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Expression of Interest 2027 Exhibition Program Guidelines

Introduction

Yarra City Council is seeking Expressions of Interest from local contemporary artists to exhibit as part of our 2027 exhibition program at Fitzroy Library, Bargoonga Nganjin – North Fitzroy Library and Carlton Library Light Boxes

The library exhibition program offers opportunities for artists to make creative use of Council venues and spaces. It also provides library users and the wider community an opportunity to enjoy arts and culture as an everyday experience.

For 2027, the program comprises:

- 2 x 12-week exhibitions (Feb-Apr, Aug-Oct) at Fitzroy Library
- 2 x 12-week exhibitions (Feb-Apr, Aug-Oct) at Bargoonga Nganjin; and
- 2 x 25-week public art displays (Feb-Jul, Aug-Jan 2028) at Carlton Library Light Boxes.

An exhibition fee of **\$1600 (excl. GST)** will be paid to selected artists for Fitzroy Library and Bargoonga Nganjin. An exhibition fee of **\$2000 (excl. GST)** will be paid to selected artists for Carlton Library Light Boxes.

Information regarding each of the library exhibition spaces is provided below and artists are highly encouraged to familiarise themselves with the venues and exhibition conditions before applying.

Eligibility



Artists who wish to gain exhibition experience with a strong desire to work in public/community spaces are encouraged to apply, and are asked to consider the context of the library and their users. You can apply to exhibit as a solo artist or as a group.

In addition, artists:

- must currently live, work, study or practice in the City of Yarra.
- must not be a current employee of Yarra City Council.
- cannot exhibit solo exhibitions in the City of Yarra Exhibition Program two years in a row.

Council welcomes applications from artists of all backgrounds and strongly encourage applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people with disability, people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, and the LGBTIQ+ community.

How to Apply

Artists are to submit an Expression of Interest through Smarty Grants by the due date which includes:

- A completed application form (contact information and exhibition questions including an exhibition rationale)
- A CV (one A4 page)
- No more than 12 high-resolution (1 MB) examples (images) of work.

Note: Applicants can propose one space only as part of any application. Alternatively, applicants can submit multiple applications for distinct exhibitions tailored to each exhibition space.

Expressions of Interest close Sunday 18 October 2026, 11.59pm.

[Apply here.](#)

Selection criteria

All submissions will be assessed on the following criteria based on a 100% scale. Each criterion will be evaluated based on how each artist responds to the questions and examples submitted in the application form.

- Works of high quality and artistic merit (20%)
- Clarity of concept/theme (20%)
- Works accessible to wide and diverse audiences (20%)
- Works responsive to the site and surrounding area (10%)
- The artist's demonstrated capacity to deliver the proposed work (10%)
- The quality of the application/documentation provided (10%)
- The works ability to fit within the limitations of the exhibition spaces (10%)
 - For Carlton Library Light Box submissions: Works that demonstrates suitability to the Duratrans medium, the illuminated aesthetic and display (10%)

Successful artists will be notified in early November 2026.

Note: Council's exhibition program does not accept artworks entirely generated through artificial intelligence programs. Artificial intelligence (AI) tools may be used in the process of creating artworks, but must include original images or material created by the artist. If AI tools are utilised in any stage of the creation process, the artist must clearly detail the extent and nature of their use in the submission form.

Council (Arts and Cultural Services Unit) will:

- Provide successful applicants an exhibition fee (excl. GST), inclusive of all costs involved with the creation and presentation of the work.
- Support and/or advise on installation and deinstallation with adherence to best practice.
- Produce exhibition signage and wall text.
- Produce a room sheet with information on the artist/s, list of works, and price if applicable (Council will not handle sales nor take commission).
- Produce professional photographic documentation for the exhibition.
- Promote the exhibition in relevant Council Arts and Cultural Services materials and platforms where available.
- Support and/or advise on an exhibition opening (if applicable).
- Together with Yarra Libraries, provide a public programming opportunity for successful applicants to facilitate a workshop/artist talk in relation to their exhibition (an additional artist fee will be provided if applicable)
- Reserve the right to make final decisions determining the exhibition, exhibition dates and installation of works.

Note: If the exhibition program must close due to unforeseen circumstances, exhibitions that are impacted may be rescheduled at staff discretion.

