

# Blak Women's Healing

By Dr Paola Balla

## Access Guide



Image: Native flora is arranged on a table, shot from above.

## Updates to this document

Please note, this performance is a new work and changes are being made by artists until opening. We will endeavour to provide the latest access information on performances to ticket holders across key stages of rehearsal and presentation.

Arts House website will contain the most up to date version of this document and all ticket holders will be notified of any revisions made 3 days and 1 day prior to the event.

This document was created: 14 April 2025

Revision 1: 17/04/2025

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## Where

Arts House  
521 Queensberry Street  
North Melbourne VIC

## When

Wednesday 23 April – Saturday 17 May 2025

Mon – Fri, 10:30am – 4:30pm

Sat, 11am – 4pm

Closed Sundays and public holidays.

## Access Services



Auslan Interpreted Programming

### Saturday 3 May

Curator Talk and Tour, 11am – 12pm

Yarning & Weaving with Aunty Margie

12pm, 1pm and 2pm

*These services are book on request by Tues 29 April via*  
[artshouse.ticketing@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:artshouse.ticketing@melbourne.vic.gov.au)

## **Saturday 10 May**

Bush-dyeing Workshop with Paola, 11am – 1:30pm

Blak Women's Yarning Circle, 2pm – 3:30pm

\*These events are First Nations Community-Only events

*These services are book on request by Tues 6 May via*  
[artshouse.ticketing@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:artshouse.ticketing@melbourne.vic.gov.au)



Audio Described and Tactile Tour

Curator Talk and Audio-Described Tactile Tour, Saturday 3 May 12pm – 1pm

*This service is book on request by Thur 24 April via*  
[arthouse.ticketing@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:arthouse.ticketing@melbourne.vic.gov.au)



Assistance Animals are welcome.



Visual Rating 75% – most works in the exhibition are visual. There are two films showing in the Main Hall. The film by Kath Travis is open captioned. The film by Paola Balla is not captioned, however contains minimal dialogue (the line “Mok Mok, you better watch out” is repeated throughout). For the public programming, audiences can contact Arts House to book tickets to have these events Auslan interpreted. Deaf and hard of hearing audiences can have close to the full experience of the event.



This exhibition is fully wheelchair accessible. More information is provided further below in this guide about the accessible entrances at Arts House and bathrooms.



Quite Space Available - The quiet space will always be available for you to use. More information about the quiet space can be found later in this guide.



Companion Card - Arts House supports the Companion Card program.

## **Artists**

Blak Women's Healing is curated by Dr Paola Balla.

## Sensory Elements

### Sound

In the Nyernila-Listening Space, located in the Main Hall, there are two film works showing, both of which use projected sound.

In the Reading Room, located in Studio 2, attendees can choose to use headphones to listen to a podcast series. There is also a playlist of contemporary music by Indigenous female artists and bands playing in the space via speakers.

### Lighting

In the Nyernila-Listening Space, located in the Main Hall, some coloured lighting may be used as well as warm-white lighting to illuminate artworks in the exhibition. There are two video works shown on screens. This will create a higher-contrast lighting environment. All lights are static.

In the Aunties Lounge Room, the Reading Room and in all interstitial spaces, lighting will be standard ambient room lighting.

### Physical

The Aunties Lounge Room, located in Studio 1, is intended as a social space and is staged as a lounge room with furniture and items including couches, a rug, a sideboard and a dining set. The nature of this set up means you may be in proximity to other attendees if you choose to sit on the lounge furniture.

The Reading Room, located in Studio 2, is a space to engage with research by Moondani Balluk Indigenous Academic Centre. In the room, there are tables and chairs throughout the space that can be used. You may be sitting next to other attendees.

### Smell

The bush-dyed banners and fabrics have been made using native flora, including eucalyptus leaves. There may be a subtle lingering scent from these natural materials left on the fabrics.

There is a tea and coffee station in the Foyer so these scents may be present around the building as people move through the spaces with their drinks.

## **Audience Experience**

### **Entry to space**

All exhibition spaces are accessed through wooden double doors. Attendees are free to move around the spaces at their own pace. There is no prescribed order to viewing the spaces.

### **Shocks or surprises**

There are no shocks or surprises.

### **Audience experience**

Attendees should not touch the artworks.

In the Blak Women's Healing Reading Room, attendees are invited to read the materials laid out on tables and on the walls. Attendees are also invited to write a letter of response to the Blak Women's Healing exhibition, which they can put in a box to share with the artists & collaborators, or take home themselves.

### **Social expectations**

Attendees are free to come and go and move through the space as they please. There will be staff in the building and may be other people attending the exhibition at the same time as you, there is no expectation to interact with others if you do not wish to.

