



FRINGE PARADE & LYGON ST BLOCK PARTY

A bit about Melbourne Fringe

The Melbourne Fringe Festival is Victoria's longest-running multi-arts festival, forming as the Fringe Arts Network in 1982 following the closure of the Pram Factory as a collective that would encourage, represent and unite artists of all disciplines. The inaugural event was a mini-festival of independent and alternative art, followed in 1983 by a weeklong event presenting 120 artists across 25 locations (some three years before the birth of the Spoleto Melbourne Festival of Three Worlds, now RISING Festival). In 2022, Melbourne Fringe will celebrate 40 years and for the first time will collect, document and tell our stories. Our history is more than just a history of our organisation, it's a history of the independent arts in Melbourne and of the social, geopolitical, demographic, artistic and cultural change of Melbourne over 40 years.

What is the Fringe Parade?

The Fringe Parade is steeped in history and is embedded into Melbourne's cultural DNA. From 1984 to 2001, Melbourne Fringe's Street Parade and Party ran annually on Brunswick Street, attracting hundreds of thousands of people as one of Melbourne's most significant events on the cultural calendar. After 20 years, Melbourne Fringe will re-imagine this iconic event to celebrate our milestone 40th birthday. Utilising the greatest strength of festivals – bringing communities together for extraordinary shared experiences – the Parade and Block Party will be a vibrant event that celebrates the role of creativity at the centre of our culture.

A completely free event to be held on Saturday 15 October 2022, the Fringe Parade & Lygon St Block Party features artists from the Melbourne Fringe program, alongside community participants including bands, dance groups, art collectives, fashionistas, community radio stations, dog walkers and more, in a unique chance for our community to gather.

The Fringe Parade is back and “It’s About Time!”

It’s Melbourne Fringe’s 40th birthday and we’re celebrating by bringing back the Fringe Parade - after all, *It’s About Time!*

It’s the Parade that started it all in 1984. For 17 years in a row, it brought every kind of person out from the fringes to celebrate, to rebel, to occupy. It put us on the map, it made us who we are, and it was a rite of passage for millions of people that shaped our Festival in the early years.

For our milestone 40th we’re throwing a party and taking to Lygon St, Carlton - the birthplace and current home of Melbourne Fringe. We will be celebrating the rich history of Fringe, art in Melbourne, community, culture, and life. It’s going to be wild, radical, nostalgic, BIG and possibly a little bit silly.

... But we can’t do it without you!

It takes a village to build a parade. And we want to make sure the whole village is represented. At Fringe we believe access to the arts is a fundamental right, and our vision of cultural democracy empowers anyone to realise their right to creative expression.

Anyone is welcome to participate in the Fringe Parade - and we *need* everyone: volunteers, individuals, groups, floats, banners, voices and bodies! We aim to accommodate all access requirements, so if you’re not sure if participating is right for you, keep an eye on our FAQs page which may answer your concerns, or get in touch with the Fringe team.

Volunteers will help us organise and prepare for the event, and will be vital in assisting for smooth operation on Parade Day. **Individuals** or **small groups** who want to march are welcome and may be grouped with other people to form bigger cohorts in the parade. **Established groups** are welcome to march doing what it is that they do best. We also need **floats** or **statement images** to punctuate the Parade. Essentially, if you want to march, you are welcome and we want to hear your ideas. This is your Parade!

Some things to consider!

- First, we don’t want ideas to be constrained, however whatever you make or bring must be safe (for yourself, other participants and audiences.)
- It’s a celebration of **inclusion, art, and diversity**.
- **No motor vehicles**- all entries must be human-powered and limited to walking-speed (4km/h max)
- Nothing that can shoot off or be any hazard to little kids sitting on the ground watching the parade.
- Get creative! You’ve got an audience and we want to give them a show! Think roller skates, shopping trolleys, tricycles, and pogo-sticks. Want to mass choreograph a routine in wheelie bins? Go for it!
- Be radical. If you’ve got something to say about the future of the arts, this is your moment.

- Nothing taller than 3 metres max- there are power cables, many overhanging tree branches and light fittings!
- Let us know well in advance if you will be making noise, playing music (live or amplified) or singing so we can make sure the parade is spaced out to allow everyone to be heard
- Parades are great because you get a new audience every 30 seconds! So you only need a killer 30 seconds of real choreography.
- Consider the three modes of movement – super high energy, mid energy, a “resting” phase. You’ll be walking for about one kilometre in total, so group leaders should consider the moments to go hard and find opportunities to take a breather along the route.

What will the day look like?

When: Saturday 15 October, 2022

Marshaling from 1pm (floats may need to arrive earlier - more information will be provided when you register)

Parade kicks off at 3pm

Where: Registered parade participants will gather in Argyle Square, Carlton.

What: The Parade will leave Argyle Square and move along Cardigan St towards Faraday St, at which point it will turn and make its way down Lygon St before finishing back at Argyle Square with our Block Party.

Along with two main stages at Argyle Square and Grattan St there will be roving performances on Lygon St and surrounds. But the party doesn’t stop there; if you want to keep the party going, there will be kick ons at various venues, including Club Fringe at the Festival Hub, Trades Hall.

FAQs can be found [here](#)

Register to be a part of the Parade [here](#)

If you have any burning questions, get in touch with our Associate Producer, Phoebe Taylor at parade@melbournefringe.com.au with subject line "Parade Question" or by calling 03 9660 9600.

Fringe will also host a series of **Info Sessions** where registered participants will be invited to come and hear from the Fringe team about what’s expected on the day and there’ll be an opportunity for a Q&A.

Keep an eye on the Melbourne Fringe website and socials for more details.