

Makeshift Publics

Information Pack and FAQs

3000 words / 9-10 minutes read

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

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Contact

If you have read this document and attended the Info Session but still have questions, please contact:

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Info Sessions

We are hosting two information sessions which will cover all of Arts House Expression of interest Call-Outs: Makeshift Publics, CultureLAB, Science Gallery Residency and The Warehouse Residency.

Arts House's Call-Out Info Session on Zoom
Tuesday 21 September, 5.30pm 60 minutes [BOOK HERE](#)

Arts House's Access Call-Out Info session on Zoom
Wednesday 22 September, 2.00pm 60 mins [BOOK HERE](#)

These sessions will be Auslan interpreted and recorded with closed captions.

Overview

Acknowledging artists as leaders, **Makeshift Publics** asks committed practitioners to explore new methods of rebuilding fundamentally disrupted social ecologies in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Public space has mutated; the charged common grounds of theatres, galleries, museums and cinemas are empty; suburban footpaths and parks are negotiated in new ways and the online has taken on a new presence. Artists know a lot about how to gather people around ideas, images and stories, and this is one thing that has not changed. For this program, Arts House understands that public space can be social, historic, temporal, digital, economic, architectural, biological, chemical, inaccessible and contested; it includes civic spaces as well as outdoor and online environments.

With a process driven by a cross-disciplinary team of arts leaders, this program is for committed arts practitioners who want to explore new contexts for contemporary art in a year-long program in which artists investigate this shift.

After a successful 2021, we are now opening applications for 2022 – 2023.

EOIs close **Thursday 14 October**.

EOIs are made through the SmartyGrants portal. [APPLY HERE](#)

Key Dates

EOIs now open.

EOIs close: Thursday 14 October, 5.00pm AEST

Arts House Annual Call-Out Info Session: Tuesday 21 September, 5.30pm

Arts House Annual Call-Out Access Info session: Wednesday 22 September, 2pm

Notifications: mid-December

Makeshift Publics Program Dates:

- Week 1: 11 - 17 July 2022

- Week 2: 31 October - 6 November 2022
- Week 3: 20 – 26 March 2023
- Open Day: 25 June 2023

Access and Inclusion

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

Makeshift Publics EOIs are submitted 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. You can submit in these formats through the SmartyGrants system:

- Written
- Video
- Auslan video (we can arrange interpretation of your video if needed)
- Audio

If you need to submit your EOI outside of the SmartyGrants system or have access requirements that mean an EOI via a recorded Zoom conversation, word document, Auslan or another method would work best, please get in touch with us prior to the closing time to discuss – contact details above.

- Watch the Auslan video about Makeshift Publics [HERE](#)
- Listen to the audio about Makeshift Publics [HERE](#)

2. Deadline and Softline

EOIs close **Thursday 14 October, 5pm AEST.**

If you are unexpectedly unwell or experience some other kind of last minute 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 time to discuss.

Arts House are committed to answering any questions you have about this EOI process, so please get in touch - see contact details below.

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

- We encourage all artists to let us know how we can best support their participation in Makeshift Publics. You will be asked a question in the EOI where you can outline this, if you wish.
- 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 can 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 EOI process.

4. Does Arts House have a dedicated access officer who can support me?

Currently Arts House does not have a designated access officer. We have an internal working group with representatives from each department who manage and report on the [Disability Inclusion Action Plan](#) and can provide additional support and assistance when required.

As part of the access budget for Makeshift Publics, we encourage artists to consider if they require an advocate/ support person to assist during the three intensive program

weeks – this could involve assisting in meetings, being a representative for the artist or other duties as required.

About the EOI process

5. What does my EOI need to include?

EOIs are made through the SmartyGrants portal. [APPLY HERE](#)

The Makeshift Publics submission form asks three short questions about yourself, your practice and your approach to the program.

Responses to each question can be up to:

- 500 written words
- 3.5 minute video or audio
- 8 minutes Auslan
- If you are applying via a recorded Zoom meeting, the same duration applies.

