

# Application Package: Artist In Residence



# The organisation

## About Footscray Community Arts Centre

Footscray Community Arts Centre (FCAC) is an esteemed community-based arts organisation of significant value to the communities of the western region and Victoria's arts and cultural industry.

Established in 1974, the organisation has received widespread national recognition for its pioneering support of community-based art, and the advancement of multicultural arts in Australia.

There are three dimensions to FCAC's purpose. FCAC is:

- **a producer:** FCAC is one of Australia's leading producers of community-based art. The organisation produces high-quality artistic projects, programs and events. Every artistic activity is placed within a rigorous curatorial framework that emphasises artistic excellence
- **an enabler:** FCAC enables communities and organisations to engage with art. FCAC achieves this by providing relevant expertise, resources and access to networks
- **a venue:** FCAC is a physical space for developing and presenting outstanding community-based art. This art is created *with* communities (as part of our full artistic program) and *by* communities (via providing communities with access to our facilities). Beyond being a physical space, FCAC is also an iconic space for the communities of the western region.

More information on FCAC can be found at [www.footscrayarts.com](http://www.footscrayarts.com)

## Vision

Footscray Community Arts Centre envisages a society in which:

- artists and communities collaborate to produce outstanding art
- the arts belong to us all, and
- places exist for this to thrive.

Our place in this society is:

- We engage with our world to produce outstanding art
- We are a vibrant centre of activity
- Everyone wants to be a part of it.

## Mission

Footscray Community Arts Centre is a leader in contemporary community-based art. We are a place of excellence where artists and communities come together to create, experience, and enjoy art.

# The context

## The regional context

FCAC is located in the western region of Melbourne, a region populated by almost 600,000 people. More specifically, FCAC is based in the City of Maribyrnong. Almost forty per cent of City of Maribyrnong residents are born outside Australia. Its residents come from more than 135 different countries and speak more than 80 languages.

While the western region has changed significantly since FCAC was first established, its key issues and demographics continue to be resonant and evocative of the practice and aims of community-based art. In particular, FCAC's location is crucial to its continuing work with socially-disadvantaged communities to further develop their creative capacities.

## The organisational context

Since 2004, FCAC has undergone an historic process of change in which the organisation has repositioned itself within the arts industry, and in relation to its key stakeholders and associated communities. Following an organisational restructure in 2004, FCAC now produces its artistic program under a revitalised, whole-of-centre artistic framework.

Construction is also soon to commence on FCAC's major capital works project. Due to be completed in 2008, this project will result in a significant upgrade of FCAC's capacity and facilities, including the construction of a 250-seat performance centre.

As a result of its process of change, FCAC is an organisation with an even stronger identity and artistic vision. It has a substantial foundation upon which to realise its vision of being a Centre of Excellence in the practice of community-based art.

# Artist Residency Program

## Background

The Artist Residency Program aims to attract high caliber practitioners, link with FCAC's artistic projects, and advance the field by interrogating community-focussed arts practice. First offered in 2005, the program reflects the organisation's more outward-looking approach. By shifting the focus beyond the Centre's own expertise, the program aims to attract artists who bring different forms of arts practice and collaboration. These artists contributed to the development of Footscray Arts' 2006 artistic project *The GO Show* and in turn further developed their own practice.

## The Artist Residency Program in 2007

In 2007, FCAC is undergoing a renovation of existing facilities. As a consequence there is limited studio space available for artists. Therefore the 2007 Artist Residency Program will focus on an outreach model that links into our artistic projects and their associated communities. This will situate residents' practice in strongly focussed community contexts and allow them to be well supported by our existing organisational processes and resources. Artists with backgrounds in multimedia and/or performance who have an interest in community-based arts practice are encouraged to apply. It is anticipated that these artists will link with FCAC projects currently being planned. Successful applicants will have the opportunity to contribute to the development of these and future projects.

## Conditions of Residency

While there is no salary associated with the residency, the use of space at FCAC (office, workshop space, rehearsal space) and some costs (e.g. materials, office facilities including access to PC, email and phone, photocopying etc.) will be covered. There will also be free access to administrative and IT support. It is anticipated that the Resident Artists may also be employed on a casual basis to undertake specific artistic roles within funded projects.

## Responsibilities

- To develop a program of activities that explores artistic practice within a contemporary community-based arts context. This may involve an exploration of one's own practice in a particular art form or research into a new art form or process of working. These activities may form part of FCAC projects
- Attend regular meetings with the Program Coordinator
- To participate and contribute in forums, events and projects that are part of the FCAC artistic program
- To participate in some FCAC staff and professional development activities
- Adhere to all FCAC OH&S policies and procedures.

## Duration

Each residency can last from three to ten months (final details subject to negotiation). The starting date of each residency is to be negotiated with FCAC.

## Selection criteria

Category	Criteria
Qualifications and/or professional experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Experience and skills in art form practice</li> <li>▪ Appropriate tertiary qualifications and/or experience</li> <li>▪ Quality and range of artwork</li> <li>▪ Demonstrated interest in engaging with CCD and community-focussed arts practices</li> </ul>
Personal attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Demonstrated initiative, resourcefulness and integrity</li> <li>▪ Excellent interpersonal skills</li> <li>▪ A team player</li> <li>▪ Enthusiastic and energised</li> </ul>

# How to apply

Applications should consist of a:

- brief covering letter
- information addressing the key selection criteria
- curriculum vitae
- sample of work. (Copies on CD or DVD encouraged)

Please mark applications 'Attention: David Everist, Program Coordinator'.

Applications close 4pm on Wednesday 14 February and must be posted or delivered by hand to the following address:

Footscray Community Arts Centre  
45 Moreland Street  
Footscray  
Victoria 3011  
Australia

**Note:** No applications by email or fax will be accepted. Any additional material may be sent at your discretion.

## For further information

If you have further enquiries about this position, please contact:

- David Everist, Program Coordinator  
Phone: 61 3 9362 8802 Email: [david@footscrayarts.com](mailto:david@footscrayarts.com) or
- Reception: 61 3 9362 8888 Email: [reception@footscrayarts.com](mailto:reception@footscrayarts.com)

Please note that FCAC is closed for Christmas from 21<sup>st</sup> December to 7<sup>th</sup> January inclusive.