 March 2025.

Eligible artists are required to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) via an application form through the Smarty Grants portal.

The EOI will require eligible artists to:

- provide a **CV** including an artist **Bio** (maximum 2 pages) and **images of previous works** (up to six images or website link)
- respond to the following **three questions** about their approach and working methodology.

1. *What motivates or interests you about this commission? (300-word limit).*
2. *How do your initial ideas and concepts respond to the brief highlighting your creative practice and connection to Yarra's rich LGBTIQA + history, culture and community? (300-word limit).*
3. *How would you go about developing and realising the commission highlighting your preferred approach to consulting with community? (300-word limit).*

**Please note:** No fees are offered during the EOI process as no concepts are required at this stage.

The Project Reference Group and Selection Panel (LGBTIQA+ community members) will assess and invite three artists from the EOI applications to progress to Step 2.

**Evaluation:** Submitted documents, including the Bio, working history (CV), and images of previous work, will be assessed as is and will account for 40% of the total evaluation. Responses to each question will each be evaluated for 20%, based on how each question relates to the project brief and objectives as outlined in these guidelines. The overall evaluation will therefore be based on a 100% scale.

**Step 2: Concept Development - Friday 21 March – Friday 25 April 2025.  
Presentation Wednesday 30 April 2025.**

Shortlisted artists will be given a detailed design brief, which will include memorial considerations, specifications of the site and requirements of the proposal, as well as terms and conditions. A fee of \$3,500 will be given to complete and present a concept proposal to the Project Reference Group and Selection Panel for further consideration and recommendation which will then go to Council (July 2025).

Subject to Council's budget approval of the project the successful applicant for the commission will then enter into a formal agreement with Council, which will include the contractual obligations, terms and conditions and key performance outputs and outcomes. This agreement will take effect in the 2025-2026 financial year.

## **Artist Eligibility**

Victorian artists who identify as part of the LGBTIQA+ community are encouraged to apply. Eligible artists can be in all stages of their career, and work in all media. They also must demonstrate the ability to produce a work for the public realm, preferably with skills to work with a team of public art, landscape design, heritage and lighting specialists.

## Timeline

<b>Step 1 – Artist EOI</b>	
EOI Opens	Tuesday 11 February (1.00pm)
EOI submissions Close	Tuesday 11 March 2025 (11.59pm)
Artist shortlisted by	Wednesday 19 March 2025
Shortlisted artists notified by	Friday 21 March 2025
<b>Step 2 – Concept Design Proposal</b>	
Concept Brief sent	Friday 21 March 2025
Concept Submissions due	Friday 25 April 2025 (COB)
Concept Proposal Presentation	Wednesday 30 April 2025
Successful artist notified	Friday 2 May 2025
Recommendation to Council	Tuesday 8 July 2025
Project Commission commences	August 2025

## COMMISSION BRIEF

### Purpose

The permanent LGBTIQA+ memorial and its surrounds will be a meaningful place and site of reflection and solace in the City of Yarra. Designed as an open invitation to all, it will be a welcoming and inclusive space and sanctuary for individuals, families and friends to gather and reminisce, reflect and commemorate their loved ones who have died of suicide, as well as come together for significant occasions throughout the year.

### Location

Located at 140 Hoddle Street Abbotsford; the Collingwood Town Hall Park (formally St Phillips Reserve) will be home to the memorial. Situated next to the Collingwood Town Hall, this park is a quiet oasis away from the bustle of busy Hoddle Street nearby. It is a peaceful and calm space for reflection, easily accessible and conveniently located near Collingwood Train station and bus stops with ample public parking around the vicinity.

The Collingwood Town Hall including the park has historical significance to the community. The Town Hall stands out for its accessibility as a gathering place for LGBTIQA+ communities since the gay liberation movement events of the 1970s and the park holds LGBTIQA+ flag raising ceremonies today. The permanent memorial will allow the park to retain its current use as an open space, retaining its primary purpose to stage activities and events, catering to a broader public need.

