



Expression of Interest

Yambla Pavilion Public Art

Commission Guidelines

Yarra City Council
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Introduction

Yarra City Council (Council) is seeking to commission a two-dimensional public artwork for the Yambla Pavilion redevelopment project at Quarries Park in Clifton Hill. The new modular sporting pavilion is in its final phase of construction off-site, and due to be completed and installed by May 2026. The artwork will be an integrated component of the new pavilion, and may take the form of a mural, a relief, an overlay, or other two-dimensional expressions as appropriate.

Quarries Park is a popular site for families and children. The Yambla Pavilion was built in the 1980s for the single purpose of men's soccer. The current upgrades aim to create a more inclusive community sporting facility that allows residents and visitors of all ages, genders and abilities to participate.

With a total budget of \$27,756.24, the commission is anticipated for completion and installation at the new Yambla Pavilion in May/June 2026.

Background

The Yambla Pavilion redevelopment project has been a long-term ambition, with key consultations in 2021 and 2024, and a \$500,000 Victorian Government Grant as part of the World Games Facilities Fund 2021-2022. After sustained advocacy from Council, the Australian Government has provided \$2.25 million via its Thriving Suburbs program to upgrade the Yambla Pavilion in December 2024. Shortly after, Modular by SHAPE was appointed for the design and construction of the redevelopment project.

Upgrades commenced in 2025 and the existing pavilion was demolished with a new modular pavilion to take its place, providing improved amenities, increased inclusivity, and better public access to Quarries Park. The upgraded facility will include four unisex player changerooms, referee and first aid facilities, carparking, a viewing deck to the

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soccer field, canteen-kitchen and other public amenities. The pavilion faces the north-side soccer field.

Now a popular site for families and children, Quarries Park used to be small quarry operations around the 1850s and was used for landfill in the 1960s and '70s. It is connected to the Main Yarra and Merri Creek trails, which was an important area for the Wurundjeri-willam people. Many of the houses in the surrounding residential area were built with local bluestone and occupied by quarrymen in the 1850s.

This commission is a result of the Council's adopted *Public Art Policy 2015-2020*, which ensures Council commits a percentage of the capital works budget for new community infrastructure projects over \$1 million to an integrated art component.

Two-step Artist Commission Process

Step 1: Expression of Interest – Monday 19 January 2026 to Tuesday 10 February 2026

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

The EOI will require eligible artists to:

- Provide a CV, an artist bio (maximum two pages), and images of previous works (up to six images or website links).
- 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 themes outlined in the brief, such as the Yambla site, its history, connection to First Peoples, and/or inclusivity in sport? (300-word limit).
 3. How would you go about developing and realising the commission? (300-word limit).

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

Representatives from Council's Arts and Culture Team and the Yambla Pavilion Project Manager will assess and invite three artists from the EOI applications to progress to Step 2.

Evaluation: Submitted documents, including the artist 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 the three questions will each account for 20% (total 60%) of

the total evaluation, based on how each response 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 – Wednesday 18 February 2026 to Tuesday 17 March 2026.

Three shortlisted artists will be given a detailed design brief, which will include themes and scope, specifications of the site and requirements of the proposal, as well as terms and conditions. A fee of \$1,000 will be given to each artist to complete and present a concept proposal to the assessment panel for further consideration and recommendation, which will then go to Council (date).

Subject to the Council's approval, 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. The artwork budget of \$27,756.24 (excl. GST) will be inclusive of all costs associated with the artist's creation, fabrication and installation of the work.

Artist Eligibility

Victorian artists in any stage of their careers are encouraged to apply. The demonstrated ability to produce a work for the public realm is highly desirable, preferably with skills to work with a team of public art, landscape design, architecture and building specialists.

Timeline

Step 1 – Artist EOI	
EOI opens	Monday 19 January 2026
EOI submissions close	Tuesday 10 February 2026 (11.59pm)
Artists shortlisted by	Tuesday 17 February 2026
Shortlisted artists notified by	Wednesday 18 February 2026
Step 2 – Concept Design Proposal	
Concept brief sent	Wednesday 18 February 2026
Concept submission due	Tuesday 17 March 2026 (11.59pm)
Successful artist notified by	Wednesday 25 March 2026
Recommendation to Council	TBC
Project commission commences	Wednesday 1 April 2026

Questions?

January 2026

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

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