

MAKESHIFT

/ PUBLICS

Frequently Asked Questions

2500 words / 8-9 minutes read

Please note, all Arts House activities operate under a COVID Safe plan and within current government restrictions.

Access and Inclusion

1. How is the Makeshift Publics application process accessible to me?

Makeshift Publics general submissions are made through the SmartyGrants portal. Please see [this link](#) for more information about Makeshift Publics and Arts House.

We want you to apply in the format that is easiest for you. Responses can be written or uploaded as a video, audio file or Auslan video. You can submit these formats through the SmartyGrants application system. For Auslan submissions we can arrange interpretation of your video if needed. If you need to submit your application outside of the SmartyGrants system, please get in contact – details below.

The deadline for applications is **midday (12pm) Friday 4th December 2020**.

If you are unexpectedly unwell or experience some other kind of interruption that means you will not be able to meet this deadline, and require a few additional days, please get in touch with us prior to the closing date to discuss.

The Arts House team are committed to answering any needs or questions you have about this application process, so please get in touch.

- [Click here](#) for Auslan video about Makeshift Publics
- [Click here](#) for Auslan video about Makeshift Publics Accessibility
- [Click here](#) for plain text document of the Frequently Asked Questions
- [Click here](#) for plain text document of the Curatorial Framework
- [Click here](#) for audio about Makeshift Publics
- [Click here](#) for audio about Makeshift Publics Accessibility

Makeshift Publics access contact: *feel free to call, email or text*

Tara Prowse
Arts House Producer
tara.prowse@melbourne.vic.gov.au
0447 570 178 (text only)
(03) 9322 3720

2. How will Arts House support my access or inclusion needs, if I am selected?

- We encourage all applicants to let us know how we can best support their participation in Makeshift Publics. You will be asked a question in the application where you can outline this.
- If you are selected to participate, Arts House will initiate an access check-in with you prior to commencement of the program, in which you can choose to outline your specific requirements and participation needs.
- Through this dialogue Arts House will respond to your requests, and maintain regular check-ins with you to confirm approaches are sufficient.
- If required, Arts House will supply live captioning, voice-to-text formats and/or Auslan interpreters for all activities.
- If a selected participant with access needs requires a support person to engage in the program, this can be discussed at the access check-in. Arts House has financial resources available to ensure that this support person is paid to attend key meetings. This person can be identified by the participant, or sought and supplied through Arts House's networks. You can identify if you require this in the application process.

Makeshift Publics access contact: *feel free to call, email or text*

Tara Prowse
Arts House Producer
tara.prowse@melbourne.vic.gov.au
0447 570 178 (text only)
(03) 9322 3720

About the Application Process

3. How can I apply?

Makeshift Publics general submissions are made through the SmartyGrants portal.

[APPLY HERE](#)

We want you to apply in the format that is easiest for you. Responses can be written or sent as:

- A video
- An audio message
- Auslan video

You can submit these formats through the [SmartyGrants](#) application system. For Auslan submissions we can arrange interpretation of your video if needed. If you need to submit your application outside of the SmartyGrants system, please get in contact.

Makeshift Publics access contact: *feel free to call, email or text*

Tara Prowse
Arts House Producer
tara.prowse@melbourne.vic.gov.au
0447 570 178 (text only)
(03) 9322 3720

4. What is involved in applying for Makeshift Publics?

You will be asked three short questions: (500 words or around 3.5 minutes of signed or spoken text for each reply)

- a. *Tell us about yourself. We want to understand how you and your work (artistic or otherwise) relate to place, context and community. Feel free to share examples of past and future projects, dreams and desires.*
- b. *What investigations or questions are you keen to explore regarding a changed city, as well as how Melbourne has changed in 2020 and beyond?*
- c. *Makeshift Publics is a year-long investigative program, with artists exploring ideas adjacent to their peers. We are looking for self-motivated people who work well with others and also autonomously. What kind of qualities and ways of working do you bring to the Makeshift Publics process?*

You will be asked to confirm your availability for the following dates:

- The week beginning 22 March 2021
- The week beginning 21 June 2021
- The week beginning 25 October 2021
- There will be an Open Day for Makeshift Publics on 11-12 December 2021

Plus:

- Up to 3 web links for support material
- Your access needs - there will be space to describe this in your own words.
- Question on demographics of applicant.

