

2026-27

CREATIVE GRANTS

Information session

Thursday 9 July 2026



Creative City Grants – 2026-27

Grant Name	Purpose	Budget	Max. per application	Closes
Creative Seed	Initiate, explore or activate new ideas or new approaches to their work	\$25,000	\$2,500	5pm 3 August
Arts Projects	Develop new original work to encourage creative expression connected to local people, stories and place.	\$100,000	\$10,000	5pm 10 August
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	5pm 10 August

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

*Projects must be delivered within the City of Greater Geelong



- 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 Grants

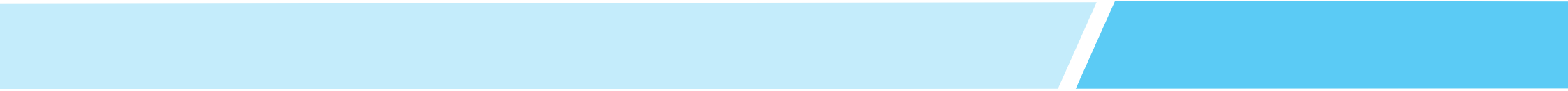
Who can apply?

The Creative grants are available to applicants whose primary practice is within the arts, creative and cultural sector.

Who is eligible?

- Not for profit organisations
- Unincorporated groups with an auspice
- Registered charitable organisations
- For profit businesses
- Individuals operating as Sole Traders with an active ABN

Who is not eligible?

- 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 or outstanding debt to the City of Greater Geelong.
- 

Eligible Creative Practices

- visual arts and crafts
- music
- performing arts
- literature and writing
- design, screen and media
- digital media and creative technology
- game development
- cultural heritage and collections
- community arts and cultural development



Back to Back Theatre – 'Cardboard'

