



Merri-bek
City Council

Merri-bek Murals

2026/27

Expression of Interest

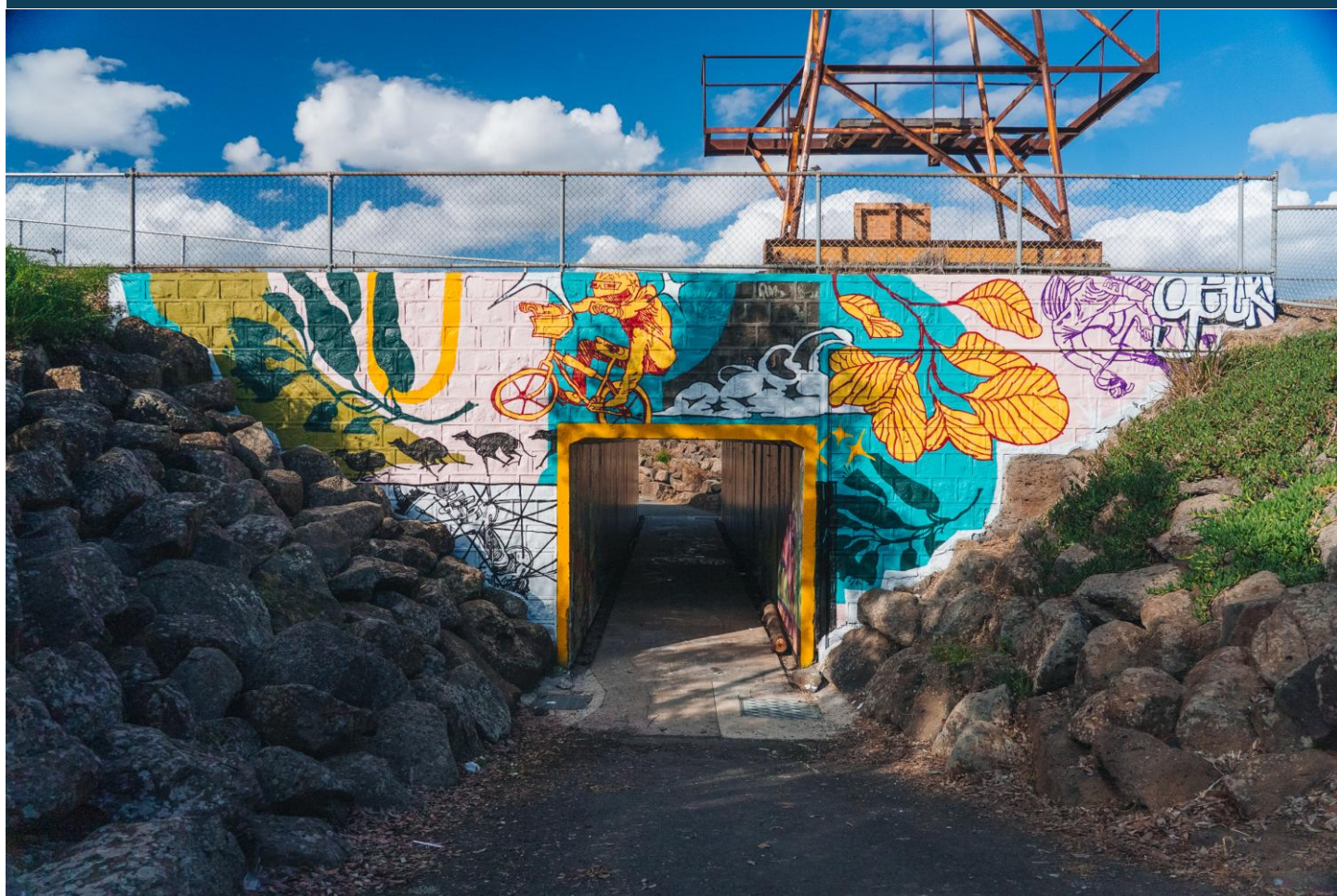


Image: *Lizards and Bikes*, Kitt Bennett, 2026 photo: Alan Erpi, 2026.

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 2026/27 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.

