

# Bus Projects

# OPEN CALL 2025

Bus Projects / Closes Friday 18 October, 11.59pm (AEST)

# Bus Projects

## Introduction

Bus Projects is excited to announce an open call for proposals for our 2025 Artistic Program. We invite Australian artists, curators and creatives who are working across critical, conceptual, and interdisciplinary practices to submit their ideas for exhibitions and public programs that push boundaries and engage with contemporary art discourse.

After a busy year delivering more than 30 exhibitions, events, and public programs, we are intentionally slowing down our 2025 Artist Program to offer sustainable and increased support to the artists we work with. This also recognises the capacity of our part-time staff and our volunteer board, and aligns with our ongoing work in recognising the importance of valuing artists and creative labour.

For 2025, we are looking to program eight exhibitions and two public programs across the calendar year, with longer 6 week exhibition periods and greater time for install and de-install. With generous multi-year funding from the Australian Government through Creative Australia, we are thrilled to be able to guarantee the payment of project fees for all our program artists.

# Bus Projects

## About us

Bus Projects is a leading not-for-profit, artist-led organisation in Narm/Melbourne, operating on the lands of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation for the last 23 years.

We support artists to make and show work on their own terms, with the support of our creative team. As an Artist-Run Initiative (ARI), we are part of an important history of artists collectivising to create spaces of agency, self-determination, career development and knowledge-sharing within the broader art system. We champion the agency of artists, and recognise the vitally important role that artists play in shaping futures.

Since 2023, we have been located in a stand-alone gallery space in Brunswick East. We operate as a not-for-profit organisation with two part-time employees, an artist committee, and a volunteer board.



'Bus Stop', Bus Projects 2024 Fundraiser exhibition opening. Photo by Kenneth Suico.

# Bus Projects

## What are we looking for?

Bus Projects welcomes applications from creatives including artists, collectives, collaborators, writers and curators working across diverse disciplines. Proposals can be for exhibitions, as well as public programs including events, workshops, performances, screenings and other ephemeral projects of various duration.

While we welcome applications from artists at all stages of their career, we also want to ensure we are providing new opportunities to artists who have not historically shown with us, or who are exploring new ideas or directions in their artistic practices. This includes early-career practitioners. We would also like to support projects that align with our core mission: providing a space for artistic expression that is experimental, responsive, socially responsible and rigorous.

It is not necessary that all artworks are new, but we do favour applications that include some creation of new work that is experimental and/or interdisciplinary in nature. For curatorial projects, we are looking for exhibitions that haven't been exhibited elsewhere before.

# Bus Projects

## Our 2025 Artistic Program

### Bus Exhibitions

Our flagship annual program of artist-led exhibitions. You can apply as an artist or as a curator across solo, group, or collaborative exhibition outcomes.

For 2025, we are offering artists an opportunity to 'opt-in' for consideration for a curated group exhibition, or other programming opportunities, if unsuccessful in the open call. This group exhibition will be led by the Bus Projects team and Bus Projects Artist Committee.

### Bus Launch

After overwhelming positive feedback, we are continuing to offer our new Bus Launch program. This program supports early-career artists (in their first five years of practice) to debut their first solo exhibition at Bus Projects. All applications that select the optional 'Bus Launch' field in the open call will be considered for this, and chosen from this pool of applicants. At least 2 of our 8 exhibitions in the 2025 calendar will be allocated to Bus Launch applicants.

### Bus Engages

Our public programs include events, workshops, panel discussions, and other knowledge-exchange and learning opportunities. This can sit alongside exhibitions, or be standalone programs. If you have an interesting idea, we want to be the space to support you.

# Bus Projects

## What we provide

Exhibiting at Bus Projects is free.