### **Relaxed space**

Attendees are welcome to come and go as they please, be themselves, make noise, stim, and respond to the works in the exhibition.



## The Venue



Image: North Melbourne Town Hall features giant red letters that say ARTS HOUSE out the front of it.

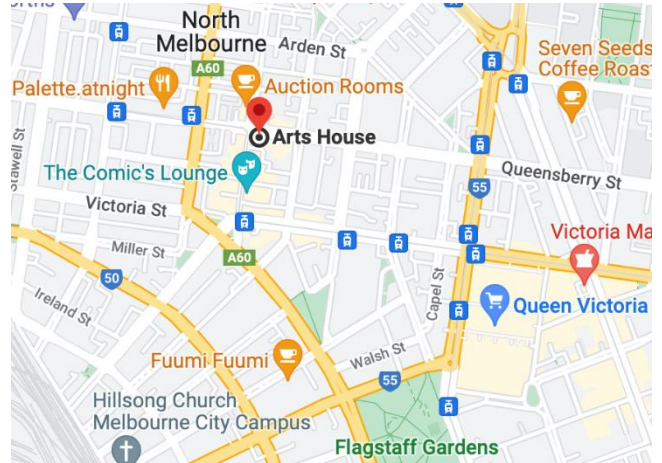


Image: a map of Arts House and its surrounding area. [LINK TO MAP](#)

## Front Entrance





## Accessible Entrances



There are two Accessible Entrances. The first is on Errol St next to the Post Office.



Image: Errol Street entrance next to the Post office with wheelchair accessible ramp or two steps with grab rails.



Image: View of door entrance.

The second Accessible Entrance is towards the end of George Johnson Lane.



Image: View of George Johnson Lane from Errol St. The laneway passes through an archway with a brick wall at the end.

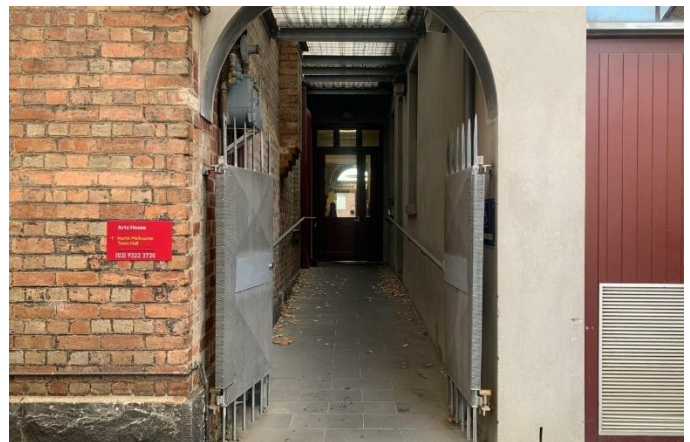
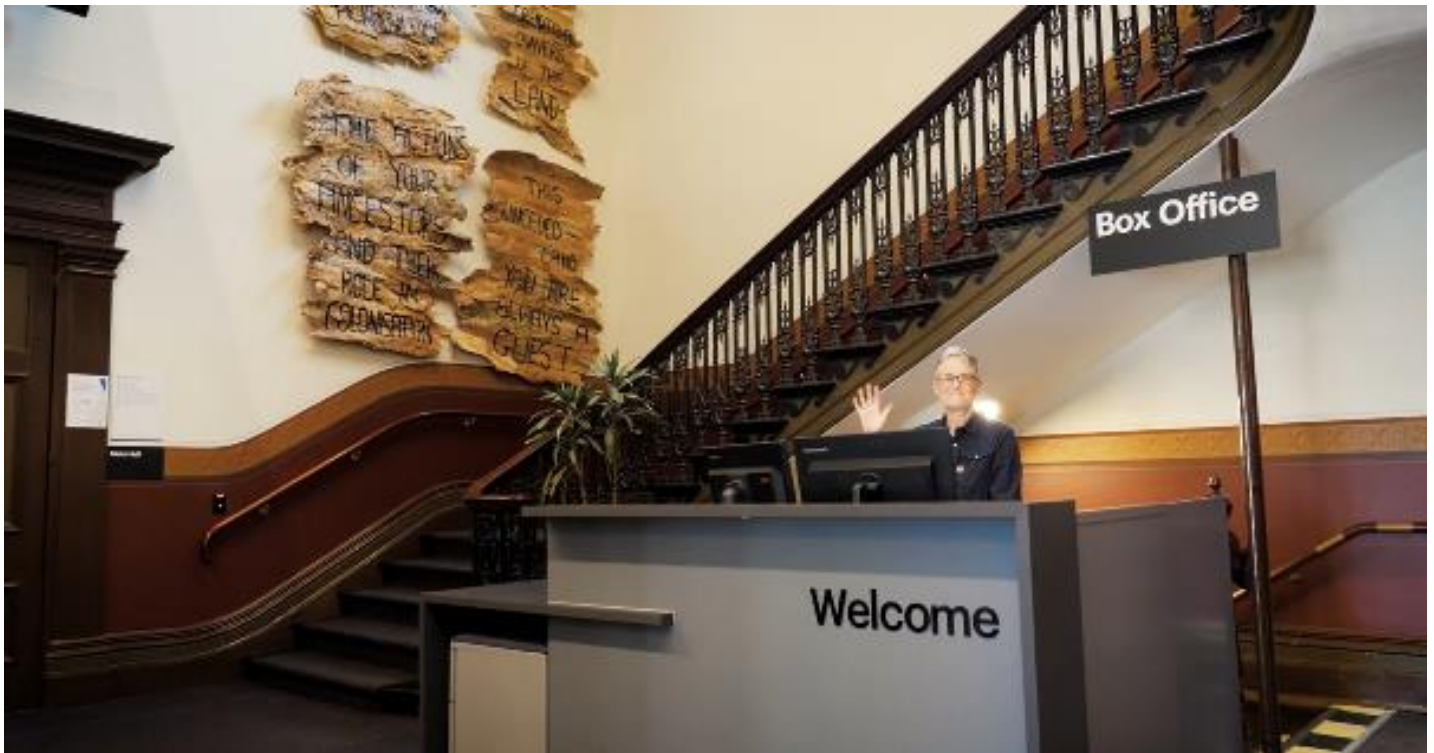