5. What are the selection criteria for Makeshift Publics?

Applications will be assessed by the Arts House Advisory Group in response to the following criteria:

- Stated areas of enquiry that demonstrate timely, compelling and expanded offers towards exploring a changed city.
- Applications that demonstrate articulate and nuanced understanding of community, place and context, in relation to the applicant's own practice or background.
- Demonstrated understanding of and commitment to self-directed enquiry and peer-to-peer learning environments.
- Artists that are mid-career or established in their practice. This may take into account practice in areas additional to the arts (e.g. community, health, environment)
- Please note, as well as assessing each application on its own merits, the makeup of the whole cohort goes into our decision-making process. Arts House and the Advisory Group are interested in providing opportunities to a wide range of recipients, aiming to balance the different areas of interest, perspective, practice and backgrounds.

6. What will I be paid?

For participation in Makeshift Publics 2021 you will be paid a flat-fee of \$18,000 AUD.

7. What support material should I submit?

Support material is required through web links. If you have a website, or an article written about your work, or examples of your work online, please include a link. There is space for three links in the application process.

8. Who selects the participants?

The participants are selected by the Arts House Artistic Advisory Group: Hannah Morphy-Walsh, Stephen Niccolazzo, Caroline Martin, Raag Bhatia, Sarah Scott, Shian Law and Kalinda Palmer as well as some members of the Makeshift Publics Facilitator Group. You can find out more about the [Arts House Advisory Group here](#).

9. Am I able to apply for Makeshift Publics as a collective or more than one artist?

No, Makeshift Publics is open to individual artists only. We wish to substantially support an artists practice throughout the year, and whilst the research and process may involve collaboration, the program is only for individuals.

10. Can I receive feedback from my application if I am not accepted?

No, feedback is not available to those not accepted.

11. Do I need to submit a budget?

There is no budget required as part of the application process. The fee paid is an honorarium that is expected to cover your time, as outlined above.

12. Do I need an ABN?

If successful, you will be required to seek an Auspicing agency unless you can supply evidence of an ABN (Australian Business Number) and meet the Australian Taxation Office requirements, along with evidence of existing Public Liability Insurance of \$20 million. Successful artist or their Auspicing agency are also obliged to meet their obligations regarding Superannuation, Holiday Pay and WorkCover.

About the program

13. What is the time commitment for Makeshift Publics?

As a year-long program that is both self-directed and facilitated, on top of the expected hours, you will work with the Facilitator Group as well as Arts House's team to determine what your time commitment looks like across the year, and how this best reflects your aims and practice. It is important that you take into consideration your availability, and your level of engagement in your research for Makeshift Publics, alongside any other projects or work you have and proportionate to the fee offered.

You will commit to three part time weeks in 2021, as well as this individual investigation time.

Each week will be approximately 15 hours with daytime and evening hours, depending on design

and availability.

The dates are:

- The week beginning 22 March 2021
- The week beginning 21 June 2021
- The week beginning 25 October 2021
- There will be an Open Day for Makeshift Publics on 11/12 December 2021

14. What is the Open Day?

The Makeshift Publics Open Day is an opportunity for participants and Facilitator Group to share visions, thoughts and ideas with an audience or community. It will be an open conversation between Arts House and participants about what involvement looks like and the ways in which ideas developed throughout the year, might be shared.

15. Who is Makeshift Publics for?

Makeshift Publics is for mid-career and established artists, thinkers, makers and doers who want to consider the broad themes of place, the city, disruption and change.

Much of what Arts House does, including Makeshift Publics, is designed for people who are at least mid-career. It is a place for those who have moved beyond "emerging" and supports those who are a bit more established in whatever it is they do, for example in art, community work, healthcare, or in an environmental occupation.

Participants need to be from Victoria, because if COVID-restrictions allow us to gather the group together, we may do so at some point in the year.

We encourage applications from those with an experimental practice and those whose interests sit adjacent to the arts - e.g. health, environment, activism, science, space, mathematics, engineering, architecture, sport, food...

16. What is the Makeshift Publics Facilitator Group?

The Facilitator Group is a group of your peers. They are practicing artists and arts workers who bring a breadth of experiences and knowledges, with a majority based in Victoria. Arts House has brought them together to shape the dramaturgy and pedagogy of how Makeshift Publics unfolds, as well as to drive core themes.

The group includes Latai Taumoepeau, James Nguyen, Joel Spring, Madeleine Flynn, Fayen d'Evie, Sarah Scott, Hanna Cormick. We encourage you to research the group and [find out more here](#).

17. What will participants be doing in this program?

Arts House's Makeshift programs are artist-led. They include Makeshift Publics, Makeshift Workshops and Makeshift Gatherings. Our core group of practitioners determine the creative process and key themes of the program.