Questions:

1. Tell us about yourself. How do you and your practice, artistic or otherwise, relate to place, context and community. Feel free to share examples of past and future projects or plans.
2. What investigations or questions would you like to explore or bring to the group regarding how public space - virtual, IRL, internal, external - has changed in 2021 and beyond?
3. Makeshift Publics is a year-long investigation program with artists exploring ideas adjacent to their peers. What change do you want to see in your practice and/or collaborations, and what culture change do you hope for?

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

- Week 1: 11 - 17 July 2022
- Week 2: 31 October - 6 November 2022
- Week 3: 20 – 26 March 2023
- Open Day: 25 June 2023

- In addition you will be required to participate in two planning meetings with Arts House Creative Producer between April - June 2022 to map out your schedule for the year.

Plus the following information:

- Your access needs. There will be space to describe this in your own words, if you wish.
- Question on demographics of artist
- Provide up to 3 weblinks of support material

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 submission process.

6. What are the selection criteria for Makeshift Publics?

EOIs will be reviewed in response to the following criteria:

- Identified areas of enquiry that demonstrate timely, compelling and expanded offers towards exploring changed approaches to public space.
- Submissions should show an understanding of community, place and context, in relation to the artist's own practice or background.
- Submissions should show an understanding and commitment of 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 reviewing each submission on its own merits, the makeup of the whole cohort goes into our decision-making process. Arts House and the Makeshift Publics Facilitators are interested in providing opportunities to a wide range of recipients, aiming to balance the different areas of interest, perspective, practice and backgrounds.

7. What and how will I be paid?

For participation in Makeshift Publics you will be paid an artist fee **\$18,000 AUD** (ex GST), plus Superannuation, Holiday Pay and Workcover.

You will be engaged to work through auspice body [Auspicious Arts](#). Auspicious Arts will provide you with more information on their services and there is no cost to the artist associated with this. Arts House will cover the auspice fee and Auspicious Arts will

manage any obligations to you regarding Superannuation, Holiday Pay or WorkCover. . Auspicious Arts will also meet your public liability insurance obligations.

8. Do I need to submit a budget as part of the EOI?

No, there is no budget required as part of the submission process. The fee paid is an honorarium that is expected to cover your time.

9. Who selects the participants?

Makeshift Publics participants are selected by the [Arts House Creative Team](#) and members of the Makeshift Publics Facilitator Group, including Hanna Cormick, Timmah Ball, Latai Taumoepeau, Joel Spring. You can find out more about the Makeshift Publics Facilitators [here](#).

10. Will I receive feedback from my submission if I am not accepted?

Whilst we are unable to provide feedback on individual submissions, general feedback on the call-out will be provided to all unsuccessful applicants.

11. Can I discuss my EOI with someone before submitting?

Yes! Arts House Producers are available to answer questions you have about this submission process and if Makeshift Publics is right for you. Please get in touch - see contact details at the top of this document.

We are also hosting two information sessions, which will cover all the Arts House EOI call-outs:

Arts House's Call-Out Info Session on Zoom
Tuesday 21 September, 5.30pm [BOOK HERE](#)

Arts House's Access Call-Out Info session on Zoom
Wednesday 22 September, 2.00pm [BOOK HERE](#)

These sessions will be Auslan interpreted as well as closed captioned and will be recorded.

12. Am I able to apply for more than one Arts House program?

Yes. You can apply for CultureLAB, Science Gallery Residency, Makeshift Publics and The Warehouse Residency. However, please note that each of these opportunities are very distinct and have different criteria, so please consider each program and your suitability.

13. Do I need Public Liability Insurance?

No, if successful, the auspice body Auspicious Arts will cover your Public Liability Insurance.

14. Will these finances affect my Pension payments?

If you are receiving a pension support and would like to arrange a payment schedule to minimise the impact of the Makeshift Publics payments, you can arrange this with Auspicious Arts at the contracting stage.

About the program

15. Who is Makeshift Publics for?

Makeshift Publics is a year-long investigative program for Victorian-based artists, thinkers and makers who want to consider the broad themes of place, the city, disruption and change.

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 that are a bit more established in their arts practice or their career. We are looking for self-motivated people who work well with others and also autonomously.

We encourage EOI submissions from people with an experimental arts practice and those with interests that also sit adjacent to and beyond the arts - e.g. health, environment, activism, science, architecture, space, mathematics, engineering, sport, food etc.