Exhibitors will:

- Sign and return Exhibition Agreement provided by Council.
- Deliver artworks to Council in a condition that is dry, appropriately identified, and ready to install by the install date (including all supporting accessories and other aids necessary for display).
- Work with Council and/or contractors to install and deinstall the exhibition, adhering to safe work procedures in a high-traffic public space.
- Be responsible for the transportation of artworks (and associated costs) to and from the gallery.
- Provide two high-quality images and an exhibition statement for promotional purposes at the acceptance of an offer.
- Provide the Arts Officer a list of works (title, materials, and dimensions) at least three weeks prior to the exhibition opening.
- Consult with the Arts team about any artworks that weigh more than 20kg and/or includes explicit material/language as early as possible.
- Work with Yarra Libraries on public programming, such as exhibition opening, artist talk and/or workshop (optional)

Note: Artworks that may infringe on the intellectual property of another person or business will not be able to be on public display or exhibition. Council reserves the right to not include works if they believe them to be offensive or derogatory.

Library exhibition spaces

Exhibition spaces in these three venues are in high traffic areas.

Fitzroy Library



Image: 2025-2026 exhibitions at Fitzroy Library.

[Fitzroy Library](#) is located at 128 Moor Street, Fitzroy.

The exhibition space consists of 12 wall-mounted glass cases in a busy corridor adjacent to the children's reading space and leads into the library meeting rooms and staff offices. The cases are suitable for two-dimensional works (particularly series of work), jewellery, small sculptural objects, and historical exhibitions. Exhibition space can be viewed during Library opening hours.

12 x glass cases in the corridor:

- Double-door opening with lock and key
- Felt backing for pins, magnets or other removable install methods
- Exterior dimensions: 80.5cm (h) x 95cm (w) x 8cm (d) each
- Interior dimensions: 70cm (h) x 92.5cm (w) x 4.5cm (d) each

- Mounted 95cm from floor

An exhibition fee of \$1600 (excl. GST) will be provided to each selected proposal to support an exhibition in this space.

Bargoonga Nganjin – North Fitzroy Library



Image: 2025-2026 exhibitions at Bargoonga Nganjin.

[Bargoonga Nganjin](#) is located at 182 St Georges Rd, North Fitzroy. It includes a Library, Maternal and Child Health Centre, community rooms and rooftop garden.

The exhibition space consists of one curved wall in a busy area within the ground floor foyer area that leads to the children's library, library meeting rooms and reception. The wall is suitable for framed works installed on hanging track, two-dimensional installations, mural/drawing works and small sculptural objects. An optional addition to the wall is the inclusion of two transparent wall cavity cases which are suitable for suspended two-dimensional works (particularly series of work), jewellery, small sculptural objects, and historical exhibitions. Exhibition space can be viewed during Library opening hours.

Wall dimensions:

- The wall measures 270cm (h) x 880cm (l)
 - the left-hand side of the column measures 320cm

- the right-hand side measures 560cm

Bargoonga Nganjin operates an 'Open Library' policy, extending library hours to registered library users for unmanned, self-service access to library facilities. Although all care and consideration are given to the safety of the works on display, artists exhibit works at their own risk. Council takes no responsibility for any theft, loss, or damage to artwork during transportation or display at all venues and recommends that all exhibitors have artwork/artist insurance for the duration of their exhibition (including installation and dismantling) and for associated events, such as exhibition openings.

An exhibition fee of \$1600 (excl. GST) will be provided to each selected proposal to support an exhibition in this space.

Carlton Library Light Boxes



Image: 2024-2026 public art displays in Carlton Library Light Boxes.

The light boxes at [Carlton Library](#) are located on the exterior wall on Newry Street, near the corner of 667 Rathdowne Street, Carlton North.

The light boxes enhance the library's profile and the surrounding streetscape, while providing a highly visible platform for artwork display during day and night. Artists should be mindful of the key audience for the Light Boxes that include users of the Carlton Library, residents, pedestrians, nearby business patrons and commuters along Rathdowne Street.

Exhibitions at this site comprise a series of four images, printed on photographic Duratrans and exhibited for six months.

- Each light box is landscape format and measures 931mm (height) x 1279mm (wide);
- The material size of the print will be produced at 841mm (h) x 1189mm (w); and
- The image/visual will measure 821mm (h) x 1169mm (w).

An exhibition fee of \$2000 (excl. GST) will be provided to each selected proposal to support an exhibition in this space. This fee is inclusive of all costs involved with the creation of the works including artist fee, production of digital files to specifications for printing, transport, and administration.

Council will manage and cover the costs associated with printing the Duratrans and installation, however the artist will be required to liaise with the appointed supplier regarding supplying files and overseeing test prints.

Council will retain ownership of the Duratrans, which may be rescheduled for future display during their lifespan, at the Council's discretion.

Timeline

Applications open	4 September 2026 at 9am
Applications close	18 October 2026 at 11.59pm
Applicants notified	Early November 2026
First exhibitions	February 2027

Contact details

If you require a hard copy application form, more information, or further assistance to complete your application please contact the Arts Officer below:

Celina Lei, Arts Officer

Celina.lei@yarracity.vic.gov.au