The brief to those practitioners is to lead a group of artists through a year-long creative process that explores place in a changed city. There will be an adamant emphasis on making and experiencing, not Zooming. And we hope the community formed amongst the group is nourishing.

We don't know a lot about the COVID restrictions we'll be navigating through 2021 and beyond. The result is that the work you are doing in this program as a participant will be led by your own creative practice, and your response to themes and ideas set out by our Facilitator Group. Experience as a solo practitioner will be advantageous in this process, but that does not preclude further development of a solo practice being a good outcome of the program. You may be researching, reading, writing, creating short film works, developing or executing conceptual works, creating remote or instructional artworks, doing choreography, recording audio, writing policy documents, facilitating conversation, consulting with your community, planning public artworks, connecting with expertise outside the arts... this will be determined by you.

Arts House is a program of the City of Melbourne, which gives us particular advantages in being close to and involved with the planning, strategy and policy directions of Australia's cultural capital.

We have learnt a lot through projects like [Refuge](#) about how artists can be positioned in important civic discussions, particularly around action on climate change and in community preparedness for crisis and major disruption.

We are keen to incorporate this learning into Makeshift Publics, and to use our networks as an opportunity for artists to be at the table as the future of the city is shaped. City of Melbourne has nine goals, developed in consultation with more than 1000 participants in Melbourne. You can find out more [here](#). City of Melbourne is also keenly attuned to the UN's [Sustainable Development Goals](#) as a benchmark for progress.

18. How many people will be part of Makeshift Publics?

There are resources available for 10-12 participants in the program, and the support persons that may be required by any of those participants. The Facilitator Group comprises eight people. The Arts House Creative team will support throughout. There may be guest speakers, Elders and community members who may feed in. Arts House will also provide brokerage, advocacy or introductions if required within the City of Melbourne or beyond.

19. Will the Facilitator Group be mentoring me?

No. The Facilitator Group will not mentor you one-on-one. Their role is to develop key thematic questions and creative process that will guide the process. They will provide guidance, activities, provocations and ideas. They will host whole-of-group gatherings online, and be available on the platforms set up for conversation and further discussion (e.g. Slack, WhatsApp), but much of the process will be driven and completed by you, in your time and during the allocated weeks.

20. Is Makeshift Publics about developing or presenting a work?

Makeshift Publics sits within Arts House's Investigation stream, where artists conduct experiments and explore new ideas. The outcomes are open, and artists have the freedom to go wherever their investigations lead them. There is no expectation to make a new work as part of Makeshift Publics; it is primarily an investigation of context.

21. If I do make a work as part of Makeshift Publics, does it mean there is a guaranteed presentation outcome at Arts House?

No, however Arts House have first right of refusal to present the premiere of work that may develop from the Makeshift Publics process. On completion of the program, Arts House will meet with you and talk about the next steps for any projects or work that may have come from the year.

22. Where will Makeshift Publics take place?

Arts House is located on the lands of the Kulin Nations in Naarm, Melbourne. The experience for participants will take place wherever in Victoria you are located - on a walk through the city, online, in your home, in a local park or - if COVID restrictions permit - in small groups and potentially, in person at our venue.

23. Makeshift Publics seems to be about the city. I live in regional Victoria, so how does this apply to me?

Makeshift Publics is about public space and place. The pandemic has dramatically transformed these constructs, creating new anxieties, difficulties, opportunities and questions. It has raised significant questions about gathering, intimacy, risk, care and social responsibility, topics on which artists are expert. These questions become concentrated in cities where large amounts of people congregate for work, life and play. But cities vary enormously in scale, and it is a mistake to think they are a recent phenomenon. We anticipate the ongoing impacts of colonisation, climate crisis and COVID to be examined as part of a focus on place, and for those discussions to be enriched by a diverse set of histories and experiences with “the city.” We anticipate exploring the role of neighbourhoods, of suburbs and of our relationship to Country all being part of discussions about ‘cities.’

24. Will I be able to collaborate with other participants?

Yes! You can work solo, or develop new collaborations within the participant group. We really hope that you make new and surprising connections and even new friendships through Makeshift Publics. We think this is especially important when COVID-19 has been very isolating for so many parts of the community.

25. Can the Makeshift Publics honorarium be used to cover travel?

There is no requirement for travel in the Makeshift Publics program. It is expected that you use the funds to cover your own time, not travel or other expenses. If COVID-safe restrictions allow a face-to-face gathering of participants, this will be resourced separately by Arts House, for regional Victorian artists.