

2026

Wyndham Civic Centre First Nations Mural Project

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Wyndham Civic Centre First Nations Mural Project – Artwork Design Brief

Selected Artist Brief

INTRODUCTION

This document explains the background, context, themes, timelines, budget, and deliverables of Council's Wyndham Civic Centre First Nations Mural Project. The following information will help the Artists applying for the project to understand what the expectations and considerations of the project are if they are successful in being selected, as well as deciding if this opportunity is the right fit for their work.

Below is a summary of the research that has gone into the mural project to date, as well as prompts and further information to guide the artistic response and equip the Artists on their journey throughout the design process.

Throughout the rest of the document, the successfully appointed Artists in this project will be referred to as 'Artist/s.'

1. ABOUT THE PROJECT

Background and Context

The intention of Council's Wyndham Civic Centre First Nations Mural project is to commission two First Nations Artists to develop a new mural artwork design for the Wyndham Civic Centre, located at 45 Princes Hwy, Werribee, VIC 3030. – Google Maps link: https://maps.app.goo.gl/ofCnB3irkgT1oxdF9

This opportunity is open to **First Nations artists who trace their Ancestry to Wadawurrung/Wathaurong or Bunurong/Boonwurrung Country**. Artists do not need to live in Wyndham, however, they are required to have a demonstrated family connection to Wadawurrung/Wathaurong or Bunurong/Boonwurrung Country or language groups.

This opportunity is open to individual artists only, rather than artist collectives, to support clear individual copyright, attribution and contractual arrangements for the commissioned artwork, licensing and cultural engagement process.

The project will deliver this significant First Nations artwork across four panels on three sides of the southwest-facing external walls of the Civic Centre, creating a highly visible and contemporary artistic treatment that foregrounds First Nations Culture, connection to Country and Wyndham's diverse First Nations community.

Unless otherwise agreed with the appointed artists, the physical installation of the mural will be undertaken by a separately appointed specialist mural contractor.

This approach provides an opportunity to artists who may have a strong artistic and Cultural practice, but who do not have previous experience in large-scale mural installation. The Artists will be supported throughout the design and installation translation process.

The mural will comprise:

- **Two front-facing wall panels**, approximately 5.5m x 3m each; and
- **Two side wall panels**, approximately 4m x 3m each

The project will be delivered as a Level 1 Public Art Project (under $50,000) under Council's Public Art Plan**.** The artwork is intended to be experienced both as a physical mural and will also have a secondary application as a broader visual identity that will be licensed for use in the support and publication of Wyndham City's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) communications and publications.

Council is seeking two artists who can work collaboratively through a generative design process, rather than responding to fully predetermined themes.

The creative framework and design process will be undertaken in collaboration with Wyndham City's First Nations Unit and Wyndham Reconciliation Action Committee (WRAC), with the intention of responding to themes, ideas and visual concepts that are generated through the RAP process itself. The successful artists will work with Council to determine how the artists collaborate together on the mural design outcome – the approach could divide the wall panels into separate artworks for each artist or a fully collaborative design outcome across the mural.

The successful artists will be supported to develop an artwork that is culturally appropriate, contemporary and responsive to place.

The project will seek to foreground First Nations voices, knowledge, Culture and connections to Country, while allowing the appointed artists to bring their own artistic practice, visual language and interpretation to the work.

Rationale

The project provides an opportunity to:

- Present a high-quality and visually engaging First Nations artwork within a prominent Wyndham civic setting.
- Foreground First Nations artists, Culture, knowledge and connection to Country.
- Create a contemporary artwork that reflects the diverse First Nations community of Wyndham.
- Support Wyndham City's reconciliation objectives through a visible and meaningful creative outcome.
- Create an artwork through a collaborative process involving Traditional Owners, First Nations stakeholders and Council's RAP work.
- Provide an opportunity for an artist to develop their practice through a significant public art commission.
- Build relationships between Council, Traditional Owner organisations, First Nations artists and Wyndham's broader community.

The project is informed by Wyndham City's Public Art Plan 2022–2032, including its curatorial themes and commitment to foregrounding First Nations perspectives.

Creative framework

Two First Nations Artists will be commissioned to develop the artwork. The project will use a generative design approach, with the themes and ideas for the artwork developed through a collaborative process with Wyndham City's First Nations Unit and Reconciliation Advisory Committee.

Council intends to engage with Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC) and Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC) throughout the Expression of Interest process and Cultural oversight of the project.