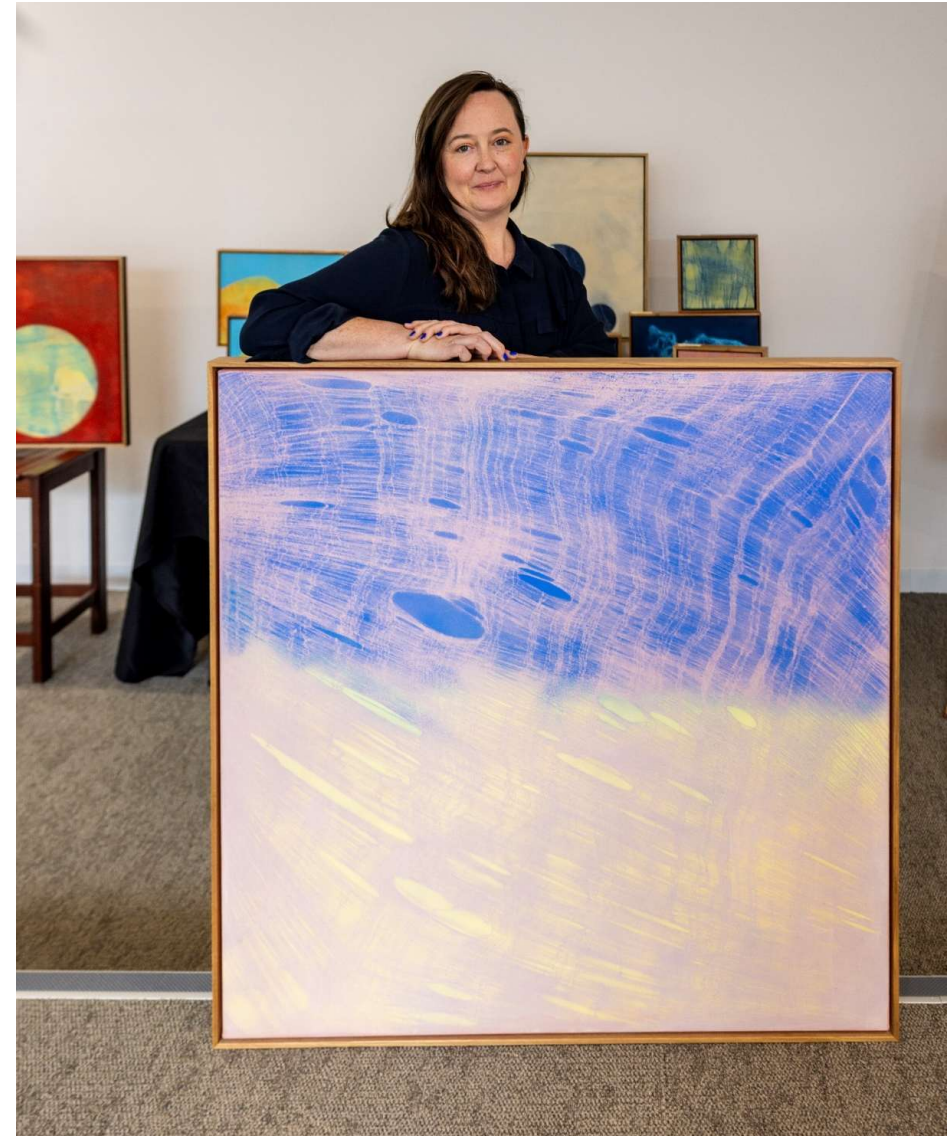
Creative Seed Grant – \$2,500

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

KEY DATES

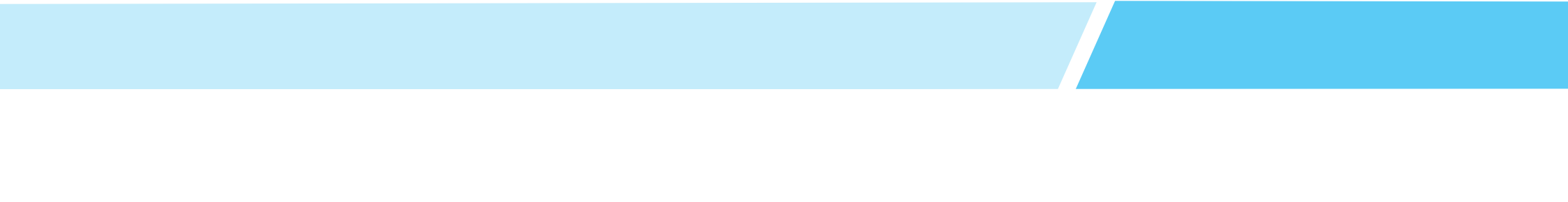
Applications close: 3 August 2026 by 5pm

Notification to applicants: 16 September **Project can start from:** 16 September



Kate Sylvester – Circle of Thread
Sustainable Fashion pop-up

Creative Seed Grant – Eligible Projects

- A short film prototype exploring local identity, climate, or cultural shifts
 - Creative tech mashups – merging art, AI, data, or augmented reality in unexpected ways
 - Creative ways to visualise or communicate local stories and data
 - Immersive audio walks that blend storytelling, sound design, and local history
 - Initiating purpose-driven start-ups in design, fashion, gaming, or publishing
 - Interactive storytelling or multimedia projects rooted in local identity
 - Micro-residencies or fellowships for artists, designers, or makers to explore a challenge
 - Testing for new scripts, choreography, or musical ideas
 - Other projects may be eligible. Please contact us to discuss.
- 

Previously Funded Creative Seed Projects

- **Visual Arts** - Development and exploration of a new body of environmentally sustainable visual artwork.
- **Film** - A vignette into the lives of two budding comedy promoters as they fight to build a thriving stand-up scene in Geelong.
- **Dance/Theatre** - A community invitation to unpack the phenomena of the 'invisible woman' from our personal perspectives through movement, dance, theatre and play) (pictured)

Arts Projects Grant – up to \$10,000

Arts Projects Grants support artists, creatives and the cultural sector to develop new work to encourage creative expression connected to local people, stories and place.

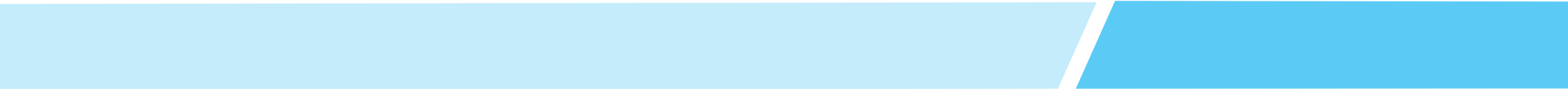
KEY DATES

Applications close: 10 August 2026

Notice of outcome: 9 December 2026

Activity start and end: If your grant is successful, your activity cannot start until after you have signed a funding agreement (on 9 December) with us. You must complete your projects within 12 months of signing.

