



# Climate Crisis Commission

## ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITY

As a new commission for 2024, Melbourne Fringe has \$20,000 to commission a new text-based work that engages with the environmental issues that jeopardise the planet's ecosystems and the future of local communities. This opportunity is open to any artist or collective based in Australia, working in new writing / text-based theatre. We are especially keen to hear from creative leads who are First Nations, Deaf, Disabled, People of Colour and/or transgender.

The Climate Crisis Commission, supported by the Malcolm Robertson Foundation, seeks to collaborate with an artist with a real interest in creating a work of impact that responds to arguably the greatest existential crisis of our time. We are looking for a concept that will stimulate conversations and connections, bring audiences together around important ideas that affect us all, grow understanding of new ideas, and propose new ways of living and working to adapt to a changing climate. We are looking for art that inspires action and change.

This application process aims to be easy and artist-friendly with fewer requirements than the grant applications you might be used to – we just want to get excited about your idea and hear about your plans to make it happen.

## KEY INFORMATION

### Funding details

If successful, you will receive:

- **\$18,000** cash from the Fringe Fund to produce and present your new idea
- **\$2,000** for a mentor of your choice, to support you in the development of the work

Not included in the funding offer (i.e. there is no additional funding on top of the \$20k, you will need to budget the following items):

- Your Melbourne Fringe Festival registration fee, ticketing charges, insurance and any other costs associated with producing your work;
- Presentation costs such as access costs, venue hire, artist fees, support staff, marketing and promotion costs, permits, licences, etc.

### Eligibility

This opportunity is for **any artists** based in **Australia**, working in text-based theatre. Part of the funding for this commission is from a playwrighting grant, so there must be a written outcome of the final work (for acquittal purposes).

The selected work must be a **new text-based performance** and must be **premiered** during the 2024 Festival (1 – 20 October).

### How to apply

Please click on [this link](#) to access the application form.

Applications close at midnight on Sunday 25 February, 2024.

If using JotForm isn't accessible for you, please get in touch so we can better understand how to best accommodate your access needs. We can accept applications submitted as text documents, video or audio files and are also happy to work with you on other accessible application processes. Please email both [artists@melbournefringe.com.au](mailto:artists@melbournefringe.com.au) and [carly@melbournefringe.com.au](mailto:carly@melbournefringe.com.au) to start a conversation.

# CONTEXT AND EXPECTATIONS FOR FUNDED ARTISTS

Receiving support through the Fringe Fund isn't quite the same as a grant, but it isn't quite the same as having your work bought by a curated Festival – it falls somewhere in-between. That's because we've raised money from trusts, foundations, government bodies and private donors, and we'll need your help to ensure certain deliverables are met so we can acquit those funds. It's the circle of (funding) life.

If you're successful in your application, you will be asked to sign a contract that requires an understanding of the expectations that we will have from you as a Fringe Fund artist, which are:

## **1. You will self-produce a professional, high-quality event in the Open Access program.**

This means: the Fringe Fund support will help your event proceed, but **you (or your team!) are responsible for all elements of the production**, including:

- managing a creative project plan and schedule that will ensure your project is delivered as a fully realised work, not a work-in-progress or 'reading';
- budgeting for costs responsibly, ensuring you have put aside funds for the Fringe registration fee, inside charges, venue hire costs and access service costs;
- producing the event to a high standard of delivery, and completing administration tasks such as registering the event and arranging permits / licences / insurance, etc;
- marketing your season; and
- sourcing any additional funding required through sponsorship, partnerships or grants.

This is quite different to having your work purchased for presentation by a festival that pays an upfront fee, then takes care of all the producing on your behalf! On the other hand, you are presenting your work as an independent season, which means the show profits are retained by you and your team.