The preferred outcome is to appoint one artist from each of the Bunurong/Boonwurrung and Wadawurrung/Wathaurong language groups, acknowledging the significance of both Traditional Owner groups to Wyndham. Artists do not need to live within the Wyndham catchment area.

The selected Artists will be expected to:

- Liaise with the project stakeholders throughout the design process, taking on feedback and presenting design updates for review.
- Participate in discussions to establish and develop cultural and thematic ideas for the artwork.
- Respond to themes emerging through the RAP development process.
- Develop responsive new artwork that reflects their own artistic practice and visual language.
- Work respectfully and collaboratively within the cultural protocols and guidance established through the project.
- Consider how the artwork can translate across the four mural panels.
- Consider how the artwork will also translate for use within RAP publications and supporting materials.
- Liaise with the appointed mural installation contractor to support the translation of the artwork into an installation-ready format.

The Artists will retain copyright of the creative work, with licensing arrangements for the mural and RAP applications to be established through the Artist Agreement.

About Werribee and Wyndham

Wyndham City is a diverse and rapidly growing municipality. Wyndham City covers an area of 542km2 and features over 27km of coastline. At the time of the 2021 Census, the city had 292,011 residents and was home to one of the largest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in the Western Region of Victoria. It is projected to have a population of 342,221 in 2026. Werribee is a suburb in Wyndham located 32km southwest of Melbourne's CBD. Council recognize the Traditional Owners of the land either side of the Wirribi-Yaluk (Werribee River) the Wadawurrung/Wathaurong language group to the west, and the Bunurong/Boonwurrung language group to the east, with the river forming an important geographical and cultural reference point within Wyndham.

The Civic Centre provides an important civic setting for the project, creating an opportunity for First Nations Culture and contemporary artistic practice to be supported and visible within a key Council environment.

Community

- Community has a keen sense of ownership and pride in the area, the region boasts a highly diverse cultural demographic, which the residents embrace wholeheartedly.
- The project site itself is situated on Bunurong/Boonwurrung Country.

The project stakeholders will include:

- Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC)
- Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC)
- Wyndham City's First Nations Unit
- Wyndham Reconciliation Action Committee
- Wyndham City Arts and Culture Team
- Mural installers

Project Scope

The project will involve the development of a new mural artwork for install across all four Civic Centre wall panels.

The project will include:

- Initial cultural and thematic development with Council's First Nations Unit and RAP Project Working Group.
- Engagement with relevant Traditional Owner organisations and representatives when required.
- Development of preliminary artwork concepts.
- Development of a resolved mural design across the four wall panels.
- Licensing of the artwork for use on the RAP publication and supporting documents.
- Preparation of artwork files suitable for large-scale mural production.
- Liaison with the appointed mural installer to support design translation.
- Provision of title of artwork, artist statement and artwork information.
- Participation in agreed media, documentation and launch activities.

No previous experience of mural installation is necessary. This split between artwork design and installation is intended to open the opportunity to a broader pool of First Nations artists, including artists whose practice may not previously have involved large-scale public art installation.

Council will separately appoint a specialist installation supplier to undertake the physical mural installation, including materials, labour, equipment and specialist contractors.

The project is intended to be completed within the 2026–27 financial year, the appointed artists will need to be available for the design and installation process.

Public Art Plan Themes

The following curatorial themes from Council's 10 Year Public Art Plan function as guiding principles and reflect contemporary community make up and values, as well as a desired future state. For this project, Council wishes to explore First Nations Foregrounding.

First Nations Foregrounding	Preferencing Aboriginal knowing and being to work with place, story, and connection
Habitat	Engaging natural, built, and cultural landscapes in the region. Aligning growth and change with ecologically sustainable approaches and diverse senses of 'home'
Localism	Work that reflects past, present, and future communities of Wyndham - and the unique cultural character
Futurism	Engaging new forms of artmaking and expression whilst making space for all future imaginings

Schedule

This project must be completed within the set timeframe. This will be discussed with the selected Artists.