Arts Projects – Eligible Projects

- Arts and creative projects that invite diverse community participation
 - Cross artform/industry artistic projects that include collaboration and partnerships
 - Experimental, contemporary and innovative work delivered in unique spaces
 - Projects that use new and emerging technologies (such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality (AR))
 - Telling and sharing of stories embedded in local places to strengthen the community's connection to place, their own history, stories and culture
 - Temporary immersive installations and/or experiences that engage the community and create opportunities for public participation
 - Other projects may be eligible, please contact us.
- 

Previously funded Arts Projects

- **Film** - Workshops with youth aged 11–17, devising, directing and producing episodes of artsbus -TV – a project crossing Victoria; documenting young people's stories, ideas and visions.
- **Theatre** - An ensemble of ten theatre makers in their early to mid-20's meeting regularly to create a new mixed-media performance work. (pictured).
- **Immersive experience** – An immersive exhibition featuring storybook cardboard cutouts, interactive games, and soothing soundscapes. Inviting the community to reconnect with the inner child through whimsy and play.



Photo credit: Sandy Gray. North Youth Theatre Ensemble,
The photo features Andrew Bijimba, Kapinga Ntumba and Ali Omeed.

Creative Commissions Grant – Up to \$20,000

The **Creative Commissions Program** supports established, professional artists and creatives to deliver a large-scale project within the City of Greater Geelong.

It empowers artists and creatives to deliver inspiring new works that push the boundaries of traditional artistic expression.

KEY DATES

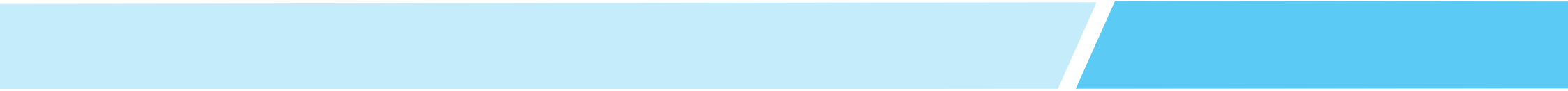
Applications close: 10 August 2026

Notice of outcome: 9 December 2026

Activity start and end: Your activity cannot start until after you have signed a funding agreement with us.

Complete your project within 12 months.

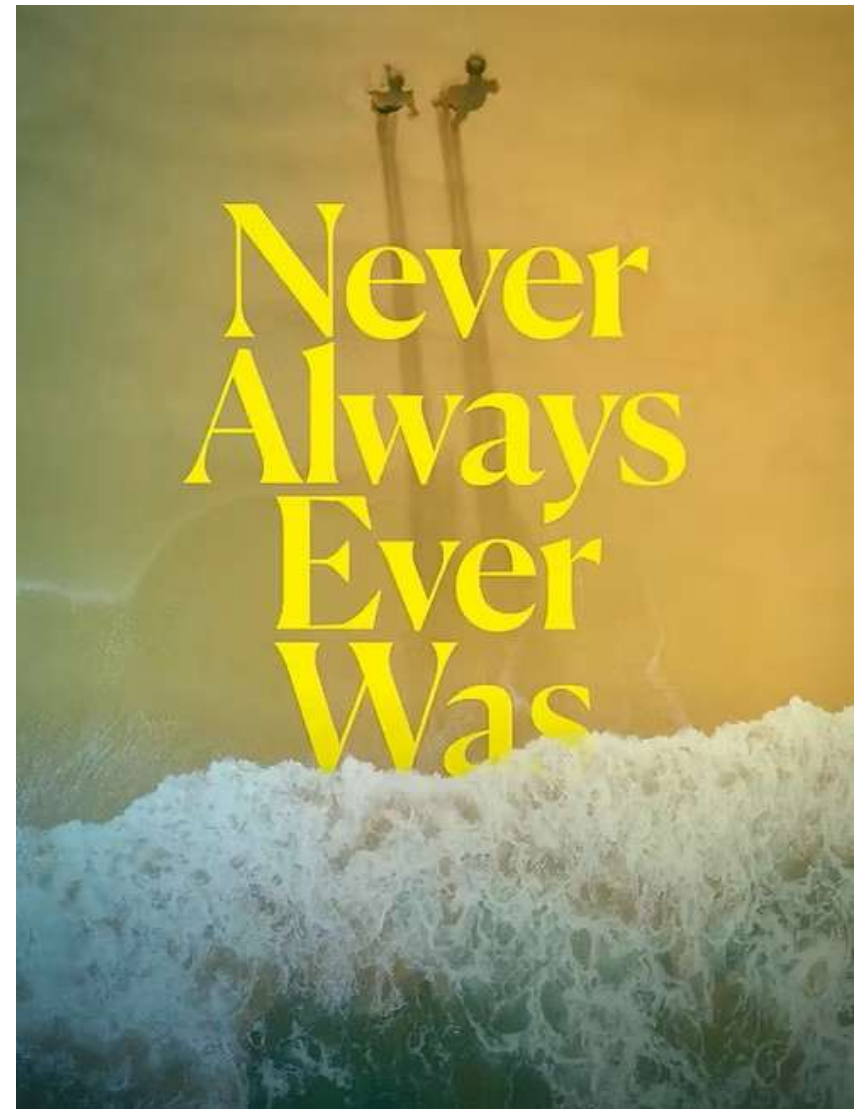
Creative Commissions – Eligible Projects