Sites and Fees

The 2026 Merri-bek Murals Program will select up to 3 sites with commissioning fees between \$6,000 and \$20,000 (+GST). These sites will be determined by a set of priorities set out by Council, and include:

- Graffiti impacted sites
- Community benefit
- Public Space, and
- 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

Key Concepts

We are open to artistic themes and welcome all works that respond to various concepts that may include, but not limited to, sustainability, community and/or history. Artists may also wish to explore boarder ideas of abstraction, colour, and form.

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+.

Note: Council will not approve murals deemed inappropriate. Large planes of single colour or neutral space are discouraged, as these may attract tagging.

Ageing Well Mural

This year one of our murals will feature on the Coburg Senior Citizens Centre **(subject to planning approval)**. We are seeking artists who can design and deliver two workshops for the community and created a collaborative mural that considers:

- What it means to age well in Merri-bek
- The local community who utilises the Coburg Senior Citizens Centre and surrounds (i.e. Bridges Reserve, local schools, playgrounds)
- How communities intersect with older adults; and
- How different generations come together

If you are interested in being considered for this opportunity, please indicated so in your application and provide any examples of similar workshops and murals you have delivered in the past as part of your portfolio.

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. Artists/arts organisations/collectives must have no outstanding grant acquittals or outstanding debts owing to Council.

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 safety gear and equipment (bollards, signs etc.).
- Preparation of wall for application of the work.
- Application of anti-graffiti coating (to be discussed with Council)
- 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 lifespan of the murals is three to five years; the minimum projected lifespan is two years.

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 in the work and in 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.
- If you would like to be considered for the Ageing Well workshop and mural.
- 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.

Closing Date

11:59pm Sunday, 06 September 2026. Please send your EOI to publicart@merri-bek.vic.gov.au with the subject line 'Merri-bek Murals EOI'.

Successful Applicants

Budget

Successful applicants must supply a detailed budget. The allocated fee for each wall must include all costs relating to the installation of the mural. This includes but is not limited to:

- Artist fee
- Materials, personal protective equipment
- All equipment required (e.g. scissor lift etc.)
- Safety requirements
- Design process
- Site visits as needed and installation on site
- Application of anti-graffiti coating (to be discussed with Council)
- Risk assessment and management of site during the project (including public liability insurance certification for artist (\$20 million) and/or assistants).

Merri-bek City Council's Public Art Officer can assist with process around permits and other project management requirements.

Fee Schedule

Payment of fees will be made in two stages:

- 50% paid on acceptance of final design, commission of selected artist and signing of the contract
- 50% paid on completion of the artwork and after final inspection and approval by Council

Artist Responsibilities

Council requires the project artist to:

- Manage and deliver the project within the agreed schedule
- Deliver the agreed design (as approved by Council and property owner)
- Where appropriate, work in accordance with best practice community cultural development principles and practices in the consultation, research, creative development and design
- Consult and liaise with Council staff, property owner, as required
- Undertake site visits
- Remediate the site if required
- Hold all licences required for elevated work platform use, if necessary
- Prepare and follow Safe Work Method Statements for the installation of the mural
- Follow all applicable Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) Standards
- Deliver the project in accordance with an agreed set of delivery milestones
- Delivery of artist statement and availability for media interviews if relevant

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 artists 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 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 design and installation of the mural as per the terms of the contract and the specified timeline.

The successful artist/s will develop and finalise the agreed concept design, in consultation with, and as approved by, Merri-bek City Council and relevant property/business owners.

Murals must be delivered in the current financial year (2026/27)

Materials and Maintenance

Materials are to address Australian Standards, be high quality, durable and application and usage to follow recommended OH&S processes and procedures. Artists will be encouraged to use environmentally sustainable products and methods where possible. Merri-bek Council staff can assist with advice in this area. Artists may utilise design techniques including stencil, painted and/or aerosol work. Relevant certification must be held by artists using Elevated Work Platforms (e.g. scissor/boom lifts, scaffolding, ladders over 2.4 metres in working height).

On completion, an anti-graffiti coating will be applied over the painted artworks, by Council. The artwork will be maintained by Council for a minimum period of two years (except in the case of severe damage, see Design Life section). This maintenance cost will be covered by Council.

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

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri

publicart@merri-bek.vic.gov.au