

# BLUE MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTRE

*Honouring Country – Sharing our  
Stories*

*Celebrating Aboriginal Culture through the annual commission of  
artworks by Artists, Arts Collectives and Community Groups of the Blue  
Mountains region.*

# APPLICATION FORM

## About

The Blue Mountains City Council's Environment & Culture Branch, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre and the BMCC Aboriginal Advisory Committee are inviting local Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander artists to submit an artwork proposal for acquisition into the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre Collection. The selected work(s) will be displayed on a dedicated high quality screen, in the public Café Lounge area of the Cultural Centre.

This project has been funded by Blue Mountains City Council through the Bicentennial Crossing of the Blue Mountains program, through an initiative aimed specifically at reflecting on Aboriginal perspectives of the crossings.

## HOW IT WORKS

- Artists can submit their proposals for consideration by **Friday, 5 August 2016**.
- Up to two artists may be selected to develop a new work, which will be displayed on a high quality screen in the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre's public Café Lounge area. The selected work(s) will also be considered for acquisition into the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre Collection.
- A \$1,000 Artist fee will be awarded to each artist for the development of their work
- Proposals must be for new work, and either be photographs, video or animation for display on a large flat screen LED monitor. Examples can be but are not limited to photographic documentation of significant places, stories and/ or people. Video works can include interviews, storytelling, documentation of celebration and dance performances.
- Artists are to identify and be accepted as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander;
- Preference will be given to artists that are based, reside in or have cultural connections to the Blue Mountains Local Government Area;
- Artist must demonstrate in their application that they have the capacity to produce work within the project timeframe
- Proposed artworks must include culturally relevant material and or themes
- Selected artists will work with technical experts, who will assist pre and post-production of video, photography or animation
- Artists are encouraged to meet with the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre Exhibitions Manager for a site inspection and feedback on concept ideas.
- Upon selection of artworks, the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre's Establishment Committee will consider the work(s) for acquisition into the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre Collection. Additions to the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre Collection are dictated by funds available, scale of work, longevity and the requirements of the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre Collection Policy. This policy can be found at:
- <http://bluemountainsculturalcentre.com.au/blue-mountains-art-gallery/collection/>

## THE CONCEPT

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### Where to start

If you are considering submitting a proposal display at Blue Mountains Cultural Centre and for the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre's Collection, it is important to objectively assess your work and develop a clear concept. For the Honouring Country – Sharing Our Stories Commission you may decide to develop a work that reflects on the cultural and historical significance of the Blue Mountains for Aboriginal artists or that considers Aboriginal perspectives of crossings. You may be interested in creating a body of work that is complete departure from your normal practice, a chance to experiment with new techniques or imagery, or it may be a consolidation of your developed work. Keep in mind that the works needs to either be photographs, video or animation.

It is essential to get to know the space in which your work will be shown on the screen so you can use the venue to its best advantage. Think about restrictions on imagery, sound and content – it needs to be suitable for a broad audience including children. You will also need to be aware of the Cultural Centre's policy and procedures and adhere to those. Maintain a degree of flexibility throughout the process of developing and presenting your exhibition.

Please remember, the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre is a professional venue and your work be displayed in this venue alongside major national and international touring exhibitions. The highest standard of presentation and display is required.

## BEFORE YOU APPLY

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### Concept

Take time to develop the concept of your work. You should view the Honouring Country – Sharing Our Stories Commission as an important opportunity in your career as an individual artist or exhibiting group. Realistically consider the time and dedication required to produce a high quality work within the project timeline.

### Feasibility

Take time to develop the feasibility of your work. Realise that the works needs to be of high resolution and in adequate file format in order to be screened. Technical Support will be available to assist you in the process.

### Consultation

The Cultural Centre advises applicants to arrange a meeting with the Exhibition Manager to discuss your concept and feasibility. The Exhibition Manager can provide advice on your initial concept. Please phone for an appointment.

### Promotion/Access

Think about how your work is going to communicate to its audiences.

### **Cost & What will be provided by Blue Mountains Cultural Centre**

Work out the resources you need, what the development of your work will cost to produce? The Cultural Centre will pay an artist fee of \$1,000 per artist and assist with labelling and the promotion of the work, however you must provide the work ready to be displayed.

### **Timeline**

1. Call for Submissions opens **Friday 17th June 2016**
2. Submission Deadline **Friday, 5 August**
3. Applications will be assessed by the Selection Panel Monday, 8 August – Friday, 26 August
4. Announcement of selected artist **Monday, 29 August**
5. Artwork Development and Production time (including actual production and editing) – **September 2016 – Friday, 27 January 2017**
6. Installation week of **30 January – 3 February 2017**
7. Launch of Honouring Country – Sharing Our Stories Commission **Friday, 3 February**

## **THE EXHIBITION PROPOSAL**

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### **Proposal**

To submit your work for consideration you must complete the Submission form attached and submit it together with the required support material, on or before **5pm, Friday 5, August 2016**. The Exhibitions Manager can answer questions regarding proposals over the phone or by appointment.

