MAKE BELIEVE DREAM CREATE - IN KANMANTOO
Artists in Residence Program Guidelines

Why

The Make Believe Dream Create Artists in Residence program works to achieve the Council's vision '…for a strong and sustainable arts sector that contributes to the economic, cultural, environmental and social fabric of the region. It is a place where art is visible, creative activities are accessible and artists thrive' as expressed in the Arts Plan (2022 – 2027). Following a successful pilot program in 2025/26, Council is excited to take this program into Kanmantoo for 2027.

By providing an artist with a bespoke, dedicated and rent-free environment in which to create, we aim to give them time and space to develop their practice. Additionally, there are wide ranging community benefits from having professional artists visibly practicing in our district's townships, and district-wide benefits from attracting high calibre artistic projects to our region.

Who

The Artists in Residence program is suitable for professional artists who:

- live in the district, and/or are working on a project which is tied to/will be delivered in the district, and
- are emerging, mid-career, or established.

We are open to applications from artists working in all art forms.

What

The Artists in Residence program provides artists with a dedicated workspace in which to create a new project, or to progress a project to a new stage in its development.

Residencies range from a minimum of two weeks up to a maximum of six weeks, and artists are required to be active in the residency for a minimum of three days a week.

At the culmination of the residency, artists must undertake a public sharing of their work (or work in progress), which may take the form of a performance, exhibition, reading, workshop, or artist's talk.

Following the residency, for the duration of the life of the project undertaken in the residency, artists must acknowledge Mount Barker District Council's support for the project.

This round of the Artists in Residence program will take place in *Kanmantoo Hall* – a beautiful, heritage listed building which began life as a Methodist chapel in 1864 and has also been a schoolhouse, before taking on its current role as a hall. Surrounded by gum trees, gardens, and rolling hills, the hall is a versatile, open space, with abundant natural light pouring in from windows on three sides. It has a kitchenette, heating, air-conditioning, trestle tables, and chairs, and is situated across the road from the vibrant Britannia café/gallery/accommodation, and just down the road from the Kanmantoo General Store.

Kanmantoo is a small mining town located in the eastern Adelaide Hills, and is a 48-minute drive from Adelaide CBD, and a 20-minute drive from both Mount Barker and Murray Bridge.

The Artists in Residence program covers the cost of:

- rent
- utilities including water, electricity and WIFI internet
- Signage to promote the residency

Additional support includes:

- $100/week cash contribution toward costs (eg fuel/materials)
- In kind support for the public showing, including hospitality, small infrastructure and materials.
- Promotion of the project for the duration of the residency via Council's social media and print media
- Support of the Arts Officer throughout the residency.

What the residency does not include:

- Residential accommodation
- Support for the continuation of ongoing work / business as usual activities

About the space:

The Kanmantoo Hall is available 7 days a week to the artist in residence, for the duration of their residency.

The space consists of 1 large room with an area of 114 m^2, situated on 1 acre of land.

The Kanmantoo Hall boasts ample, natural sunlight through large glass windows on 3 sides, as well as overhead lighting.

Furniture inside the space includes multiple trestle tables, stackable chairs, a couch, and a kitchenette including fridge, microwave, sink, kettle, urn, crockery, and cutlery.

Toilets are located outside the hall, a few metres away from the building. They will be available 24/7 to the artist in residence throughout their residency, and will be locked at all times when not in use by the artist.

Ample power is available within the hall, via multiple power points.

Accessibility:

The hall itself is accessible for people living with disability, with entrance via a wide door opening from the flat, even footpath.

However, the toilets, which are located outside and adjacent the building, are not entirely accessible for people using a wheelchair. To compensate for this, artists requiring an accessible toilet will be provided with an accessible toilet for the duration of their residency, at Council's expense.

About the Public Showing:

Every artist in residence must provide an opportunity for the public to engage with their work, either during the residency, or at the end of the residency.

This public engagement may take the form of a:

- A reading
- A performance
- An exhibition
- An open studio
- Or any other event which is available to the public, in consultation with Council's Arts Officer

The work presented may be in draft form, a work in progress, or a completed project.

This public presentation should take place within The Kanmantoo Hall, or on the grounds of the Kanmantoo Hall.

*Other venues within the district may be considered for the public showing, if arranged in consultation with the Arts Officer.

Things to bear in mind about this opportunity:

While this is an unpaid residency opportunity, Council will provide Artists with a modest cash contribution of $100/week for each week of their residency, in acknowledgment of the rising cost of fuel.

