



CITY OF ALBANY

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM 2025/2026



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ARTIST IN RESIDENCE OBJECTIVES

The City of Albany Artist in Residence (AIR) program will facilitate annual artist residencies for up to ten visiting artists. The AIR program provides visiting artists with the opportunity to develop their practice through self-directed creative projects.

It provides opportunities to share skills and exchange knowledge with the Albany creative community, develop professional networks within the region, contribute to wider community engagement with the arts, discover and share the rich Great Southern heritage and environment and contribute to raising the profile of Albany as a creative city.

The City of Albany manages the Vancouver Arts Centre, Mary Thomson House Studios and Residency Cottage, the Albany Town Hall and the Albany Public Library.

CITY OF ALBANY ARTS & CULTURE FACILITIES

VANCOUVER ARTS CENTRE

Situated approximately 1km from the Albany CBD, the Vancouver Arts Centre (VAC) is a unique heritage site and an active community arts centre. The VAC was formerly the original Albany Cottage Hospital but is now home to many arts and heritage craft groups.

MARY THOMSON HOUSE STUDIOS & RESIDENCY COTTAGE

Situated on the same site as the VAC, Mary Thomson House (MTH) is the former Nurses Quarters and is named after Mary Thomson, who was a driving force behind the beginnings of the Albany Summer School and the Albany Arts Council. She was an active member of the organising committee for many years and together with her fellow arts-activist, Dorrit Hunt, campaigned to preserve the Old Hospital as a community arts centre.

Mary Thomson House provides local artists with affordable studio spaces.

The Residency Cottage is adjacent to Mary Thomson House and is entirely self-contained with separate access, a queen room, lounge/dining area, kitchen and bathroom for private use by the visiting artist.

ALBANY TOWN HALL

The Albany Town Hall is our Heritage venue in the heart of the Albany CBD. It is the City's primary exhibition venue for the region and houses a multi-purpose auditorium space.

The Town Hall was refurbished in early 2021 and offers an annual exhibition program comprising of national and state touring exhibitions, directly commissioned, independently curated and community art exhibitions. Upstairs is a multi-purpose flat floor venue for the presentation of live music, experimental and hybrid performance, installation, dance, film, civic and cultural events. The building also has a small artisan retail space.

ALBANY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Albany Public library is situated in the heart of Albany next to the Albany Town Hall. It houses the City of Albany's History Collection, which actively preserves important local history and is an invaluable source of information for the development of cultural and artistic programs.

OUR OFFER TO ARTISTS

The COA AIR program is dedicated to supporting the creative development of artists – whether they have an individual or community practice.

We offer accommodation for one artist (and their partner only) at the Residency Cottage for the duration of the residency. Unfortunately we are unable to accommodate your children or pets. A separate studio / research room (3.8m x 7m) is also available solely for the resident artist and is located next door at the VAC. The fee per week for both accommodation and studio is \$250.

We offer a climate controlled environment, all bed linen and access to washing facilities. Power, water and WIFI costs are included.

A residency of up to 6 weeks will be supported between the period of June 2025 to December 2026. Your residency can be for a minimum of two weeks or for the full 6 weeks. Cancellations within 6 weeks of your residency will incur a \$250 fee.

SUGGESTED RESIDENCY OUTCOMES

If you wish to engage with our community, public outcomes from this residency can take the form of:

- A creative development showing
- A temporary installation / exhibition / performance
- Open studio
- Artist talk
- Skills workshop

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Residency applications will be assessed by a panel comprised of industry peer professionals who reside within the Great Southern and the City of Albany – Arts and Culture team, based on the following criteria:

- Artistic excellence – the extent to which the artist's work is recognised as high calibre.
- Originality – the extent to which the residency proposal is unique and innovative.
- Timeliness – in the artist's career and in terms of wider events.
- Involvement of local community – collaboration with user groups, community ownership, captivating for disinclined audiences at the centre, potential for partnerships with other service organisations .
- Engagement of local culture and history – increasing the research profile – addressing our unique history, heritage, and site significance and engaging with local history.
- Multidisciplinary – artists from multiple creative disciplines are encouraged to apply.
- Diversity – artists from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds, Indigenous backgrounds, diverse ages, people with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ people, and people from regional and remote Australia are encouraged to apply.

2026

In 2026 Albany will host Western Australia's first Bicentenary. Albany was the first place where Aboriginal and British people commenced living together on the western side of Australia. The Bicentenary is a once in a lifetime opportunity to tell the story of this place.

<https://albany2026.com.au/>



APPLICANT DETAILS

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Predominant Artform: _____

PREFERRED DATES

NUMBER OF WEEKS YOU WOULD LIKE (Between 2 and 6): _____

Please consider this carefully as there will be no scope to select further weeks at a different timeframe. Nominated weeks must be taken consecutively. Any cancelled dates will not be transferable

Please mark from **1 to 10** your preference for the residency timeframe:

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|------|--|-----------------|------|--|
| 7 JUL - 18 AUG | 2025 | | 20 APR - 2 JUN | 2026 | |
| 25 AUG - 6 OCT | 2025 | | 8 JUN - 20 JUL | 2026 | |
| 13 OCT - 24 NOV | 2025 | | 27 JUL - 7 SEP | 2026 | |
| 12 JAN - 22 FEB | 2026 | | 14 SEP - 26 OCT | 2026 | |
| 3 MAR - 14 APR | 2026 | | 2 NOV - 14 DEC | 2026 | |

ATTACHMENTS

PROPOSAL

Please provide a short synopsis of the artist’s intent for the residency. (Please attach a maximum of 1 A4 page describing your proposal). This should include a description of your artistic background, concept for your residency, any public programs you may wish to offer, any workshops you may wish to offer and what you would like to achieve in your timeframe.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Please attach at least a 1 page (maximum 3 page) Curriculum Vitae

DOCUMENTATION OF PAST WORKS

Documentation of previously completed works, whether photo files (jpg), audio files or videos of work (preferably shared via a cloud based platform such as dropbox, vimeo or wetransfer). Minimum of 3 - Maximum of 5. Please include an image list of the works.

TO APPLY: Please send this completed cover sheet together with all supporting documents and images to:
arts@albany.wa.gov.au by 30th September 2024

If you wish to contact the City of Albany Arts and Culture Team to discuss your project please do so at **arts@albany.wa.gov.au** or (08) 6820 3740. Successful applicants will be notified by the end October 2024. If you do not receive an email confirmation within 3 working days please contact the Arts & Culture team on 6820 3740.