In addition to access to our space, Bus Projects will provide additional support in the form of:

- A flat fee of \$1300 per project including superannuation (this amount is yet to be finalised). Please consider this when applying for group or curated shows. Bus Projects is happy to provide letters of support and confirmation for any additional funding applications.
- Project planning, install and deinstall assistance from the Bus Projects team.
- Curatorial support and mentorship.
- Marketing and promotion of exhibitions and public programs on the gallery website, social media, and a promotional email to our mailing list.
- An opening (or exhibition closing) event and bar service.
- Bus Projects has a small range of equipment that exhibitors can loan for the duration of their exhibitions. This includes screens, media players, and a data projector. If you require any specialist equipment (i.e. audio/visual) or the creation of specific gallery infrastructure, Bus Projects can assist with sourcing this, however costs will need to be absorbed by the successful applicant.

# Bus Projects

## What we ask of you

- To collaborate with us on your project planning and inform us of any changes to your project brief or ideas.
- To provide text and images for marketing materials.
- To be present for installation and deinstallation, unless otherwise agreed.
- To follow all OHS and safety protocols, ensuring that Bus Projects remains a safe and welcoming environment for all.
- Bus Projects does not provide public liability, professional indemnity or content insurance—however, applicants are welcome to purchase this at their own cost. We encourage artists to maintain their own public liability and professional indemnity insurance as relevant to their practice and those they are working with to realise their exhibition and / or public program.

Successful applicants will be offered a six week exhibition and will be required to enter into a short-term agreement. Bus Projects is able to negotiate projects with shorter durations.

# Bus Projects

## About the space

Bus Projects' comprises two gallery spaces. Gallery One is approximately 6.7 x 5.6 metres and Gallery Two is approximately 2.3 x 5.6 metres. Both have 3 metre high gallery wall and a total ceiling height of 3.4 metres. The two spaces can be used together, or separately for standalone projects.

Some of our gallery walls have brickwork behind them, which makes them less flexible. There are also limitations in terms of hanging from the ceiling. We recommend getting in touch with the Bus Projects team to talk through any production questions you might have.

## Access

Bus Projects is a short two minute walk from tram Stop 20 at the corner of Miller/Nicholson St on the 96 tram line. Only some trams on this route are serviced by a mix of low floor and high floor trams. Brunswick East does not generally have level foot paths so please note that there are some uneven surfaces outside and within the gallery.

Bus Projects is located on the ground floor. Please note the door width measurements as follows: Front door, Gallery 2 entrance, Screen entrance: all 79cm; Gallery 1 entrance: 81 cm; Toilet entrance: 68 cm.