Timeline	Milestone	Description
27 November 2026	EOI Closes	Initial expressions of interest close at 3pm

4 December 2026	Artist Appointment	2x Artists will be selected by the project panel and appointed for the project. Artist agreements will be issued and signed. Artists will be onboarded through Council's Procurement portal.
07 December 2026	Initial concept proposal phase. Artwork theme development	Artists provided with themes developed through WRAC meetings. Artists begin initial concept proposal development.
29 Jan	Concept proposal delivery	Artists to submit the concept proposal for feedback
15th Feb onwards	Detailed artwork design	Artists will undertake the final design development
7th March	Final design submission	Final design submitted for review and final feedback
15 Mar	Artwork design signed off	Any updates to designs implemented and approved
22 Mar	Artwork installation planning	Artists will liaise with stakeholders for install
12 April	Artwork Installation	Installation team undertake mural installation onsite
30 April	Artwork Completion	Installation complete, artwork managed as part of Council Public Art Collection commences

2. REQUIREMENTS

Core to the requirements of this project is a culturally respectful and collaborative approach.

The project depends on the Artist's interpretation of cultural information, ideas and themes generated through Wyndham Reconciliation Action Committee meetings.

The Artists will be expected to participate in a collaborative design process and demonstrate an ability to respond constructively to cultural and thematic information.

The Artists must be able to demonstrate their Ancestral connection to Bunurong/Boonwurrung or Wadawurrung/Wathaurong Country or language groups. Council's preference is for one artist from each language group to be selected.

The Artists will need to:

- Demonstrate a strong artistic practice.

- Provide examples of previous work.
- Be able to work collaboratively with Council and First Nations stakeholders.
- Participate in the agreed consultation and design process.
- Develop artwork appropriate for a public civic setting.
- Develop artwork suitable for application across the four specified wall panels.
- Provide artwork in appropriate digital and production-ready formats.
- Work with the appointed mural installer during design translation.
- Provide reasonable feedback on installation-related design matters.
- Provide artwork information and an artist statement.
- Participate in agreed documentation, media and launch activities.

Unless otherwise agreed, the Artist will not be responsible for:

- Physical mural installation.
- Installation labour.
- Specialist installation contractors.
- Access equipment or lifting equipment.
- Mural installation materials.
- Site permits or installation logistics.

3. BUDGET

A $7,500 AUD (ex GST) artist fee will be provided to each of the two (2x) appointed Artists to deliver all creative and engagement aspects of this project. This includes:

- Artist design and development fees.
- Artwork licensing for the mural and RAP applications.
- Project stakeholder consultation and participation.
- Project management and administration.
- Liaison with specialist mural installers.
- Documentation and launch activities.

The Artist's fee will be separately identified in the Expression of Interest and Artist Agreement. The Artist will not be responsible for the costs or coordination of the physical mural installation outside of their approval that the artwork design is translated to their satisfaction for install.

The budget for mural delivery and installation will be managed by Council and assisted by Council's project representative.

Council and its representative on the project will provide support and funding for additional project resources which includes any necessary wall cleaning prior to install, permits, traffic management plans and safety staff – spotters and traffic management personnel – and anti-graffiti coating.

4. DELIVERABLES

Initial EOI Process

Deliverable	Description	Payment
Artist information and images of work	Information about the Artist applying, with images of previous artwork, should be submitted via the online Expression of Interest (EOI) form to express your interest in the project. This is also confirmation that you can work to the stated timelines in the Schedule above.	N/A - No payment

Selected Artists

Deliverable	Description	Payment
Execution of the agreement	The two (2x) selected Artists will sign Artist Agreements.	$7,500 (ex GST) will be paid to each artist for the project in its entirety, this will be scheduled in two payments: 50% ($3,750 ex GST) will be paid to each artist on signing of artist agreement and 50% on completion of the final designs.
Initial designs	Two (2x) Artists will develop and deliver a concept proposal as a response to the themes developed through the WRAC's RAP development process. Please note that final artwork design will further be informed by feedback from the project stakeholders.	Included in Artist Fees
Design development	The selected artists will consult with the stakeholder team to develop their design	Included in Artist Fees
Design delivery	Final design approved by project stakeholders, including any further changes or updates to their artwork for mural installation. Artwork install preparation and communication with installers.	50% ($3,750 ex GST) will be paid on approval of design for install

Completion of the artwork	Artwork completion approved by Artists and Council	Included in Artist Fees
Project handover	The selected Artists will provide an artist statement and all artwork information according to the required information specified in their agreement with Council	Included in Artist Fees

5. FURTHER INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

All enquiries should be forwarded to:

Roland Henry

Public Arts Officer, Wyndham City Arts & Culture.

Email: roland.henry@wyndham.vic.gov.au

Appendices – Site Images (further information will be available on request)

Appendix 1 – Wyndham Civic Centre Mural Area with elevations





Appendix 2 - Google Maps View – Wyndham Civic Centre, 45 Princes HWY, Werribee, VIC 3030

