

## Georges River Artist in Residence Program 2025-2026 Guidelines

### Introduction

Georges River Council's Artist in Residence program is open to artists, writers and performers across all media.

The Carss Park Artist's Cottage, with a view over the Georges River and Carss Park, is a quiet, creative studio with accommodation for one artist, designed to support the professional development of local and visiting artists.

Artists may apply to live and work in the cottage for a nominated period. The artist will be provided with accommodation at no cost and a studio space in the cottage. As a self-funded residency, the cost of general living expenses, art materials and housekeeping of the property is the responsibility of the artist.

### Objectives of the Program

The Artist in Residence Program supports cultural development in the Georges River local government area by providing a creative space for a range of local, regional, national and international artists and to contribute to Council's culturally rich arts programs through workshops and exhibitions.

The Program will facilitate cultural activity and foster connections and interactions between people, introducing new artists, experiences and opportunities to the Georges River community.

The objectives of the Artist in Residence program are:

- **Professional development** – to provide artists with professional development opportunities and studio space
- **Cultural programming & collection development** – artists will make a contribution in kind through facilitating a public program or donation of artwork
- **To be a valuable resource and asset for Council and the community** – fostering cultural activity through the programs, activities, opportunities, artworks, experiences and artists the program attracts
- **To contribute to the cultural profile of the Georges River Council area** – through reputation and promotion of the program, partnerships with other arts organisations and the creation of artwork inspired by and acknowledging this area.

# Information for Applicants

## Eligibility

1. The Artist in Residence Program is a preferred residential model.
2. Applications are accepted from Australian and international artists. Applications from artists from the Georges River Council local area, who may or may not choose to live in the Cottage, are also encouraged.
3. The Artist's Cottage is not suitable for noisy activities or hazardous or heavy material or equipment.
4. All travel costs, visas, travel and medical insurances and public liability insurance are the responsibility of the artist.
5. Please note the residence is not currently wheelchair accessible.
6. Artists must be 18 years old or over to apply.

## Important Dates

Applications close on Friday 31 May for residency periods from March 2025 until December 2026.

## Funding

The Georges River Artist in Residence Program is supported by Georges River Council which provides studio space and accommodation, and covers the cost of utilities.

Artists are expected to fund other costs associated with their proposed program. If funding has been sought from other organisations (for example, to work in collaboration with other arts organisations or institutions) for the same project, details should be included in the application of the funding organisation(s), funding amounts received, scope of the project, dates for funding results, and so on.

## Residency Requirements

1. *Contribution* - Resident Artists will be required to make a contribution to Georges River Councils' cultural programming. Examples may include, but are not limited to, donation of artwork, workshops, lecture or cultural community development project. The nature of the contribution depends on the artists' preferred art form, the length and the activities of the residency. Artists will develop a proposal as to how they wish to contribute, in their application form, and the details of this will be negotiated and agreed with successful applicants.
2. *Acknowledgements* - artworks created during the period of the residency should have the appropriate acknowledgements to Georges River Council in all relevant publications, exhibitions, promotion and social media by the artist.
3. *Contractual Agreement* - the successful artists will be required to enter into a contractual agreement with Georges River Council. The agreement will cover the nature and extent of the contribution as negotiated with the artist, and the rights and

responsibilities of the artist with respect to their residency at the Carss Park Artist's Cottage.

4. Workplace Health and Safety and risk management – The successful artists will complete a risk assessment which covers health and safety during the residency.
5. Successful artists will also be required to agree to the following conditions:
  - a. A commitment to utilise the Artist's Cottage for the proposed time period set out in the artist's application.
  - b. Participation in publicity and promotional activities related to the residency as required, including public appearances during festival and special event days at Carss Bush Park
  - c. Professional indemnity insurance, or public liability insurance or willingness to obtain it
  - d. Willingness to undergo a Criminal Record Check and Working with Children Check if required

### **Length of Residency**

Applicants can nominate two preferred periods between March 2025 – December 2026. Council has the right to make a counter proposal to allow for allocation of all successful applicants. The residency is available for a minimum of four weeks and a maximum of three months.

### **About Carss Park Artist's Cottage**

The Carss Park Artist's Cottage is a one-bedroom furnished house overlooking the Georges River, and was formerly the Carss Park Ranger's Cottage. It has a kitchen, bathroom, dining area, living area, laundry, balcony and rear garden, and a large studio. The studio space has protective flooring, is well lit, and includes a desk, chair, easel, shelving and an equipment trolley. There is a lockable outdoor storage area. The house is comfortably furnished and equipped with towels and linen, basic kitchen equipment, utensils and washing machine and dryer.

The Cottage is in the Carss Bush Park, on the edges of a suburban area. Applicants should be aware it is quite isolated, being located in a large park. Artists may park in public car-parking areas close to the cottage, and buses stop nearby. The closest shopping centres are at Kogarah, Allawah and South Hurstville, with local shops and cafes at Carss Park. Due to the heritage of the building, the residence is not currently wheelchair accessible. Council encourages residencies from artists with a range of diverse abilities. Applicants are requested to outline any access requirements they may have on their application (e.g., extra accommodation for a support worker, etc.).

### **Concept of Work**

In their application, artists should outline the concept of work they plan to undertake during their residency. This should include details of the art-form, medium and other information which clearly describes the artist's intention for the work they wish to undertake during the residency. As the Program aims to contribute to an artist's professional development,

applicants should demonstrate that they have a well-developed plan that will make the most of the opportunity the residency provides.

### **Community contribution**

Artists are asked to propose a community contribution in their application. Successful applicants will then meet with the Cultural Services team at Hurstville Museum and Gallery and reach an agreement about the nature and extent of the contribution, whether it be a workshop, program, donation of an artwork, or other format. The community contribution is one aspect of the Program and is not expected to take considerable time away from the artist's own creative work time. These details will be recorded in the contractual agreement between the artist and Council.

Council may provide in-kind support such as promotion, venue hire, project and event management and assistance with installation for the program/s as agreed. The Cultural Services team also has an annual budget to allocate at Council's discretion for facilitation of workshops, events or community programs.

### **Selection process**

The Artist in Residence Program is targeted to artists working in different art-forms at different career stages. A selection panel consisting of Acting Coordinator Cultural Services, Curator, Hurstville Museum & Gallery and an independent representative from the arts community, will be formed. The selection panel will consider each application on its own merit. The panel will assess how each applicant's art-form, proposed concept and contribution fits within Council's cultural programming to aim to offer a diverse range of experiences and opportunities to the community.

Applications will be assessed by a selection panel against the following criteria:

- Artist's proposed concept of work to be completed during the residency
- Artist's proposed contribution to Georges River cultural life, and that it is realistic, affordable, achievable and measurable
- Value of the residency to the artist's professional development
- Value of the residency to Georges River local government area's cultural profile
- Quality of application and support material

## **Applications**

Artists interested in applying for the Georges River Artist in Residence program can complete the application form online at [www.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au/AIR](http://www.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au/AIR)

Please contact Hurstville Museum & Gallery if you have any questions about the Carss Park Artist in Residence program on (02) 9330 6444 or [museumgallery@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au](mailto:museumgallery@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au).