Image: view of the ramp leading from George Johnson Lane to the automated door which opens into the Arts House foyer.

## Box Office



Box Office is located in the foyer under the stairwell.

## Ushers



Ushers will be wearing black with an Arts House Logo on the left hand shoulder.

Bar







Image Description: The Arts House Bar with vases on each side of the bar filled with native flowers. In the centre there is a bar menu displayed with drinks set up on the top level on the bar. Towards the back wall there is a Arts House sign that is lit up. The lighting of the space is lit up orange.

Bar staff will be wearing black with an Arts House Logo.

We have a range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages for sale.

We are a cashless venue and accept EFTPOS, Visa and Mastercard payments.

## Quiet Space



Arts House Quiet Space is located on Ground Level and is nearby reception and opposite the accessible bathrooms. It includes a range of seating options including soft furnishings, dimmable lights, sensory and stim objects. It is open during venue opening hours and events as a quiet space, prayer or parenting space.



Image: Quiet space with lights dimmed



Image: Quiet space kitchenette and book shelf

## Bathrooms

All bathrooms have Dyson hand dryers with sensor activation. There is an accessible bathroom that is single use on ground level opposite the Quiet Space. There is another accessible bathroom upstairs – this is accessible via lift or stairs.



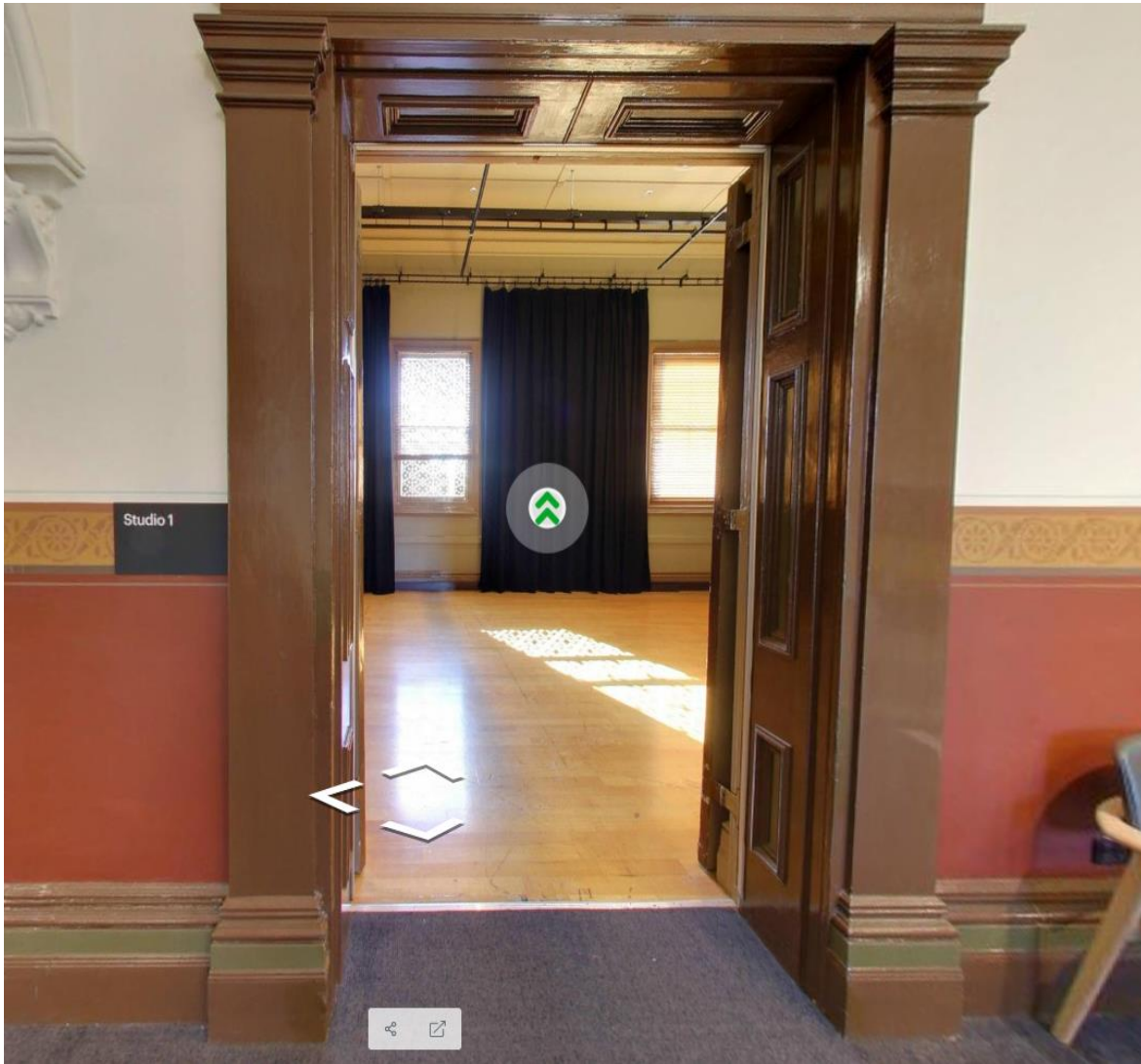
## Door to Studio 1



The Aunties Lounge Room is in Studio 1.

It is on the first floor.

You can access these spaces via stairs with hand-railing or the lift.



## Door to Studio 2

The Reading Room is in Studio 2.

It is on the first floor.

You can access these spaces via stairs with hand-railing or the lift.





## **Door to Main Hall**

The Nyernila-Listening Space is in the Main Hall.

It is on the ground floor.

It is to the left of reception desk and right of the bar.



