

First Nations Council Chamber & Civic Centre Public Art Project

City of Moonee Valley

Commission brief

March 2026



Photo: Gianna Rizzo, Maribyrnong River, 2024.

Acknowledgement

The City of Moonee Valley City Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which Moonee Valley is located – the Wurundjeri woi-wurrung People of the Kulin Nation; and we pay respect to their Spirits, Ancestors, Elders and their Community Members past and present.

Contents

Project Brief Public Artwork:

First Nations Council Chamber & Civic Centre Public Art Project	1
1. Overview	1
2. About the City of Moonee Valley	1
3. Project Scope and Location	3
Specifications	5
Civic Centre Public Foyer – Artwork 2	6
Specifications	7
We invite proposals which:	7
First Nations Artist Examples	7
4. Commission Budget	8
5. Submission Deadline	8
7. Timeline	9
8. Selection Process	10
Stage 1 – Expression of Interest	10
Stage 2 - Shortlisting of Artists	10
Stage 3 – Artist Commission	11
9. Assessment criteria	11
9a. Selection Panel	12
Conflict of interest	12

Project Brief Public Artwork: First Nations Council Chamber & Civic Centre Public Art Project

1. Overview

Moonee Valley City Council (MVCC) and Incinerator Gallery invite First Nations Australian artists to submit concept proposals for **two site-specific visual artworks for permanent public display** and to be accessioned into the Moonee Valley Visual Art Collection. The artworks will be on long-term view at the **Council Chambers and Civic Centre Foyer**, located at 9 Kellaway Ave, Moonee Ponds VIC 3039. Artists are invited to submit Expressions of Interest (EOI) in response to this brief.

Following the close of the EOI period, the panel, comprising representatives from the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung Council and Moonee Valley City Council staff, will **shortlist three artists or artist collectives** to progress to the second stage, which includes a fee for concept development. From this shortlist, one artist will be selected and formally commissioned to deliver the project.

The project is valued at \$ 42,300 (excluding GST).

This project offers a unique opportunity for a First Nations Australian artist or collective to propose and create **two site-specific, 2-dimensional framed artworks, engaging themes of water as a connector between people, culture and place**. As the works will be displayed in a prominent public-facing venue, both artworks must be framed prior to delivery to ensure their preservation, safety, and long-term value within the permanent collection.

The commission celebrates the rich cultures, histories and ongoing contributions of First Nations peoples within our community. The new artworks will foster a sense of pride, belonging and shared identity.

2. About the City of Moonee Valley

The City of Moonee Valley City Council is located on Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Country and is the local government authority for a vibrant, diverse municipality in the north-western suburbs of Naarm/Melbourne. Located along the cultural and environmentally significant Maribyrnong River, Moonee Valley City Council has a population of 129,732 residents, making it a bustling and growing community just a few kilometres from Melbourne's central business district.

Moonee Valley encompasses 15 suburbs, including Essendon, Moonee Ponds, Ascot Vale and Airport West and delivers around 200 distinct services including a rich and vibrant visual and public art program.

Council adopted the [Igniting Creativity in Moonee Valley 23–27](#) strategy to guide arts and culture across the municipality, positioning public art as a key driver of vibrant, inclusive and connected places. The strategy prioritises creativity in public spaces through place-based projects and meaningful community engagement, shaping the delivery of current public art commissions.

About Incinerator Gallery

Established in 2011, Incinerator Gallery is a platform for unique cultural experiences that connects society through art and design. Located in Aberfeldie, the gallery is home to the last remaining incinerator in Victoria, designed by Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin and one of only six remaining in the country. It welcomes communities, art professionals, and people of all ages interested in art and design to champion new creative perspectives that strengthen communities.

Since 2014, Incinerator Gallery's First Nations-led Platform exhibition series has supported over 80 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and curators, including Karla Dickens, Amala Groom, Jessica Clark, Michael Cook, and Tony Albert. This program foregrounds Indigenous voices in exhibitions, commissions, and public programs, reflecting Council's commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, as outlined in the Reconciliation Plan *Bagarru Bagarru Djerring (Shoulder to Shoulder Together)*. The Playground Project's New First Nations Playable Public Art Commission, appointed to Edwina Green in 2025 as Council's most ambitious public artwork to date, marks another important milestone in recognising First Nations arts, culture, connection to Country, and commitment to care.

Council adopted the [Bagarru Bagarru Djerring Reconciliation Plan 2022–2025](#) to continue acknowledging the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung People as the Traditional Custodians of the land and to strengthen our partnership with Wurundjeri People in celebrating and honouring their culture, heritage and history.

As part of Council's commitment to reconciliation and to fostering culture, respect and trust, a First Nations artist or collective will be commissioned to design and deliver two unique artworks at the Civic Centre.

