



Sculpture Commission – Thompsons Beach Cobram

Artist Brief

May 2024

Moira Shire Council and Arts for All Cobram are commissioning a significant new public artwork for Cobram as part of the Kennedy Park upgrade along the Thompsons Beach foreshore area. A budget of \$75,000 is allocated for this commission.

Introduction

Moira Shire is bounded by the Murray, Goulburn and Ovens Rivers, and is approximately three hours drive north of Melbourne. Moira Shire Council is commissioning this artwork in partnership with Arts for All Cobram, a volunteer-led organisation that delivers community-centred arts and cultural programming in Cobram and surrounding areas. Arts for All is one of four Moira Creative Arts Hubs that receive annual funding from Moira Shire Council to develop inclusive programs and activities in line with the Shire's Arts and Culture Strategy 2020-2026.

This commission is for a significant new sculptural commission to be installed on the Thompsons Beach foreshore, on the banks of the Murray River in Cobram.

We are looking for original, creative proposals that respond to the natural beauty of the site and its significance as a place for recreation and social connection for local residents, visitors, and the Traditional Custodians – the Yorta Yorta Nation. We welcome proposals for smaller works that use only a portion of the available budget, multiple works by the same artist, and collaborations between artists for one or more artworks.

Proposals must also meet the expectations of the local community, as expressed in our community consultation survey which is summarised below.

Selection of the final artwork/s will take place in a two-stage process. After this open call out up to three shortlisted artists will be invited to submit a more developed and detailed concept proposal through responding to a Request for Quote (RFQ) and will be paid a design fee. From these proposals the final artwork/s will be chosen.

Context

Thompsons Beach is a site of stunning beauty and national significance as a recreation destination for locals and tourists.

As part of an upgrade and redevelopment of the Kennedy Park area on the Thompsons Beach foreshore, Moira Shire Council has allocated significant funding for public artworks on the site.

This commission will sit alongside a smaller-scale community artwork – a mosaic trail of local fauna that will be made by local residents in workshops with a local artist.

This commission is for a larger-scale work/s that should be durable and weather resistant, and should have significant presence and impact, whilst remaining true to the natural beauty of the site and its significance for the community.

The expectation is that the selected artist/s will be solely responsible for the installation process. Fees for any additional personnel required to transport materials, fabricate or install the sculpture should be included in the commission budget. The artist will be required to prepare and adhere to a risk management plan for the artwork creation and installation.

The Thompsons Beach foreshore is a flood prone area, and this should be taken into consideration in the proposal, including in the selection of materials and installation plans.

Moira Shire Council, Arts for All and Regional Arts Victoria will be available to assist with the RFQ process, permit requirements, risk management templates and communication with the community.

Please note – the final sculpture/s must be completed and installed no later than 31 October 2024

Community consultation

Extensive community consultation on public artwork in Cobram and surrounds has already taken place through an open online survey and social media campaign. The key findings of this survey show that there is clear community support for more public artworks in the area.

Preferences and ideas for the subject/content of public artwork are wide and varied, but there is notable support for artworks that reflect the natural beauty of Cobram and surrounds, including:

- the Murray River
- local native flora
- local native fauna

Location

Cobram is on Yorta Yorta country, by the banks of the Murray River. The area is of special significance to the Yorta Yorta people, with the river being a sacred source of both sustenance and cultural stories for thousands of generations. More information can be found on the [Yorta Yorta Aboriginal Nation Corporation website](#).

The river continues to be central to life in Cobram, Thompsons Beach is a very popular spot that is used by locals and visitors for a variety of recreation activities including swimming, picnics, bbqs, fishing, sporting activities (including beach volleyball) and local festivals and events.

The new artwork/s can be proposed for any location along the foreshore area extending from the new playground to beyond the café building (see map below). Please keep in mind that

any artwork should be located away from the road for public safety reasons, and should not adversely impact on the local environment or existing infrastructure.

A key intention of the upgrade is to encourage the public to use and enjoy the full stretch of the foreshore area. Proposed artworks may be one large sculptural work or may be a series of artworks in different locations across the foreshore area.

What we are looking for

We are looking for an artist with significant experience in medium-large scale sculptural commissions. It is expected that the artist will be able to manage the sourcing of materials and installation of the work.

Requirements

It is expected that the artist will:

- Work in collaboration with Moira Shire Council and Arts for All
- Be in regular consultation over the period of development, design and installation phases
- Agree to working with a photographer/videographer to document the process
- Create the artwork with quality materials and true to detailed designs
- Install the artwork onsite
- Be responsible for sourcing and purchasing all materials required for the development and installation and include costs within the overall commission fee. This should include items required for preparation of the site, transportation of materials and installation.
- Use materials in the installation of the artwork that are durable, weather-resistant and safe for a flood-prone public space.
- Be required to undertake a site visit prior to submission
- Understand that their design proposal remains their intellectual property and can be used in another project if unsuccessful in this project
- Maintain appropriate Public Liability Insurance coverage for \$20,000,000 for the duration of the commission
- Agree that if successfully selected, the artist will enter a contract with Moira Shire Council. The Council will be the owner of the final artwork (however the intellectual property will rest with the artist).
- Abide and implement Australian OHS and Safe Work Practices putting safety measures in place while working onsite, and being mindful of pedestrians passing through
- Operate in an environmentally responsible manner in the planning and delivery of the project
- Understand that any images of the work taken by the commissioning body may be used in perpetuity to promote and provide evidence of the project.
- Complete the creation and installation of the artwork by 31 October 2024

Concept

We are interested in professional artists responding in original and creative ways to this brief.