**Proposals received after 5pm, Friday 5 August 2016, unless postmarked before or on that date, will not be accepted and will be returned to the artist.**

### **Delivery**

**Please post your application to:**

Honouring Country –  
Sharing Our Stories  
Commission  
Att. The Exhibitions  
Manager  
Locked Bag 1005  
Katoomba NSW 2780

**Or hand deliver to:**  
Front reception  
Blue Mountains Cultural Centre  
Parke Street  
Katoomba NSW 2780

### **Assessment**

To ensure that opportunities are open to all Aboriginal artists, arts collectives and community groups in the Blue Mountains region, the most equitable way of programming this and future Honouring Country – Sharing Our Stories Commissions is by an assessment process.

After the closing date, the Director and Exhibitions Manager will convene with the Selection Panel to assess proposals. The Panel comprises the Cultural Centre Director, Exhibitions Manager, the Councils' Aboriginal Community Development Officer and a representative on behalf of the BMCC Aboriginal Advisory Council.

## Criteria

When assessing proposals, the Exhibition Selection Panel uses the following criteria:

- Artists are to identify and provide evidence of being accepted as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander;
- Is the proposal for new work either photographic, video or video animation for display on the screen?
- Preference will be given to artists that are based, reside in or have cultural connections to the Blue Mountains Local Government Area;
- Does the work demonstrate artistic merit and originality?
- Is the concept clear and concise and clearly communicate its intent?
- Has the artist considered how the work communicates to its intended audience?
- Is there adequate information including explanations of images chosen to assess the proposal?
- Can the artist work within the project timeline and deliver the proposed work on time?

## EXHIBITION CONFIRMATION

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### **Receipt**

Once the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre has received your application a receipt of application will be sent.

### **Confirmation**

Once a proposal has been accepted, applicants are advised of their success in a letter of confirmation. All applicants will be advised in writing of the assessment outcome.

### **First Meeting**

A meeting will be scheduled between successful applicants and the Exhibitions staff to discuss the project.

### **Agreement**

Once dates are confirmed an agreement will be sent for artists to read through carefully and sign. An *Honouring Country – Sharing Our Stories Commission Agreement* signed by the exhibiting artist/s and the Cultural Centre Director will formalise the display of work at the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre.

### **Countdown**

The Exhibitions Manager will contact you prior to your work being displayed to check that you are on schedule and to see if you have any questions or queries regarding artwork and or display.

### **Studio Visit**

If applicable the Exhibitions Manager will contact you to arrange an appropriate time to visit your studio/workspace to discuss your work prior to your installation date.

**APPLICANT**

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**Applicant/s**

Name of Exhibitor/s \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address [if different] \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone work [daytime contact] \_\_\_\_\_

Home \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person [if group] \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach list of artists if group exhibition and their contact details

Please attach evidence of your acceptance as being Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander, such as:

- Confirmation of Aboriginality letter from a registered Aboriginal Corporation which includes the common seal of that organisation; or
- A letter confirming your acceptance as a member of an Aboriginal Land Council on letterhead and signed either by the CEO or Chairperson; or
- A letter confirming your acceptance as being Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander signed by a member of the BMCC Aboriginal Advisory Council.

**PROJECT/ ARTWORK**

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Working title of project/artwork

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**Marketing and Promotion**

The Cultural Centre will ensure local cultural organisations, media, elected representatives, InSight members and the wider public are informed of your work through the Centre's quarterly, website, and general promotion of Cultural Centre programs.

**Equipment**

Artist will need to source their own equipment for the production of their artwork. The artwork will need to be provided to the cultural Centre in a format that is compatible with the display monitor provided.

**Breakdown of Cultural Centre services to exhibitors**

- \$1,000 Artist Fee
- Support by Technical Expert during pre and post-production
- DL invitation production and printing costs
- 1 x electronic mail out (to InSight members, arts industry contacts and the media)
- Local promotion & publicity
- Professional installation
- Artwork labels
- Opening Launch



**VISUAL DOCUMENTATION**

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Please itemise the images that you have provided with this application:

*(A maximum of 6 and a minimum of 4 images will be accepted. PowerPoint presentations and website addresses should not be submitted as visual documentation)*

	TITLE	YEAR	MEDIUM	DIMENSIONS (HxWxDcm)
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				

*Please note: do not send original artwork with application*

**Please provide images as:** jpeg or tiff files on a disc or USB stick. Image size should be 300dpi and not exceed 3MB.

**CHECK LIST**

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Planning

- Is your concept original and/or innovative?
- Have you taken the space allocation and display nature (on a screen) into account when developing your concept/exhibition?
- Do you have the resources and capacity to produce the work?
- Is your timeline feasible?

Application

- Are you applying prior to the application submission deadline?
- Is your concept clear and concise?
- Have you included all your contact details?
- If group, have you included all artists' contact details?
- Have you included a disc or USB stick containing up to 6 good quality jpeg or tiff images
- Have you included image caption details?
- Is your application signed?

Exhibitor/contact person's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_