Applicants are advised that this commission involves engagement and collaboration with the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.

3. Project Scope and Location

The Moonee Valley Civic Centre was established in the early 1970s to serve as the administrative headquarters for the local government. The two artworks will be delivered in two distinct locations and will be accessioned into MVCC's Public Art Collection and exhibited permanently at the Civic Centre.

Council Chambers – Artwork 1

The Civic Centre houses the Council Chambers, where elected councillors meet monthly to set local policy and make decisions on community matters. Artists are asked to respond to the below location and should note the work may be subject to live filming during Council sessions.

Artists are invited to explore both sides of the wall space—either by submitting one framed artwork or two separate framed works to be displayed on the available walls located to the left and right of the brown door, as pictured below. Existing artworks and table will be removed.



Figure 1: Wide view of Council Chambers Wall



Figure 2: Angled view of Council Chambers wall



Figure 3: Left wall Council Chambers



Figure 4: Right wall Council Chambers

Specifications

- Dimensions of maximum artworks are:
 - Left wall – 1.5m (H) x 4 (W): *Figure 4*
 - Right wall – 1.5 (H) x 3 (W): *Figure 5*
- Framed two-dimensional artworks
- Suggested mediums include:
 - Painting
 - Photography
 - Works on paper
 - Relief or carved panel
 - Mixed media
 - Textiles
 - Digital illustration or contemporary graphic work
 - Glass based framed work

Civic Centre Public Foyer – Artwork 2



Figure 5 & 6: Civic Centre Foyer Wall – note: plant and display shelf will be removed.

Specifications

- Dimensions of maximum artworks are:
 - 1.5m (H) x 2m (W): *Figure 6*
- Framed two-dimensional artworks
- Suggested mediums include:
 - Acrylic or oil on canvas
 - Works on paper including ochre, ink, charcoal
 - Relief or carved panel
 - Photographic works, including archival pigment print
 - Mixed media on board
 - Textile based work
 - Digital illustration or contemporary graphic work
 - Printmaking
 - Glass based framed work

Artists are encouraged to explore a range of mediums in developing their proposals. Please note, however, that the final artworks must be suitable for framing and designed as movable works for display within the Council Chambers and Civic Centre Foyer.

We invite proposals which:

- Champion the work of First Nations Australian artists at any career stage (emerging, mid-career or established).
- Reflect, celebrate, and welcome Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities in Moonee Valley.
- Pay respect to the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung First Peoples as the Traditional Custodians of Moonee Valley.
- Engage in themes of water as a connector between people, culture and place.
- Demonstrate artistic merit, conceptual rigour, material suitability, and consideration of the site's context.

First Nations Artist Examples

Proposals must focus on wall-based, framed outcomes rather than murals, integrated architectural works or freestanding sculpture.

Previous First Nations–curated exhibitions at Incinerator Gallery include *These Arms Hold* (2025) curated by [Maya Hodge](#), a Lardil and Yangkaal woman based on the lands of

the Kulin Nation. This exhibition forms part of the gallery's annual First Nations Platform exhibition program. It powerfully centres Indigenous women's strength, sovereignty, and storytelling, presenting newly commissioned works that honour cultural knowledge, resistance, and community connection.

[False-Relationality](#), (2023), curated by Moorina Bonini and Tyson Campbell, examined Indigenous ways of knowing, place and relationality through diverse artistic practices. Featuring artists from Australia and Aotearoa, the exhibition engaged critically with land, culture and identity through painting, video, spoken word and installation, fostering dialogue around Indigenous onto-epistemologies and shared experience.

4. Commission Budget

The project budget is \$42,300 (excluding GST) and includes:

- Artist fee (exclusive of superannuation)
- Concept development and visuals (including publicity images)
- Production (material, labour, framing)
- Insurances and public liability insurances, including Public Liability \$10M and Professional Indemnity \$5M.

The payment schedule is as follows:

- Artist's fee - \$21,150 AUD plus GST (on signing of the contract)
- Production costs - \$21,150 AUD plus GST
 - 1) Instalment 1 on signing of the contract - \$21,150
 - 2) Instalment 2 on sign-off of completion of works at Civic Centre - \$21,150

Total \$42,300

More information follows in Expression of Interest.

5. Submission Deadline

Please submit the Expression of Interest, in PDF format, by email (or link to external drive e.g. Dropbox, GoogleDrive, WeTransfer, etc.) by **9am on Tuesday 21st April**, to:

Kaitlyn Weekes, MVCC Public Art Officer: publicart@mvcc.vic.gov.au

Further information on what to submit is detailed below in section 8. *Selection process*.

