



2018

# Albany Artist in Residence Program 2019/2020

VANCOUVER ARTS CENTRE

### **Albany AIR Objective**

To offer an artist-in-residence (hereafter, AIR) program at Mary Thomson house (MTH) at the Vancouver Arts Centre (VAC), which provides visiting artists with the opportunity to develop their practice through self-directed creative projects, and that provides a platform for the artist to engage the local Albany community with artistic outcomes, knowledge and skills transfer, employment opportunities, an increase in wider community engagement with the arts, and the promotion of Albany as an emerging creative city.

### **Organisational Background**

VAC is an active community arts centre and gallery that is home to many local arts and craft groups. Our strategic programming goals for 2019 – 2022 are

1. To tell stories from and about our region;
2. Reflect on our national and global context; (in terms of people, place and purpose),
3. To develop local independent creative practice and production; and
4. Encourage intercultural and intergenerational exchange and participation.

As such, our AIR program allows us to develop creative capacity by introducing diverse art forms, creative skills, new methods of research, networking opportunities for the Albany community, and the promotion of the Albany arts community into the wider National conversation on the arts.

Based in an historic building (Albany Cottage Hospital), the VAC is a unique heritage site. Formerly the Old Nurse Headquarters, MTH is named after Mary Thomson, who was a driving force behind the beginnings of the Albany Summer School and the Albany Arts Council. She was an active member of the organising committee for many years and together with her fellow arts-activist, Dorrit Hunt, campaigned to preserve the Old Hospital as the Vancouver Arts Centre. MTH is situated approximately 1km from the Albany Post Office, Town Hall and Library. The Vancouver Arts Centre is owned and operated by The City of Albany.

### **Artist-in-Residence Program**

VAC's AIR Program aims to provide arts and cultural opportunities to the Albany community through workshops, exhibitions and other public programs implemented by Australian and international artists while residing at MTH. Each year, different artistic and creative disciplines will be focused on for development. In this residency callout, 2019 – 2020, our focus is on paper, printmaking and

handmade publishing, drawing, literature, and writing for performance. There are five periods that are available for this residency callout.

**2019**

August 5 to September 27  
7 Weeks  
Djilba – Season of Conception

October 29 to November 29  
5 Weeks  
Kambarang – Season of Birth

**2020**

February 4 to March 13  
6 Weeks  
Bunuru – Season of Adolescence

March 16 to April 20  
5 Weeks  
Djeran – Season of Adulthood

May 27 to June 28  
5 Weeks  
Makaru – Season of Fertility

The program is flexible – the details of each residency (length of stay, use of in-kind materials, workshop programs, and so on) are tailored to the artist's requirements to encourage a diversity of applicants. However, each applicant should nominate one of the above time periods within which to conduct their residency. Please note that the residency space offers accommodation for up to 8 people. If you are an artist group or an organisation and you wish to develop a creative program at the Vancouver Arts Centre for your members, please get in touch.

Artists interested in applying must nominate to deliver either a Creative Production (product development) workshop or a Creative Practice workshop (skills development) through the Vancouver Arts Centre.

## **Our Offer to Artists**

The VAC AIR program is dedicated to supporting the creative development of artists – whether they have an individual or community practice

- Regional WA – A picturesque residency in a global biodiversity hotspot
- Free accommodation in the self-contained Mary Thomson Residency Cottage consisting of a bedroom, lounge room, dining area, shower & toilet, and kitchen
- Free separate studio space
- Access to the internet
- Connection with the VAC community – Up to 15 community groups regularly use the Vancouver Arts Centre, including the Albany Weavers, Albany Floral Art Group, Ace Camera Club, Albany Potters, and Porcelain Painting Friends.
- Contacts with cultural and service organisations in Albany, including the Museum of the Great Southern, the City of Albany Library, and Open Access Arts, as well as creative organisations such as Southern Edge Arts and Creative Albany.
- In-kind support and access to Vancouver Arts Centre facilities and resources, such as a printing press, a DSLR camera, recording and rehearsal space, PA systems, projection and film equipment and hire of stage, workshop, and gallery venues – in-kind support requirements to be discussed with Vancouver Arts Centre staff.
- Additional facilities owned by the community arts groups may also be available for use through a residency partnership with the group. These facilities are the pottery studio, a weaving studio and photographic studio including a traditional dark room.
- The administration of the community workshop will be managed by the Vancouver Arts Centre, which will include handling of bookings and all promotional activity, Resident artists will be paid at an hourly rate in accordance with relevant professional association recommendations (FAW, NAVA etc)

## **Residency Categories**

### **Creative practice**

This residency format suits artists seeking to conduct creative research and development. Research outcomes will be discussed with the Vancouver Arts Centre staff prior to their stay. Research and creative production from the residency will be required to have a public outcome, at least some of which will involve a creative practice workshop with the Albany community. Artists will also be required to attend a residency debrief meetings with VAC staff.

These residencies will be assessed on the basis of their artistic value, and on the value of their creative practice workshop in the creative development of the local community.

