



Artist brief Public art opportunity

Warringah Aquatic Centre (WAC) Public Art Exhibition

19 October 2019 – April 2020



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beaches
council

Introduction

As part of our vision to embed art into the fabric of the community, Northern Beaches Council supports the delivery of innovative, high-quality public art that enlivens our urban landscapes and responds to the unique natural, social and built environment of the Northern Beaches. Aligning with key Council strategies and plans including the draft Arts & Creativity Strategy, Public Art Policy and Public Art Guidelines, Council supports opportunities for artists to develop a diverse range of permanent and temporary public artworks that engage the community in our public spaces across the region.

Council is excited to announce an opportunity for artists to participate in a Public Art Exhibition in the Warringah Aquatic Centre's (WAC) outdoor garden. The exhibition will open on Saturday 19 October 2019 to coincide with the launch of the summer swimming season.

We are currently inviting artists to submit an expression of interest to display artwork in the outdoor garden to enliven and activate this lush bushland space for up to six months over summer.

There is also a secondary opportunity for artists to express interest in submitting an ephemeral artwork that is more suited for temporary display, up to 2-3 weeks.

Artwork objectives

The exhibition will enliven the outdoor garden, inspire visitors (children in particular) and spark their imagination in playful and surprising ways. The artistic response may present as a stand-alone sculpture or a work/installation that is more integrated within the site.

While we anticipate artists will submit an existing work due to the short timeframe involved, artists are encouraged to consider:

- the visual language of the surrounding area - the playgrounds, swimming pools, and the natural environment in which the Aquatic Centre is located
- a playful approach - fun, colourful, vibrant, bold, visible, experimental, spontaneous, kinetic and interactive (not too precious).

The site

Warringah Aquatic Centre is located in Frenchs Forest in a bushland area. The outdoor garden sits within the Aquatic Centre complex enclosed and secured by a surrounding fence. The bushland garden and lawn areas are in the near vicinity of an outdoor pool and water play area for children, and picnic areas.

Possible sites for works include:

- surrounding fence
- sandstone stepping stones
- bush and garden areas
- lawn areas
- trees/small tree stumps (capacity for works to be suspended)
- pathways.

Constraints/challenges

Artworks will be installed in the vicinity of a playground and picnic area, and children will be playing in and around the artworks. Artists must ensure their work is suitable for young children to interact with safely.

Artists should consider the following criteria in particular:

- no sharp or protruding edges
- no small holes for entrapment (limbs, head, etc)
- if artworks are of a scale to be climbed on, risks should be mitigated.
- material that could become flying debris in high winds
- potential trip hazards
- materials will need to be sufficiently durable to withstand the outdoor environment for 6-month period (if submitting work for that duration)

Artists working across all mediums are encouraged to apply, although the constraints of the site and duration of the exhibition will impact on the range of suitable mediums.

Artist fees

The artists selected for exhibition will be paid a fee of \$500 (plus GST) to display their work. Where an artist collaboration is submitting a work, this fee will need to be divided amongst each contributor.

Insurance

Selected artists will be expected to have public liability insurance up to \$20 million. In addition, artists are encouraged to obtain insurance to cover any theft, damage or loss to their work as Council insurance will not cover this. Insurance can be obtained through NAVA.

visualarts.net.au/Membership/insurance/

Onsite briefing and information session

Artists are invited to attend an onsite briefing scheduled for 4pm, Friday 23 August and 10am, Saturday 31st August. We encourage all artists to come to one of these briefings.

Please note that you will not be able to access the site at any other time prior to installation, as the outdoor area is closed for the winter period.

Application process

Applications are to be made via Smartygrants.

Applications close at 5pm Friday 6 September 2019.

Selection criteria

Due to the quick turnaround of this application process, we anticipate that artists will submit an existing artwork.

All artworks submitted will be assessed by a selection panel. Not all artworks entered will be selected for exhibition.

Artists will be selected based on the following criteria:

- strength of artistic integrity of the work
- how successfully the work addresses the constraints of the site, ie. capacity for being 'child friendly'
- address the exhibition/artwork objectives
- capacity to deliver/install the artwork in the required timeframe.

Notification of selection

Artists will be notified of selection for exhibition on **Friday 13 September 2019.**

Selected artists will be provided with an Artist Agreement.

Delivery/installation

It is anticipated installation will take place during the week prior to the launch on 19 October 2019. Artists are to consider their installation requirements. Council will provide assistance with logistics associated with installation of works. Artists are solely responsible for the cost of delivery and collection of their works.

Indicative timeframe

Date	
Thursday 15 August	Applications open – Call for Artists
4pm, Friday 23 August and 10am, Saturday 31 August	On-site briefings
5pm Friday 6 September	Applications close
Friday 13 September	Artists notified of selection
Wednesday 9 - Friday 18 October	Installation period
Saturday 19 October	Exhibition launch
Deinstallation – works for three weeks	First week November 2019
Deinstallation – works for six months	April 2020