The only requirements are that:

- The work is appropriate to the local context and sensitive to the needs and values of stakeholders and the local community (outlined above)
- The work is of a high quality and strong artistic integrity
- The work is visually engaging and aesthetically bold
- The work is sculptural and will be durable, weather resistant and safe for a flood-prone public space.

Budget

Up to three proposals will be selected for the final shortlisting phase and will be invited to submit a more developed and detailed concept proposal through responding to a Request for Quote (RFQ). Selected artists will be allocated \$1500 for this detailed concept proposal.

Up to \$75000 is then available to the successful artist/s for the design and installation inclusive of, but not limited to:

- artist fees
- materials
- production costs
- installation costs

Artists may propose a work/s using the full budgeted amount or may propose smaller works using only a portion of the available budget. Artists are also welcome to propose a collaborative work with two or more artists working together.

The selection panel may select one larger-scale proposal, or more than one smaller-scale proposal within the total commissioning budget.

Project Selection Panel

The selection panel will consist of:

- Representative/s from Arts for All committee (community volunteers)
- Representative/s from Moira Shire Council
- Representative/s from Regional Arts Victoria
- Representative/s from other local community groups

Proposals will be assessed on:

- Artistic merit as evidenced by the concept proposal
- Appropriateness to the local community and local context and alignment to this brief
- Artist experience and demonstrated capacity to deliver
- Alignment with, and adherence to the criteria in, [Moira Shire's Public Art Policy](#)

Access

We are committed to ensuring this opportunity is open to all, and we welcome applicants with additional access needs. We can provide the information in this brief in different formats and we can work with selected artists to ensure that they have access to a safe, comfortable environment in which they are able to do their best work. We encourage you to include any access costs you may have in your budget.

Please also call, email or text Nikki at nralston@rav.net.au or 0458 765 059 or Phillipa at pslinger@moira.vic.gov.au or 0408 222 541 if you would like to discuss any access needs or have any questions.

Interested? Submit your Expression of Interest!

Expressions of interest should be in the format of 1 pdf document and should include:

- A written response to the brief, including description of proposed approach, concept and artwork (no more than one page).
- An artist's statement and CV (no more than two pages in total).
- Digital images of previous relevant work included within the pdf. Please include dates, materials, dimensions, locations and if relevant commissioner and collaborative partners (no more than two pages).
- Optional early stage sketches of the concept – please note that detailed designs are not required for this stage of the assessment process (no more than one page)

What happens if you are shortlisted?

Shortlisted artists will be notified upon completion of the assessment period. If you are shortlisted you will be asked to submit a more detailed concept design and project proposal through a Request for Quote process, including:

- A detailed concept design, taking into account any feedback from the assessment panel, and to include detailed sketches, measurements and materials.
- An itemised budget including artist fees, materials, transport costs, any travel and accommodation costs, any access costs, any other costs associated with creating and installing the artwork.
- A project plan and timeline for the creation and installation of the artwork.
- A risk management plan for the creation and installation of the artwork.
- A proposed maintenance schedule for the artwork.
- Details of any other individuals who will be engaged to create or install the artwork, and evidence of compliance with associated insurance responsibilities for sub-contractors.
- Public Liability Certificate of Currency or agreement that you will take out a policy to cover the commission period if successful.

Shortlisted artists will have 20 days to complete their detailed project proposal and will be paid \$1500. Intellectual property for this design remains solely with the artist.

Timeframes

- Call out closes at 12pm Midday on Friday 31 May
- Shortlisted artists contacted by Monday 10 June
- Detailed design from shortlisted artists due by Monday 1 July
- Notification of successful artist on or before Friday 12 July
- Installation & completion of artwork by 31 October 2024

Submission

Please submit your proposals in the form of a single pdf document by email to nralston@rav.net.au with the subject line Thompsons Beach EO

Proposals due by midnight 12pm Midday Friday 31 May

Further Information – Photos and map

Map of Kennedy Park



Points to note:

- Sculpture/s to be situated within the shaded green area – Thompsons Beach Foreshore and Picnic area
- The Kiosk (shown in pink) provides a hub for activity and is a meeting place for people who are enjoying the area or using the local facilities
- A new children’s playground with a focus on natural materials and local wildlife inspired play equipment is located within the shaded green area to the west of the kiosk

Additional photos of the site area



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