



Call for Artists: HOME 25 – Invisible Cities

Project Overview:

Rich in history and culture, the City of Greater Dandenong has the most culturally diverse community in Australia. Its 186,000 residents come from over 156 different birth places and speak over 69 different languages. Greater Dandenong is also Refugee Welcome Zone since 2002, being home to many individuals and families who have relocated to Australia for humanitarian reasons.

Greater Dandenong City Council is seeking to support the development of a set of new artwork commissions for inclusion in the 2025 iteration of the *HOME* exhibition.

Background Information – HOME:

Running annually since 2016, *HOME* is Greater Dandenong City Council's flagship program of exhibitions featuring artists with refugee and asylum seeker background.

The 2025 iteration of the program is expanding its remit and scope to address stories of displacement and celebrate belonging, connection to Country and the richness of cross-cultural exchange through the work of artists with refugee, asylum seeker, migrant and First Nations background.

HOME 25, entitled *Invisible Cities*, will be a multi-site, group exhibition presenting a selection of both invited artists and artists responding to this call. The exhibition will take place across various locations in central Dandenong, including, but not limited to, the arts precinct (Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, the Drum Theatre, Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens), the Little India and Afghan Precincts, and the Dandenong Market.

Exhibition concept – HOME 25:

The exhibition explores how the idea of "home" influences our perceptions and sense of belonging. It examines language, gesture and sign as markers of identity and potential sources of displacement. Named after Italo Calvino's acclaimed 1972 book, *Invisible Cities*, the exhibition blurs the lines between reality and fiction, memory and desire, and past and present. It also explores how symbolic communication, both verbal (language) and visual (such as maps), simplifies reality – while the complexity inherent in symbols and arbitrary boundaries, like borders, often demands deeper interpretation.

Who we are looking for:

The EOI call is directed to Australia-based artists (individuals and or/collectives) with refugee, asylum seeker, First Nations or migrant background.

Applications from Dandenong and Melbourne's southeast-based artists are highly encouraged.

What we are looking for:

We are seeking proposals for the development of new artworks: all mediums are encouraged, admitting that the work is self-sufficient and requires no logistical support for activation outside of installation and deinstallation processes.

What we offer:

- A commissioning fee of \$1,010.29 (based on NAVA guidelines)
- Production costs (up to \$4,000.00), based on budget approval
- Curatorial guidance and technical support
- Installation / deinstallation
- Promotion as part of the exhibition
- Opportunities for public program and engagement events

How to apply:

In order to submit a proposal, please address the following questions either in written or video format:

1. Can you introduce yourself and your practice? (max 250 words)
2. What do you propose to develop? (max 250 words)
3. How does your proposed work relate to the rationale of the exhibition? (max 400 words)

Applicants can alternatively submit a video of no more than 7 minutes addressing the above questions.

Attachments:

- CV
- Budget, outlining expenditures for artwork production
- Images and or videos (up to 5). Please note that no additional written material can be considered.

Please use the online form to complete your application.

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Further information.

Successful applicants will be provided with an artist agreement outlining the terms and conditions of their engagement for the artwork commission and inclusion in the *HOME 25* exhibition.

Please note: Home 25 - Invisible Cities is a non-acquisitive commission.