

## New Ground 2023 Commission Program

Next round opens: Saturday 4 February, 9.00 am (VIC local time)

Next round closes: Monday 20 March, midnight (VIC local time)

Frequency: Yearly (Once a year in 2022 and 2023)

### What is New Ground?

Bunjil Place has opened applications for New Ground 2023, a funded commission program for local early to mid-career creatives to develop new work/projects responding to the provocation “borders and boundaries”. Outcomes, whether they be digital work, performance, written and/or spoken words, exhibition, film or other, will be presented at various spaces in and around Bunjil Place precinct in mid-September 2023.

Successful applicants will receive financial assistance and work closely with the Bunjil Place Arts team to deliver their projects. Artists can apply for between \$4,000 to \$14,000.

### What is the purpose?

Consultation with artists from South-East Melbourne has revealed the need for arts infrastructure and resources that support future pathways. Specifically, support which addresses key issues of access, platforms for presentation, cultural safety and collaboration in South-East Melbourne’s creative industry.

By providing financial support and platforms for presentation, New Ground 2023 aims to stimulate creative practice and provide pathways for early to mid-career artists within the local government areas of Casey, Cardinia and Dandenong to:

- network and connect with their peers in the local arts community
- draw from their lived experiences
- work closely with local arts industry professionals
- present new work in a world class arts facility

### Who can apply?

Applicants who:

- live, practice or work in South East Melbourne
- are 18+
- identify as early-mid career creatives (3-5 years practicing)
- self-identify as First Nations; and/or Person of Colour; and/or disabled; and/or Culturally and Linguistically Diverse are strongly encouraged to apply

Note: Applicants who were successful in the New Ground 2022 program are not eligible for to apply for New Ground 2023.

## The provocation

"borders and boundaries" encompasses a wide range of ideas and interpretations. On a physical level, borders refer to the lines that divide nations and regions, while boundaries can refer to the limits of personal or societal norms and expectations.

On a more metaphorical level, borders and boundaries can also refer to the limitations we place on ourselves and others, as well as the ways in which we define and construct our identities. These can be physical, mental, emotional and social barriers, that can be both visible and invisible.

The theme of borders and boundaries can also intersect with issues of power, privilege, and oppression, as borders and boundaries are often used to divide and control different groups of people. Artists will be encouraged to explore these nuances, and the ways in which borders and boundaries shape understanding of ourselves and the world around us.

## What types of arts activities will be accepted?

New Ground supports artists in the delivery of new work/projects in the following areas:

- **Performing Arts** – dance, music, opera, theatre, singing, magic, comedy, puppetry, drama
- **Visual Arts** - drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, textiles, photography
- **Literary Arts** – writing, poetry
- **Digital Arts** – video, filmmaking, animation and gamification

Artist fees, activity/program costs and operational/administrative expenses can be funded through New Ground 2023, providing artists with the resources to be creative and focus on development.

Venue hire does not need to be factored into your costs.

## Where will outcomes be presented?

The following spaces in and around Bunjil Place will be available for presentations:

- The Studio
- Outdoor Screen in Plaza
- Digital Wall, foyer
- Bunjil Place Library Art Space, Level 2

Please note we cannot guarantee your first choice for presentation will be available. If you would like more information regarding any of these spaces, please contact [arts@casey.vic.gov.au](mailto:arts@casey.vic.gov.au).

## How are successful applications decided?

Funding applications are checked for eligibility by Council officers. Eligible applications are then assessed by an independent assessment panel. The full amount requested may not be approved; the assessment panel may recommend partial funding.

The following criteria will be used by the panel to assess applications:

- **Capacity** of the artist/group to effectively deliver the activities and manage the funding.
- **Creative impact** on the Bunjil Place precinct and the local arts community
- **Response** to the provocation “borders and boundaries”

### How do I apply?

**Applications open on Saturday 4 February, 9.00 am and close on Monday 20 March, midnight**

The application form will be available on the Bunjil Place website.

Only one application per person/group/collective is allowed. Applications must be submitted online and include additional information as specified on the application form. The application must be submitted by the due date. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Please note that a New Ground 2023 Commission Program application will not necessarily result in funding or may result in only a portion of the amount requested being allocated (partial funding).

### What are the conditions of the program?

The scope of New Ground 2023 presentations will need to be flexible with timings, scale and venue space to allow for a cohesive and collaborative outcome program.

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a service agreement with the City of Casey, which lists funding conditions. This must be signed and appropriate documentation provided before funds are issued.

### Further information & useful resources

The following City of Casey information may be useful in preparing your funding application:

- » [Arts and Cultural Development Strategy 2018-2022](#)
- » [Bunjil Place: spaces to hire and booking](#)
- » [Casey Arts](#)

### Contact Council

For questions about how to apply, the funding criteria and general enquiries, please contact a Casey Arts Officer on [arts@casey.vic.gov.au](mailto:arts@casey.vic.gov.au)

### Important dates

Saturday 4 February, 9.00 am (VIC local time)	Applications open. Application form available from Bunjil Place website: <a href="https://www.bunjilplace.com.au/news">https://www.bunjilplace.com.au/news</a>
Tuesday 28 February, 4.00 pm – 7.00 pm	<b>Drop-In Information Sessions online*</b> This is an opportunity to speak with the programming team about your application and discuss any questions or concerns. Contact City of Casey on 9792 7250 or email <a href="mailto:arts@casey.vic.gov.au">arts@casey.vic.gov.au</a> to register  *If your preference is to meet in person, we can arrange a face to face meeting.
Monday 20 March, midnight (VIC local time)	Applications close. No access to application after midnight
April to mid-April	Applications are processed to determine eligibility, assessment panel consider applications and applicants receive notification. Funding agreements distributed and funds dispersed.
May - August	Creative development period. Participants will be required to attend cohort meetings on the following dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday 1 May, 5.30 pm - 7.00pm</li> <li>Monday 29 May, 5.30 pm - 7.00pm</li> <li>Monday 26 June, 5.30 pm - 7.00pm</li> <li>Monday 24 July, 5.30 pm - 7.00pm</li> <li>Monday 21 August, 5.30 pm - 7.00pm</li> </ul> More information about what these meetings will entail will be provided at a later date.
August	Finalising promotional material, production requirements and rehearsals(where required) for presentation day.
Friday 15 September (times TBC)	Bump in, installs and final run through in preparation for presentation day.
Saturday 16 September (times TBC)	Outcomes presented at Bunjil Place.