

Creative City Grants 2025-2026



Creative City Grants – 2025-26

Grant Name	Purpose	Budget	Max. per application	Closes
Creative Seed	For artists and creative to initiate, explore or activate new ideas or new approaches to their work.	\$25,000	\$2,500	5:00 pm 8 September 2025.
Arts Projects	Develop new original work to encourage creative expression connected to local people, stories and place.	\$100,000	\$10,000	
Creative Commissions	Deliver large-scale projects. Empowers artists and creatives to deliver inspiring new works that push the boundaries of traditional artistic expression.	\$80,000	\$20,000	

*You can only apply for one of these grants per round

*Projects must be delivered within the City of Greater Geelong

Who is ineligible to apply?

- a school or learning institution
- individual without an ABN
- previous applicant with an outstanding acquittal
- applicant who has not complied with the terms of a previous funding agreement
- entity involved in certain legal proceedings
- entity with outstanding debt to the City of Greater Geelong or in legal proceedings with the City.

Why these grants?



- Build awareness and knowledge of First Nations People's culture and engage First Nations artists to lead project development or consultation
- Encourage cross artform and industry collaboration and partnerships for a vibrant arts and cultural ecosystem which supports local and municipal-wide creative endeavour
- Increase opportunities for community participation and diverse engagement
- Celebrate our local heritage and stories across the municipality through high quality contemporary practice
- Provide arts and cultural activities in diverse and non-traditional indoor and outdoor locations
- Enhance Geelong's brand as a creative City

Creative Seed Grant – \$2,500

Creative Seed Grants support artists and creatives to initiate, explore or activate new ideas or new approaches to their work.

KEY DATES

Applications close: 8 September 2025 by 5pm.

Notification to applicants: Within 6-8 weeks of closing date.

Project can start from: 1st October 2025 and must be delivered within 1 year of signing the agreement.



Kate Sylvester – Circle of Thread
Sustainable Fashion pop-up

Creative Seed – What can you apply for?

- Creative tech mashups – merging art, AI, data, or augmented reality in unexpected ways
- Projects co-designed with communities, especially underrepresented voices
- Temporary activations or pop-ups that bring creative experiences to unexpected places (laneways, shopfronts, parks)
- Micro-residencies or fellowships for artists, designers, or makers to explore a challenge
- Immersive audio walks that blend storytelling, sound design, and local history
- Testing for new scripts, choreography, or musical ideas
- Peer learning circles or skill-share hubs around design, culture, or innovation
- short film prototype exploring local identity, climate, or cultural shifts
- Interactive storytelling or multimedia projects rooted in local identity
- Reuse/recycle-focused projects that repurpose materials creatively
- Initiating purpose-driven start-ups in design, fashion, gaming, or publishing
- New business models that blend commercial and cultural value
- Creative ways to visualise or communicate local stories and data

Arts Projects Grants - \$10,000

These grants funds creative developments of new and unique works, including:

- Temporary immersive installations and/or experiences that engage the community
- Cross artform/industry artistic projects that include collaboration and partnerships
- Experimental, contemporary and innovative work delivered in unique spaces
- Arts and cultural projects that invite diverse community participation
- Projects that use new and emerging technologies (such as AI, VR, AR)
- Telling and sharing of stories embedded in local places

Creative Commissions Grants - \$20,000

Objectives:

- increase community/public engagement and connection to high-quality locally developed work, experiences and stories
- build the reputation and reach of local artists and creatives
- maximise the capacity of mid-career to established artists to work collaboratively and innovate together in the creative domain
- facilitate and encourage the development and connection of partnerships within the municipality, contributing to a positive and strong economic and creative ecosystem.

Creative Commissions – What can you apply for?

- Temporary immersive installations and/or experiences that engage the community and create opportunities for public participation
- Cross artform/industry artistic projects that include collaboration and partnerships
- Experimental, contemporary, and innovative work delivered in unique spaces
- Arts and cultural projects that invite diverse community participation
- The use of new and emerging technologies (such as AI, VR, AR)
- Telling and sharing of stories embedded in local places to strengthen the community's connection to place, their own history, stories and culture

Creative Commissions funded projects

- Drawn In - a performance of mark making and sound by local artist Robert Croft at a large-scale public event.
- A short film project involving visual storytelling in collaboration with established filmmakers, dancers, and visual artists, the project aims to create a powerful visual and auditory experience.

What won't be funded?

- Projects delivered outside Geelong
- Existing work
- Creative art therapy or therapeutic workshops or health and wellbeing projects (these may be suited to Strengthening Communities Grants.
- Permanent public art such as murals and sculptures
- Presenting a touring artwork/project
- Activities that may be covered by federal or state education training funding, such as school fete activities based on school grounds or school art workshops
- Political or gambling activities
- Fundraising events for charities or your own group



What costs do grants cover?

- Venue hire, (including City of Greater Geelong venues)
- Contractors engaged to deliver a project
- Artists/creatives fees – artists and creatives should be appropriately paid
- Materials
- Production costs
- Equipment purchases or hire
- Inclusion and access costs
Documentation and evaluation

Our grants do not cover these costs

- catering
- cost of council services (e.g. rates, waste disposal, parking fees, fines)
- overheads (e.g. Insurance, utilities, administration costs)
- capital works
- prizes, gifts, awards or sponsorship costs, such as trophies, medals, money and vouchers
- staff salaries
- volunteers
- own venue hire

Key considerations

- First Peoples consultation
- Think about the size of your project
- The timing of your project
- Projects should be well articulated, clear, and planned well (see next slide for resources)

Contact us / support

To apply: Geelongaustralia.com.au/grants

Resources

- **Online Arts Funding Grant Writing videos** – ‘Making Grant Applications Easy’ and ‘Writing about your Creative Practice’
Links available online at geelongaustralia.com.au/arts
- **Project plan template –City of Greater Geelong**
<https://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/grants/default.aspx>

Contact Us

- For grant eligibility or questions about your application, contact the grants team:
Communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au
- For specific project questions, or workshop queries, contact the Creative City team: artsculture@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

Keep up to date with Creative City events and opportunities in Geelong.

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geelongaustralia.com.au/arts

Instagram: @artsandculturegeelong
Facebook: @Artsculturegeelong