7. Timeline

Task	Date	Responsibility
Submit EOI	21st April 2026	Artist
Shortlisted artists notified	13 th May 2026	Council
Concept refinement & development <i>Consultation with Wurundjeri Land Council</i>	13 th May – 10 th June 2026	Artist
Site Visit with shortlisted artists	19 th May 2026 <i>Subject to slight change due to availability of Council Chambers.</i>	Council/Artist
Project curators check in and project proposal progress update	3 rd June 2026 <i>Artists are welcome to meet with Public Art Officer during concept development phase to discuss outcomes and ask questions.</i>	Council
Short-listed artist present concept design in person to appointed panel (20 minutes each) Proposals will be due 3 days prior via email to publicart@mvcc.vic.gov.au	10th June 2026	Artist
Successful artist appointed and commissioned	1 st July 2026	Council
Artist develops final design for works 4 weeks	1 st July – 29 th July 2026	Artist

Final artworks submitted to Council	29 th July 2026	Artist
Final artworks approved	5 th August 2026	Council
Install methodology submitted to Council	29 th July 2026	Artist
Text for signage developed	29 th July 2026	Council/Artist
Install	August 2026	Artist
Project completion	End of August 2026	

8. Selection Process

Stage 1 – Expression of Interest

Artists are invited to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) in response to this brief.

Requirements:

Artists submitting an expression of interest via email should include the following:

- An outline of the response to the site and brief, including why the commission is of interest to you and how the work will be experienced (1 page maximum)
- A short artist biography and curriculum vitae (maximum 2 pages), including details of experience in delivering projects of similar scale and budget with 2-3 supporting visuals.
- Please note concept design is not required at this stage, and no concept fee will be provided for reposing to this EOI.

Assessment criteria for the EOI stage is listed below.

Stage 2 - Shortlisting of Artists

Following the close of the EOI period, a shortlist of three artists will be selected by an appointed panel. Shortlisted artists will be invited to a site visit with a Council representative before developing detailed concepts.

A fee of \$1000 excl. GST will be paid to the three shortlisted artists for their concept proposals per artist.

Shortlisted artists will have two weeks to further develop their initial concept proposals to include detailed design, sketches, drawings and/or concept renders. Artists will be

required to present their proposals to the appointed panel in person at Incinerator Gallery (180 Holmes Road, Aberfeldie 3040).

The concept design submissions should be submitted to the Public Art Officer three days prior to the scheduled presentation via (email, Dropbox etc.). Following the presentation, the submissions will be distributed and reviewed by the panel with the selected artist to be awarded the commission.

Stage 3 – Artist Commission

The commission for the project will be awarded to the chosen artist through a formal agreement.

Council will photograph and document the artwork, promote the outcomes of the commission and liaise with associated stakeholders where required.

9. Assessment criteria

Artistic Merit

This category evaluates the visual and aesthetic quality of the proposal and portfolio of past works, taking into consideration the use of form, colour, composition, and other elements of visual language. Does the artist demonstrate unique artistic rigour, progressive conceptual explorations, and openness to experimentation through their work? Does the artist critically engage with concepts and ideas signified through their visual art practice?

Technical Merit

This category evaluates your technical skills in executing the chosen medium. The submission will be judged on how well they have mastered their medium and materials, including the attention to detail and precision in execution. Does the work demonstrate potential to be translated into the existing or new materials during the development process?

Appropriateness

This category evaluates the appropriateness of the proposal to be site-specific visual artworks, engaging themes of water as a connector between people, culture and place. Does the artist's vision align with their resources, capacity, and/or experience? Is the proposal suitable for all audiences?

Connection to place

This category evaluates the connection of the proposal to Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Country through the community. Does the artist show an existing connection to these

places? Does the artist show potential to engage with Wurundjeri and other local communities to further develop and refine their proposal?

Relevance to artist's professional development

This category considers the timeliness of the proposal in relation to the artist's career trajectory. Does this opportunity align with the artist's current stage of practice, providing meaningful development, growth, or a new direction? Does the proposal offer the artist a chance to experiment, refine their practice, and/or engage with new audiences, collaborators, or mediums?

9a. Selection Panel

The selection panel will include representatives from the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Corporation and City of Moonee Valley, including:

- Young Inclusive & Ageing Communities
- Arts, Culture & Place

Conflict of interest

While we acknowledge the strong kinship ties between mob and the broader arts and cultural industries, we will ask our Selection Panel to declare any conflicts of interest if they stand to gain professionally, financially, or personally from the selection of an artist.

Examples of conflicts of interest may include:

- a) The panel member is in a business or close personal relationship with the artist.
- b) The panel member and the artist share mutual financial interests.

Professional connections, such as industry networks or past collaborations, will not be considered conflicts of interest unless they involve the above scenarios.

How conflicts will be managed: Once a conflict has been declared, the panel member will be excused from the group discussion and final decision on the proposal.