The park is an open green space, with the current lawn and shady nature of the reserve an important characteristic as green spaces provide places of respite for visitors. Easily adaptable with tree lined walkways, it has existing seating with BBQ and picnic facilities lending itself to events. It also has good passive surveillance (filtered views) from the Collingwood Town Hall and neighbouring facilities.

The park is home to the Djerring Centre that includes a colourful mural referencing Australian flora and fauna by Sam Yong that looks onto the park. It is also home to another memorial *Stand Up – Speak Out (memorial to Theo Sidiropoulos)*, 2007 commemorating the life of the former Councillor, who made outstanding contributions to Melbourne’s social, political and civic life through his community and political activism, belief in social justice and support of migrant’s rights.

## Scope

A deep awareness and appreciation of Yarra’s rich LGBTIQA+ history, culture and community, as well as significant contributions, diverse experiences and enduring resilience, sometimes in the context of adversity is to be reflected within the work.

The Memorial may take a variety of forms and may include a built element such as a sculpture, landscape or combination/integration of both. Artists are encouraged to visit and respond to the characteristics of the site and to consider large and small-scale proposals, and a broad range of potential materials, landscaping and approaches.

## Objectives

- To recognise the loss of all Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, and Asexual + community members who have died of suicide.
- To be a welcoming and inclusive space and sanctuary where individuals, families and friends can gather to reminisce and commemorate their loved ones in peaceful reflection.
- To be a community space encouraging resistance for better conditions and better futures for the LGBTIQA+ community.
- The potential to cultivate new connections, ideas and activities that foster a sense of connection for visitors.
- To be inclusive of all Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, and Asexual + community.
- A work of high artistic merit, that is innovative and creative to attract interest and encourage people to visit, learn and understand.
- Be site-responsive by reflecting thoughtfully on its location and the intrinsic character of its natural surroundings.
- Incorporate appropriate engagement with the critical knowledge, values and insights of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples.

## Responsibilities and Indicative Budget Breakdown

Council, through its Arts and Culture Unit, will serve as the project manager for this commission and oversee all aspects of the initiative.

Under a formal agreement it is expected that the successful commissioning artist, will collaborate closely with Council to achieve successful project deliverables and positive community outcomes. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Initiating ideas, developing concept design/proposal and overseeing the creative outputs (fabrication/construction) at a fee between the range of \$35,000 - \$50,000 inclusive of all levies and on costs.

As project manager Council will:

- manage the contract for fabrication/construction at a total cost of \$150,000
- manage contracts for the delivery of works related to site, permits, traffic management, landscaping, installation, signage and launch.

## Project sensitivities and Artist Well-being

The City of Yarra acknowledges that creating a memorial artwork for the LGBTIQA+ community, particularly one that honors those lost to suicide, is deeply meaningful and may bring up complex emotions for artists involved. We recognise that this process can be both powerful and challenging, requiring careful emotional consideration alongside creative exploration.

Artists responding to this EOI are encouraged to reflect on how they will look after themselves throughout the development of their concept and artwork.

To support artists' psychological well-being throughout the project, Council can provide:

- Access to regular debriefing sessions and check -ins with the project team and where identified support from local service providers partnering with the project.
- Peer support opportunities, connecting artists with others working on similar projects.
- Some flexibility in timelines to accommodate the emotional demands of the work.

Support services and strategies will be available for shortlisted artists during the concept development phase, with ongoing opportunities for check-ins throughout the commission process. Council encourages all involved to reach out with additional ways of support throughout the development of the commission.

## Questions?

For further information regarding this EOI process and/or the project commission, contact:

Project Manager  
**Grace Longato**  
Visual Arts Officer

**9205 5029**

[Grace.Longato@yarracity.vic.gov.au](mailto:Grace.Longato@yarracity.vic.gov.au)

**For an introduction, immerse yourself in the stories, experiences and locations of queer significance throughout the City of Yarra. Visit:**

<https://arts.yarracity.vic.gov.au/gallery/retracing-queer-yarra>