

# Coburg Court House Residency Program 2025 Guidelines



**Merri-bek**  
City Council



## About Coburg Court House space

The Coburg Court House is a dedicated arts space located at 1A Main St, Coburg (next to the old Coburg Police Station) and is managed by Arts Merri-bek. Originally built in 1929 the building has long served as a courthouse before becoming a community facility and in 2025 will begin its legacy as a venue for creative development.

It is a highly versatile rehearsal space for emerging, mid-career and professional artists. The space features high ceilings, heating/cooling system, accessible entrance, large windows with curtains and 1 accessible unisex bathroom. It is centrally located within close distance of Coburg Station.

Photos and further information about the space can be found [here](#)

## About the Residency Program

Arts Merri-bek is opening expression of interests to performers, theatre-makers and/or dancers to occupy the venue for up to three months to develop a new or existing work, with an expectation of high usage during the time allocated.

Arts Merri-bek will provide the space for free for up to three-months:

Residency 1: 3 February - 27 April 2025

Residency 2: 5 May - 3 August 2025

Residency 3: 11 August - 2 November 2025

Residency 4: 10 November 2025 – 26 January 2026

Please indicate your preferred time of year in the application form.

Artists offered a Coburg Court House residency will:

- Provide a written evaluation and summary of the residency within 30 days of the residency ending. This evaluation will include images of their creative development which Arts Merri-bek can use for marketing and reporting purposes.
- Any future performances following the residency are required to acknowledge Merri-bek City Council.
- Pay a refundable \$328 security bond for the Coburg Court House, prior to the start of the residency.
- Provide evidence of Public Liability insurance to the value of no less than \$10 million, or alternatively purchase public liability insurance from Council.
- Follow all relevant policies and legislation including, but not limited to, MCC Local Laws, MCC Plastic Waste Policy, Liquor Licensing and EPA Regulations.
- Ensure there is no damage to the Coburg Court House and accept responsibility to repair any damage at the cost of the artist.
- Provide a complete list of artists occupying the space and ensure there is no on-hiring to other parties. Please consult with Arts Merri-bek if you would like to include a showing or performance as part of your residency.

## Eligibility & Selection Criteria:

### Who Can Apply?

- Applications are welcome from performing artists of all disciplines who reside in Merri-bek City Council (suburbs of Brunswick, Brunswick West, Brunswick East, Pascoe Vale, Pascoe Vale South, Coburg, Coburg North, Glenroy, Oak Park, Hadfield, Fawkner)

## Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed and selected based on the following criteria:

- Performing artists who live, work or study in Merri-bek.
- A clearly articulated creative brief demonstrating strong artistic practice.
- Demonstrated need for the rehearsal space.
- Priority will be given to artists who identify as a member of Merri-bek's Human Rights Priority groups.

## Eligibility

- The application is received no later than 5pm Thursday 12 December 2024.

- Applicants must have acquitted any previous Council grants or programs.
- Applicant must have public liability insurance to the value of no less than \$10 million or alternatively, purchase public liability insurance from Council.
- Provide working with children checks (if the project involves young people) during the creative development and comply with Merri-bek Child Safe Standards.

## To Apply

- Complete the application form available [here](#)
- Applications close at 5pm on Thursday 12 December 2025
- We will endeavour to notify artists of their application outcome within two weeks of submission. For further information or to discuss your application in more detail, contact [arts@merri-bek.vic.gov.au](mailto:arts@merri-bek.vic.gov.au).
- If you would like to view the venue before applying, please email Arts Merri-bek at: [arts@merri-bek.vic.gov.au](mailto:arts@merri-bek.vic.gov.au).

## Floor Plan

