



Merri-bek
City Council

Merri-bek Murals **2026**

Expression of Interest



Image: Leah Bartholomew, 2024, photo: Leah Bartholomew. Part of the RenuWall 2024.

Expression of Interest for Merri-bek Murals

Merri-bek City Council is pleased to launch an open Expression of Interest (EOI) process encouraging artists and/or artist collectives to submit a portfolio of works to be considered for murals that will be commissioned in 2026 as art of the Merri-bek Murals program.

The Merri-bek Murals program is an initiative by Merri-bek City Council to beautify our city and public spaces, to engage our arts community in meaningful public artwork, and to deter graffiti. Any eligible artist or organisation is encouraged to apply through Council's EOI process by submitting a portfolio. The details for this process are outlined below.

We strongly encourage applications from Merri-bek based artists and artists who identify with Merri-bek Human Rights Priority Groups: Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people; people from multicultural communities; people living with a disability; women; and people who identify as LGBTQIA+.

Sites and Fees

The 2026 Merri-bek Murals Program will select up to 5 sites with commissioning fees between \$6,000 and \$30,000 (+GST), depending on scale. These sites will be determined by a set of priorities set out by Council, and include sites:

- That are graffiti impacted
- Of significant Community benefit
- That will beautify public space
- That will generate economic impact

Factors in determining the commissioning fees include:

- Total size of the mural
- Height of the wall
- Safety considerations (powerlines, roads, pathways, etc.)
- Overall complexity of the wall

Eligibility

We encourage all artists/arts organisations/collectives eligible to work in Australia and who have a current ABN to submit a portfolio through this EOI process.

Works

The scope of works if selected for a commission includes:

- Design and supply of a pre-approved artwork.
- Supply of all materials required.
- Supply and operation of all equipment required, inclusive of all footpath closure, safety gear and equipment (bollards, signs etc.).
- Preparation of wall for application of the work.
- Completion of the works on or prior to agreed completion date.

Safety

If selected, you will be required to make a Job Safety Analysis before commencing installation. Council's Public Art Officer will be available to assist with this. Safe work practices must be used throughout the installation period, and appropriate methods used to protect the built and natural

environments at and around the site. The safety of the community is paramount, and the artist must consider all safety standards relevant to art in public spaces.

Design Life

The intended life-span of the murals is three to five years, the minimum projected life-span is two years. The murals will be coated in anti-graffiti coating, applied by Merri-bek City Council.

In the case of major vandalism, or significant damage from partial demolition or structural repair works to the wall, Council will determine the course of action in consultation with the artist where possible.

The artist will retain copyright of the work and of any designs created under this Agreement. The artist agrees to permit Council to publish reproductions of the Work for any non-commercial purpose, including Council brochures, tourist information, promotional posters, catalogues, social media and documentary film. Council will acknowledge the Artist as the creator of the Work in all Council publications in which the Works are included.

Submission Requirements

Eligible artists or artist collectives are encouraged to apply by sending their portfolio of indicative works in a single document (Word, PDF, PowerPoint) to the Public Art Officer, listed below.

We are not seeking new designs at this stage, but would like to get an idea as to your interest and relevant experience in mural art. Full designs will be developed as part of the commissioning process once an artist has been selected and must be approved before work commences.

Your submission must be sent via email and will require:

- Written response outlining your experience/bio and key artistic interest (ideas, style, themes etc.). Maximum of 300 words.
- Images of previous murals and relevant completed projects. Max. 10 MB total
- Website/social media handle and contact details
- CV
- Copy of current public liability insurance certification (to \$20 million). NB submission will be accepted if this is not currently available but will be required prior to signing of the contract if your submission is selected.
- Two referees' contact details, relating to previous projects.

Selection Criteria

Submissions will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- Artistic merit, integrity and creativity of submission.
- Experience and skill demonstrated in previous mural projects.
- Appropriateness of the submission to address the key purposes of the Merri-bek Murals Program.
- Feasibility of the submission. Can the work realistically be completed within the timeframe and budget and is it likely to deter tagging.
- Connection to Merri-bek community.
- Requirements of wall owners.

Process

Merri-bek City Council will undergo a rigorous process in the selection of appropriate walls and sites for murals. Once a formal agreement between property and business owners has been reached, an artist will be selected from this Expression of Interest process.

Following the close of this EOI period, Council's Selection Panel will consult with key stakeholders as part of the selection process to select and invite one artist/artists collective to undertake the project for each site. The successful artists will be engaged to develop and finalise the agreed concept design, in consultation with, and as approved by, Merri-bek City Council and relevant property/business owners. On finalisation and approval of the design, the commissioned artists will be required to enter into an Agreement with Merri-bek City Council that outlines the responsibilities of all parties to deliver the installation of the mural as per the terms of the contract and the specified timeline.

Murals must be delivered in the current financial year (2025/26)

Closing Date

11.59pm Sunday, 31 August 2025. Please send your EOI to publicart@merri-bek.vic.gov.au with the subject line 'Merri-bek Murals EOI'.

Unsuccessful Applicants

Unsuccessful applicants will only be notified of the outcome of the EOI process once all the mural walls and sites have been allocated and formal contracts have been issued to the selected artists.

Contact and Submissions

For submissions and all enquiries, please contact:

Phuong Ngo

Public Art Officer

publicart@merri-bek.vic.gov.au