## **2. You will work collaboratively with Melbourne Fringe.**

This means: Melbourne Fringe is a key stakeholder in your event, unlike a standard grant where the funder just wants an acquittal report at the end. Because we have a vested interest in the success of your work, we may ask you to **collaborate with Melbourne Fringe** in certain ways while working on your project. We won't encroach on your artistic vision, but we might offer support including:

- dramaturgical advice to help you position the work for a Melbourne Fringe audience;
- advice or feedback for your budget, to help you work towards financial success; or
- inclusion in marketing or publicity opportunities; or
- suggesting the scale of your project might require you to allocate funds towards a producer, production manager or designer to help you achieve your creative vision.

To support you in this way, we will ask that you:

- update us on the creative development of the project, and share your project timeline, budget and marketing plan (once they're ready to share of course!);
- attend occasional meetings to discuss the work's progress and how we can better support you;
- be open and available to listen to our feedback, built on many years of experience.

You may also be asked, as part of your funding: to participate in a public panel / conversation event discussing your work (no more than 60 minutes of your time), and/or to collaborate in our evaluation processes (which could consist of a brief interview with a member of our team, a self-filmed video reflecting on your experience, or a short survey – but definitely no long acquittal forms!)

We don't require a share of the work's intellectual property, but we do ask for permission to film or photograph the event for marketing, promotional and archival purposes. We also ask that you keep us updated on any future seasons of the work, and always credit Melbourne Fringe as an original funder.

## APPLICATION & SELECTION PROCESS

As part of your application, you will be asked to provide a **creative pitch** of your project (maximum 400 words). We want to know **who you are** and **who you plan to work with** on the project, and **how these funds might be used** to make your idea a reality (250 words for each). We will then ask for a **draft timeline** for your development and give you an opportunity to tell us **anything else** you think is important for us to know (maximum 100 words for each). Finally, we will ask for a top-level budget that will show you have thought about the practical nature of your idea.

In selecting the successful projects we will consider the following criteria:

- **Concept:** does your project put forward bold, innovative and complex ideas responding to the climate emergency and engages in dialogue around action? Does the project demonstrate an authentic commitment to the subject matter and to embedding an approach to sustainability within the work's creative content?
- **Capacity:** do you have the skills and the team to realise the vision? Do you have previous experience as a writer, with a developed body of work?
- **Diversity:** does the project contribute to a diverse sector, bringing new perspective which acknowledge intersectionality and the fight for climate justice?

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What are the Festival Dates this year?

Your project must take place as part of the 2024 Melbourne Fringe Festival (1 – 20 October, 2024).

### Who owns the work?

The artist owns the work. Melbourne Fringe just has the right to premiere the work as part of the 2024 Melbourne Fringe Festival, and to capture images and/or video of the work for documentation, acquittal and marketing purposes; but the work belongs to the artist.

### Can I apply to tour or remount an existing work?

Unfortunately not, as the funds for this stream are committed to commissioning new works – however, we're definitely open to ideas if how you might redevelop an existing work in a new or exciting way. If you have done a development before, or perhaps a work-in-progress showing or season – that's OK! As long as, hand on heart, you can say this is the premiere first season, it'll probably be fine. If you're unsure of whether your new ideas would make it a "new work" or not, please just get in touch!

### Why do you ask demographic questions as part of the application process?

We have a commitment to ensuring that events Melbourne Fringe funds collectively represent the breadth of Melbourne's diverse communities, and we have specific quotas and targets of funding allocations towards our communities of focus, which include artists who are: First Nations, People of Colour, culturally and linguistically diverse people, Deaf, Disabled, and LGBTQIA+ people with a separate quota to specifically support transgender artists. Assigning quotas to our funding allocations ensures that we are properly representing lead artists from these communities.

***Do you have a question that we haven't answered in this Information Pack? We'd love to chat to you! Please email [jason@melbournefringe.com.au](mailto:jason@melbournefringe.com.au) or call our office on (03) 9660 9600 (or via the National Relay Service) to have a chat.***

*Fringe Fund Climate Crisis Commission is supported by*