We encourage EOIs from artists who self-identify as First Nations, people of colour, culturally diverse, LGBTQIA+ and living in regional Victoria as well as artists who identify with Disability, D/deafness, neurodiversity or chronically illness. We want to support the diversity of lived experiences in the artistic community and particularly encourage multiple- marginalised artists to submit EOIs.

16. What is the role of a Makeshift Publics Facilitator?

The Facilitators are a group of your peers. They are practicing artists and arts workers who bring a breadth of experiences and knowledges. Arts House has brought them together to shape the design of Makeshift Publics, as well as to drive core themes and the participatory processes.

Find out more about the Facilitators [HERE](#)

17. What are the key themes explored in Makeshift Publics?

Makeshift Publics is about public space and place. We consider public space to be virtual, IRL, internal, external, sensorial etc. 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; often 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 in this program we see them in relation to site, place, and a lens through which to examine materiality and meaning. 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 community, neighbourhoods, suburbs and of our relationship to Country all being part of discussions about ‘cities.’

As an example, read a recent reflection on Week 2 for the 2021 cohort [here](#).

18. What will participants be doing in this program?

Makeshift Publics is artist-led and the facilitators determine the creative process and key themes of the program. The brief to those facilitators is to lead a group of artists through a year-long creative process that explores the idea of public space in a changing city. We hope the community formed amongst the group is nourishing and in the spirit of open and reciprocal enquiry.

Makeshift Publics intensive weeks take place entirely online, with both whole group sessions and smaller group/ individual activities. Alongside this, you will be working autonomously on your research, practice or other areas of enquiry. The work you are doing in this program as a participant will be led by your own creative practice, and your responses to themes and ideas set out by our Facilitator Group.

This program is for individuals. Experience as a solo practitioner would be advantageous in this process, but that does not preclude those whose practice is collaborative from applying. During your year you may be researching, reading, writing, interviewing, 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.

19. 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 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 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 two weeks in 2022, one week in 2023 as well as individual investigation time. Each week will be approximately 15+ hours with daytime and evening hours, depending on design and availability.

The dates and expectations are:

- Week 1: 11 - 17 July 2022
- Week 2: 17 – 23 October 2022

- Week 3: 20 – 26 March 2023
- Open Day 25 June 2023
- In addition you will be required to participate in two planning meetings with Arts House Creative Producer between April - June 2022 to map out your schedule for the year.
- In addition, artists will have regular check-ins with the Arts House Creative Producer, and be required to provide three video, audio or written reflections across the year, for publication via Arts House's channels on their research.

20. What is the Open Day?

The Makeshift Publics Open Day is an opportunity for artists and Facilitators to share visions, thoughts, process and ideas with industry, 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.

21. Am I able to apply for Makeshift Publics as a collective?

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

22. How many artists will be selected to be part of Makeshift Publics?

There are resources available for 9 participants in the program, and (if required for access purposes) the support persons for any of those participants. The Facilitator Group comprises four people and six guest facilitators. The Arts House Creative team will support throughout. There may be Elders and community members who also feed in. Arts House will also provide brokerage, advocacy or introductions if required through our broader networks.

23. 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 ideas that will guide the process. They will provide guidance, activities, provocations and ideas. They will host whole-of-group activities online, and be available on the platforms set up for conversation and further discussion

(e.g. Slack), but much of the process will be driven and completed by you, in your time and during the allocated weeks.

24. 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.

25. 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. Artists must also credit Arts House Makeshift Publics program in work developed.

26. Where will Makeshift Publics take place?

Arts House is located on the lands of the Kulin Nations in Naarm, Melbourne, but the program for participants will take place online. If COVID restrictions permit, we may meet in person socially, during the year.

27. 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.

28. 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.

Got a Question?

If you have read our documents and attended the Info Session but still have questions, please contact:

Tara Prowse
Arts House, Creative Producer
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0447 570 178 (text only)
(03) 9322 3720

National Relay Service (NRS)

TTY users: phone 13 36 77 – then ask for – 03 9322 3720

Speak and Listen users: phone 1300 555 727 – then ask for – 03 9322 3720

Internet relay users: connect to the NRS (internet-relay.nrscall.gov.au) – then type in –
03 9322 3720