

PORT MELBOURNE MIGRATION TRAIL INSTALLATION EOI

March 2026

Project background

With funding from the Victorian Government through Business Victoria, the City of Port Phillip is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from artists or artist teams to develop and deliver a new permanent artwork along Bay Street, Port Melbourne.

This project forms the next waypoints in the Port Melbourne Migration Trail, which begins at Waterfront Place and continues along Bay Street. The new installation will be located within existing roadside garden beds along Bay Street (exact site to be confirmed with the successful applicant).

Positioned as the next instalment in the trail, following the First Peoples Welcoming Site at Station Pier and the Port Melbourne Yacht Club, this artwork will serve as both a cultural marker and a wayfinding element. It presents an opportunity to creatively interpret and embed stories of migration connected to Port Melbourne within the public realm.

The project aims to strengthen the cultural identity of Bay Street, contribute to the storytelling of the precinct, and enhance the sense of place for residents, traders and visitors.



Site 1: *Water Journeys*, Simone Thomson (Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, Yorta Yorta) Station Pier, 2025



Site 2: *Living Story Wall*, 90 Degrees and Matt Timson, Port Melbourne Yacht Club, 2025

Themes that may be considered could include:

First Peoples' Country

- Any themes and key stories must be chosen and co-created in consultation with Tradition Owner groups to ensure that it complies with cultural protocols and accurately reflects the heritage and values of the First Peoples community.

Early migration from the gold rush to World War II:

- Migration during the gold rush era
- Early migration to Victoria
- Port Melbourne a transfer point
- Growth of industry around migration

Post-World War II migration:

- Post-war migration to Victoria
- Post World War II living/ working in Port Melbourne
- Migrant communities in Port Melbourne in the 1970s
- Port Melbourne's migrant communities today

Routes through Port Melbourne

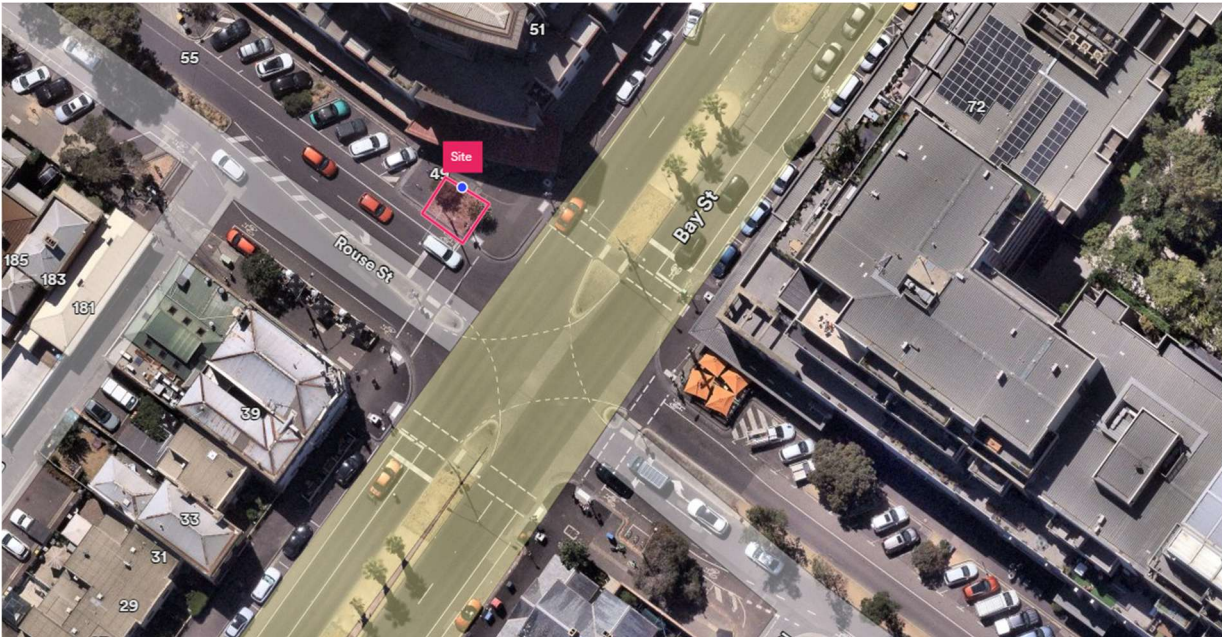
- Station Pier
- Migrant camps
- Fishermans Bend Migrant Hostel
- Leaving Station Pier: migration routes in Victoria