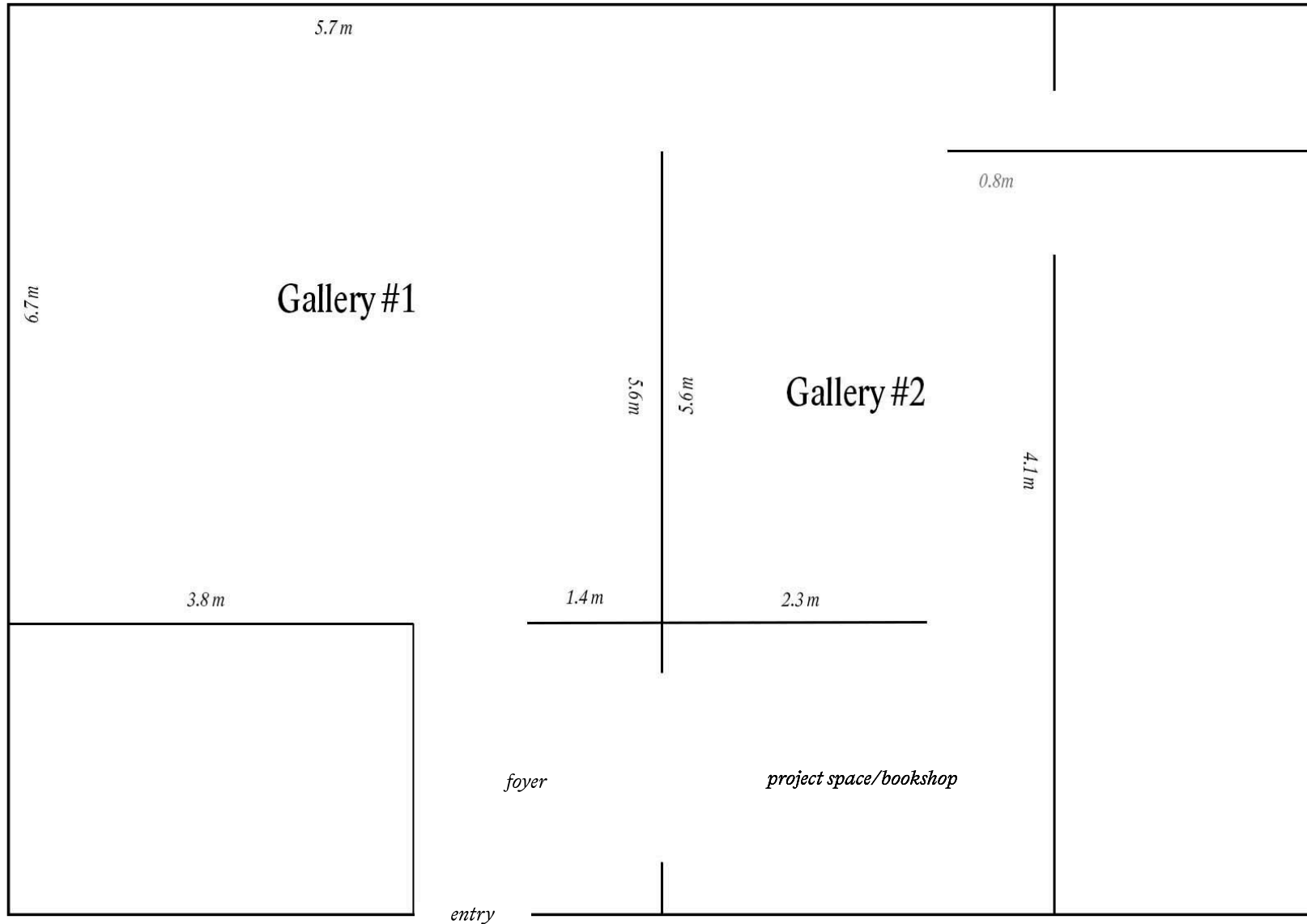
An accessible, gender neutral and single occupant toilet is located within the Bus Projects gallery.

Our events do not generally include Auslan interpretation however can be provided upon request.



# Floor plan

# Bus Projects



\* Wall height: 3.04 m

\* Ceiling height: 3.47 m

# Bus Projects

## Selection process

Applications are peer-reviewed by members of the Bus Projects Artist Committee and the Bus Projects staff. The Artist Committee is made up of artists and industry professionals with a range of experiences in the arts sector.

Applicants will be notified of outcomes approximately 4 to 6 weeks after the closing date of the application round. Successful applicants will then engage in a negotiation with Bus Projects staff around specific project dates and space allocations.

Applications are considered not on the strength of your written statement alone, but also on the clarity of your creative rationale, the timeliness of your proposal, and the strength of your support materials. Decisions are also made in consideration of the wider artistic program, and Bus Projects' intentions to deliver a program that is diverse in terms of artistic production, forms, methodologies and practices.

## Questions?

If you have access needs and would like to apply via another format than the online application form provided, please contact [info@busprojects.org.au](mailto:info@busprojects.org.au). Please note that we monitor this inbox during our opening hours from Wednesday - Saturday only.

You can also contact us at the email above if you require any further information, or to discuss your application before you apply.

# Bus Projects

## Ready to apply?

Apply online via our online form: [busprojects.org.au/apply](https://busprojects.org.au/apply)

If you would like to submit a non-written application, (video or audio file) please contact [info@busprojects.org.au](mailto:info@busprojects.org.au)

## What next?

Applications close: Friday 18 October, 11.59pm (AEST).

Proposals will be reviewed by the Bus Projects Team & Artist Committee.

Applications will be notified of outcomes late November 2024.