### **Creative Production**

This residency format suits artists seeking to produce work during their residency in the City of Albany. Creative outcomes are to be discussed with the Vancouver Arts Centre Team Leader prior to their stay. The Vancouver Arts Centre will provide administrative support in connecting the artist to relevant community members and community organisations, and in the development of creative production workshops. Artists are to provide a plan for engagement with communities and local organisations, which will include a workshop plan. The Arts Centre will provide ticketing support, as well as wages and material resources for the workshops.

### **Criteria for Selection**

Residency applications will be assessed by a panel comprised of industry peer professionals who reside within the Great Southern and the Vancouver Arts Centre project team based on the following criteria:

- Artistic excellence – the extent to which the artist’s work is recognised as of a high calibre.
- Originality – the extent to which the residency proposal is unique and innovative.
- Timeliness – in the artist’s career and in terms of wider events
- Involvement of local community – collaboration with user groups, community ownership, captivating for disinclined audiences at the centre, potential for partnerships with other service organisations

- Engagement of local culture and history – increasing the research profile – addressing our unique history, heritage, and site significance and engaging with local history.
- Multidisciplinary – it is recommended that people from multiple creative disciplines be encouraged to apply.
- Diverse – it is recommended that people from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds, Indigenous backgrounds, diverse ages, people with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ people, and people from regional and remote Australia be encouraged to apply.
- Alignment with the Vancouver Arts Centre’s strategic programming goals

## How to Apply

Artists are required to provide the following (emailed applications only):

- A completed application form;
- A curriculum vitae;
- Relevant references;
- Documentation of past work, whether photo files or slides, photographs, audio files or DVD's of work – (preferably shared via a cloud based platform such as dropbox, vimeo etc); and
- A one page proposal stating the artist's intent for the residency and which includes the following:
  - Description of artistic background;
  - Residency concept and creative practice;
  - Outline of creative development workshops and activities, including materials, dates, and costs; and
  - Any other potential outcomes

Applications will be open from 14 December to **4 February 2019 1159pm**. We advise applicants interested in applying to contact the Arts Centre to discuss their project prior to submitting an application at [arts@albany.wa.gov.au](mailto:arts@albany.wa.gov.au) and (08) 6820 3740.

Successful applicants will be notified of the results by 5pm 8 March 2019.

## Artist in Residence Requirements

The Artist in Residence agrees to participate in the following:

- Attend a meet-and-greet with local artists, volunteers and staff;
- Attend regular consultation meetings with the Arts Administration Officer;
- Present their work publicly in some way, whether a public reading, an open studio, artist talk, exhibition, school and community visitations, or a special event, or a blog post after the residency; and
- Complete a short acquittal report about the outcomes of their residency.



## **Further Information**

### **Residency Agreement**

An Artist in Residence Agreement is to be signed by both parties, outlining the rights and responsibilities of the Artist in Residence and the Vancouver Arts Centre as well as the specific terms and conditions of the residency. If either party breaches this agreement, the residency may be terminated.

### **Support from the Vancouver Arts Centre**

While the Vancouver Arts Centre does not have a fund dedicated to our AIR program, we provide free rental accommodation, access to studio space, and in-kind support in the form of administration, venue and equipment hire. No grants or living allowances are able to be paid. Artists are encouraged to deliver workshops for community members. The VAC can provide some marketing and admin support to assist with this. Artists are encouraged to discuss potential workshop ideas with the Arts Centre in advance.

### **Security**

The Artist in Residence will have access to Mary Thomson House and the Work/Studio space at all hours during their stay. The Artist in Residence must sign for their key upon arrival at the Arts Centre for the residency and hand the key back to a staff member and sign out before moving out of the accommodation.

### **Arrival**

Check-in is available on weekdays from 9.30am to 4pm and Saturdays from 10am to 3pm. If you plan to arrive by plane and your flight does not arrive until after hours, please discuss your travel arrangements with us and we will try our best to accommodate your needs.



**Vancouver Arts Centre's Mary Thomson Cottage  
Artist in Residence Application Form 2019/2020**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone / Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Requested Residency Dates

\_\_\_\_\_

Which residency category are you applying to? Community or Individual?

\_\_\_\_\_

Which art-form will you predominantly be working in during this residency?

\_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if you have already made contact with any individuals or organisations in the community regarding your proposed residency?

\_\_\_\_\_

Please send this completed application form together with supporting documents to [arts@albany.wa.gov.au](mailto:arts@albany.wa.gov.au). For applicants to the Collaborative and Community Based Practice stream, please also attach your community engagement plan.

If there are any queries please get in touch at [arts@albany.wa.gov.au](mailto:arts@albany.wa.gov.au).



Department of **Culture and the Arts**  
Department of **Regional Development**



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This program is supported by the Departments of Culture and the Arts and Regional Development, Royalties for Regions and Country Arts WA. The Vancouver Arts Centre is managed by the City of Albany and receives core funding from Country Arts WA; who receives core funding from the State Government through the Department of Culture and the Arts in association with Lotterywest.

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