- 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
 - Please contact us to discuss your project idea.
- 

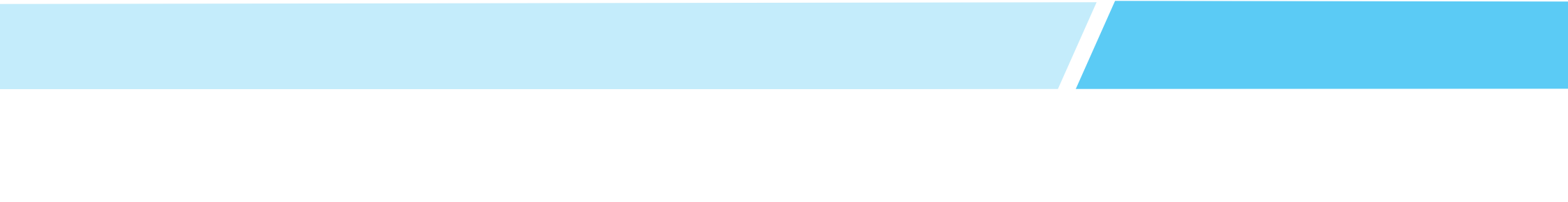
Funded Creative Commissions

Never Always Ever Was - A powerful intergenerational theatre work exploring climate change, memory, and belonging across decades, connecting Irish and Australian coastal communities, through shared histories.

[Find out more about the project here](#)



What expenses can you apply for?

- artists and creatives fees
 - materials
 - venue and studio hire
 - equipment purchases or hire
 - publicity and promotion
 - professional photography
 - inclusion and access costs
 - documentation and evaluation
- 
- A decorative horizontal bar at the bottom of the slide, consisting of two segments: a light blue segment on the left and a darker blue segment on the right, separated by a diagonal line.

We will not fund

Projects

- Public art, such as murals and permanent sculptures
- Business as usual workshops and activities
- Projects/campaigns of a political or religious nature
- Projects or activities outside the City of Greater Geelong municipality
- Projects started before funding is approved
- Presenting a touring artwork/project

Expenses

- Catering
- Capital works – including building, renovations, refurbishments to the inside.
- Professional development training for artists and creatives and volunteers (may be eligible under the Artist and Creatives Professional Development Grants)
- Read the Guidelines for more.

Deliver your project at a City of Greater Geelong Event

- ROAM Geelong 2027
- Yarra Street Window Gallery
- Live and Local Music Festival (TBC)
- Contact us to discuss!

Contact us / resources / support

To apply: geelongcity.vic.gov.au/services/family-and-community-services/community-grants

Online [Arts Grant Writing](#) and [Writing about your creative Practice](#) videos

Online grant writing course – [Grant writing for success](#)
[Project plan template](#)

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

Sign up to our newsletter at:
geelongcity.vic.gov.au/whats-happening/arts-and-culture

Instagram: @artsandculturegeelong
Facebook: @Artsculturegeelong

