



# Melbourne Civic Commission

Presented by Melbourne Fringe and the Naomi Milgrom Foundation

Melbourne Fringe, in partnership with the Naomi Milgrom Foundation, is thrilled to offer the third annual commission of \$100,000 to create a new civic artwork which will premiere at the Melbourne Fringe Festival in 2025. As a signature event in the program, we are looking for ideas that embolden our streets and enliven our citizens.

What is a civic artwork? We use the term to mean: participatory public art works which centre everyday people and the activation of public spaces. The intention of this Civic Commission is that Melbourne's people are at the heart of this project creatively.

Given the ambitious scale and nature of the commission, this opportunity is aimed primarily at established artists with experience in creating works of scale, or who have enough experience to demonstrate the capacity and readiness to create an exciting and complex public artwork of scale that engages the people of Melbourne.

Applications from First Nations artists, People of Colour, culturally and linguistically diverse artists, and artists who identify as Deaf or disabled are welcome and highly regarded. Projects that are engaging with these communities will be looked upon favorably.

The commission will be premiered in October 2025 during the Melbourne Fringe Festival.

## HOW TO APPLY

Despite the scale of the commission, we've tried to keep the application process as streamlined as possible, with just two steps outlined below.

### Stage 1: Expressions of Interest

Expressions of interest are open to any Victorian based artist, collective or small company! However, given the ambitious context and size of this commission, we expect it to be awarded to an established artist or company with the experience necessary to create works of scale.

While we have tried to keep the EOI form as easy and artist friendly as possible with minimum requirements, this is your opportunity to tell us as much as you can about the work. Whether it's the seed of an idea right now or something you've been holding onto for a while, waiting for a big cash injection to make it a reality. The more context and detail you're able to provide will help us identify how it fits the brief of a participatory public work of scale.

As part of the shortlisting process, we will be looking for the following considerations in your application:

- **Participation** – how does the public contribute to the artwork through their bodies, actions or ideas?
- **Place** – is it responsive to a site or place, or the people within that place?
- **Design** – does its visual design take bold in terms of concept and audience impact?



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When you're ready, you can view the preview the form or go right ahead and submit an EOI [HERE](#).

Expressions of Interest will remain open until **11.59pm on Tuesday 12 March 2024**.

Melbourne Fringe believes in access and inclusion. If the following process is not accessible to you, then please email us at [artists@melbournefringe.com.au](mailto:artists@melbournefringe.com.au) or call 03 9660 9600 to discuss your preferences.

## **Stage 2: Artists Shortlisted**

Following the EOI, a selection of artists will be invited to make a presentation to the Melbourne Fringe and Naomi Milgrom Foundation teams to further discuss their concept with us. We may request specific information before or after this meeting, which will assist us in assessing the suitability and viability of your idea. You will be asked to submit additional information such as more detailed plans, and a full budget breakdown. We may also require things such as designer mock-ups or engineer scoping. If this detailed level of work is required for your application, we will discuss providing appropriate funds to cover the costs of the consultants completing this work.

The Naomi Milgrom Foundation and Melbourne Fringe will together have the final decision in commissioning the successful project.

## **ANY QUESTIONS?**

Please see our Frequently Asked Questions pack, available [here](#).

## **ABOUT MELBOURNE FRINGE**

Melbourne Fringe democratises the arts. Our vision is cultural democracy – empowering anyone to realise their right to creative expression. We support the development and presentation of artworks by, with and for the people of Melbourne, running the annual Melbourne Fringe Festival, the year-round venue Fringe Common Rooms at Trades Hall, and a range of arts sector leadership programs.

We have evolved across our 40 years, beginning in 1982 as the Fringe Art Network. While we stay committed to our roots – a collaborative encouraging, representing and uniting artists of all disciplines – we have matured to become one of our state's most significant arts organisations that supports the generation of new work, discovering artists and new ideas. We work year-round as educators, promoters, and creators. We are supporters, we are challengers, we rock the boat and we question the status quo.

## **ABOUT NAOMI MILGROM FOUNDATION**

The Naomi Milgrom Foundation champions art, design and architecture that improves Australian lives – empowering creation, collaboration and education. Established in 2014 by Naomi Milgrom AC, the not-for-profit organisation pivots on a central purpose: to enhance the presence and influence of creative culture in Australia. This is accomplished through the active support of artists, designers and creative institutions; the fostering of collaborations between bodies and disciplines; the promotion of art and design education; and an overarching commitment to increasing access to the arts.



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