We understand that some artists will need to continue other paid work during their residency, but it is a requirement that artists commit to being in the Hall and working on their residency project for a minimum of 3 days per week (which may include weekends).

Kanmantoo Hall is located directly opposite a vibrant café/gallery/live music venue called *Britannia*, which also offers boutique accommodation on the property.

Mount Barker District Council has no rights to automatically acquire any work produced during the residency.

When will residencies take place, and how long will they be?

Residencies will be offered with a minimum duration of 2 weeks and a maximum duration of 6 weeks. Artists may specify how long they would like their residency to be.

The first residency will commence in February 2027, and the last residency will conclude in July 2027.

Applicants will be asked to select their preferred dates in their application, but there is no guarantee that these exact dates will be possible.

How are applications assessed?

Council staff will screen applications for eligibility and contact applicants to request any missing information. Applicants will be provided with 5 business days to provide any additional information as requested. Extensions may possibly be granted if requested in advance.

An assessment panel (including an Independent Arts Grant Assessor) will then assess applications against the assessment criteria below, and in consideration of the mix of art forms, career stages, residency length and other factors.

Artistic Merit of the project 40%	Is the concept for the work undertaken in the residency creatively interesting? Does the artist have demonstrated ability to achieve the artistic goals of the project? Will the creation of this new work be a positive addition to the arts ecology of the district?
Project link to district 20%	Will the final outcome of the project be delivered in the district? Will the project elevate awareness of the district? To what extent is the artist connected to the district? Is there something about the location of the residency which will influence and benefit the project?
Planned public outcome 20%	Is the public outcome well scoped and realistic? Will the public outcome engage the public and make the art and art form visible to the public? Has the applicant thought about how to engage the public throughout the residency?
Benefit to career / practice 20%	What does this time and space mean to the artist? Why this residency? What challenges will the residency help the artist overcome? What about the applicant's career stage/ life stage would benefit from this residency? What does the applicant have planned next? Is the project/ their art/ their career building to something?

How to apply?

Applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss their project ideas with Council's Arts Officer prior to submitting an application.

There may be an opportunity to view the space before applying. Please contact Council's Arts Officer to request a tour, if this is important to you.

Applications are lodged online on Council's Smartygrants webpage. This can be accessed via Councils website www.mountbarker.sa.gov.au

More information

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Frequently Asked Questions

What does tied to the district mean?

The final product of the project will be exhibited or performed in the district, and/or the subject matter of the project is related to the district. This is only a requirement for artists who do not reside within Mount Barker District.

What is and is not provided:

- Space and utilities are provided.
- Artists will provide their own materials.

What is a professional artist?

We draw on Creative Australia's definition used in its Making Art Work study, which uses the tenets of 'professional, practicing, and serious' to define professional practice. This study proposes professional practice be defined by artists who satisfy one of the below criteria:

- In the last three to five years, have had a significant artistic achievement in their art form (such as a work published or professionally shown or performed);
- Have been engaged in the last five years in creating a serious and substantial body of work;
- Have undertaken full-time study in their art form; and/or
- Have received a grant to work in their art form from a public or private grant-giving agency."

What does emerging, mid-career and established mean?

Emerging:
In their initial stage of their professional career, beyond hobby activities. They may be undertaking or have recently completed specialist training.

Mid-Career:
Developing an independent body of work and practice over a number of years, gaining recognition at a state and national level.

Established:
An established artist has reached a high level of achievement in their career, having created a substantial body of work and gain national and international acclaim for their contribution to the discipline and sector.

We find artists typically under estimate their achievements and contributions to their field of practice.

What information do you need in the project proposal?

- Brief introduction to the project
- Themes, concepts or ideas you plan to explore
- Mediums and techniques you plan to use
- Scope, scale or stages to the project
- Any experimentation you plan to do
- How your professional experience equips you to execute this project

Can I live on site, if am selected for a residency?

No, these residencies do NOT include accommodation.

Is there a stipend or per diem included in the residency?

A small cash contribution of $100/week will be provided to each artist during their residency, to go some way to alleviating the financial impact of rising fuel prices.

Is the space accessible?

The hall itself is accessible for people living with disability, with entrance via a wide door opening from the flat, even footpath.

However, the toilets, which are located outside and adjacent the building, are not entirely accessible for people using a wheelchair. To compensate for this, artists requiring an accessible toilet will be provided with an accessible toilet for the duration of their residency, at Council's expense.