## Lift

The lift is located behind reception desk in the foyer.

The closest entry to the lift is via George Johnson Lane.



## **Transport**

### **Tram**

Route 57 (High Floor trams only)

Stop 12, North Melbourne Town Hall.

Please note, this is not a wheelchair accessible tram

[GETTING TO ARTS HOUSE VIDEO LINK](#)

### **Train**

Arts House is 1.1km from

North Melbourne Train Station,

approximately 16 minute walk

[North Melbourne Station Information](#)

1.2km from Flagstaff Station,

approximately 15 minute walk

[Flagstaff Station Information](#)

### **Bus**

Bus number: 216

### **Parking**

There is limited paid on-street parking on Queensberry Street and Errol Street.

There are two accessible on street car parking spaces on Queensberry Street (150m to our accessible Errol Street entrance) for holders of a Parking Permit for Disabled people.

## COVID Safety

Please note: If you have a cough, sore throat, fever, shortness of breath or flu-like symptoms, you must not attend our venue or programs in person.

We will provide a refund if you need to cancel your attendance due to illness. Please contact us by 9am on the day of the event.

To minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission, we advise all patrons, artists and staff to:

- Practise physical distancing where possible
- Practise good hygiene by washing and or sanitising your hands often
- Wear a mask as directed by Victorian Government guidelines

Throughout the venue you will find:

- hand sanitiser stations available
- masks available (ask one of our staff for assistance)
- increased signage to direct patron movement and avoid crowd congestion

We also ensure that spaces are well ventilated.

Staying COVID-safe remains important. We must all follow these steps:

- Follow the Victorian Government's measures on how to stay safe.
- When you cannot safely socially distance it is recommended to wear a well fitted mask where required.
- Practise COVID-safe hygiene protocols.