The following things must be considered when applying:

- The artwork/installation should reflect the history/themes of the surrounding area and be appropriate for the public realm.
- The proposed concept must be original and must not contain business logos, advertising material, or imagery that is offensive; nor is it to be seen to promote anti-social behaviour or political bias.
- Any lighting elements must be designed in consultation with Council.

Project Locations

The artwork will be installed along Bay Street at either one of the below sites. Please ensure only one site is selected for this submission.



Project Delivery

All elements must adhere to the following specifications:

- Be secured in place and unable to be moved
- Be easy to clean
- Avoid materials that might attract vandalism or theft
- Respond to the public realm context in form and colour

- Be made of robust material that are resistant to vandalism and durable enough to remain in place permanently
- Must be able to withstand Melbourne's unpredictable weather such as wind, temperature changes, heat, hail, salt corrosion.
- Meet all necessary Australian Standards for safety and accessibility
- Ensure no obstructions or impediments to pedestrian, bicycle or vehicle traffic

Work on the site location will need to be completed during business hours. It is the applicant's duty to maintain a safe working environment and immediately report to City of Port Phillip any issues that may arise on site.

When working on the site, contractors must provide protection to the adjacent property, lights, trees, kerbs and paving if required. Any damage made must be fixed and reported to the Council immediately. A risk assessment and work safety statement must be supplied to Council.

The artist(s) will be responsible for:

- Design and fabrication of the artwork
- All costs associated with the artwork installation
- Attending meetings as required and working with Council to develop the artwork concept and installation schedule within Council's timelines.
- Working with Council to ensure the artwork is appropriate for the site
- Delivery of the art as mutually agreed with Council and relevant stakeholders
- All defects within the first 6 months of installation
- Providing a maintenance schedule.
- Participation in media calls, interviews and publicity if requested
- Public Liability Insurance to cover \$20,000,000 (insurance will be covered by Auspicious Arts)

Council will be responsible for:

- Repairs to the work after 6 months
- Any damage to the work within the first 6 months caused by vandalism or accident
- Routine cleaning of the work as part of Council's assets maintenance program
- Any lighting elements included in the work
- Project management
- Permit clear

Copyright

The artist will be asked to sign a Non-exclusive copyright agreement with the City of Port Phillip to cover usage of the artwork by the City in the following instances:

- Online use for Port Phillip City Collection online database
- Possible future publication of the artwork in Council promotions, Port Phillip City Collection exhibition programs and publications.

Commission Budget

The maximum budget for the project is \$80,000 (ex GST).

This budget will need to cover all costs associated with the project and the winning applicant's scope of work, including, but not limited to:

- investigations
- meetings
- reporting
- engineering
- equipment
- supply and install of any electrical and lighting systems
- materials
- transport
- delivery fees
- maintenance of defects to the artwork/structure for up to 6 months
- risk assessment
- insurances
- design
- fabrication
- installation
- traffic management plan if required

Additional claims for disbursements will not be accepted. The contractor should prepare, as part of their quotation submission, a project budget showing how the fee has been derived. The submission must also clearly articulate any assumptions and exclusions.

Applicants must be an incorporated body/ company, or auspiced by an agency such as Auspicious Arts.

Payment of the fees will be as follows:

- Artist's fee - 50% (Upon signing contract)
- Production and installation - 50% (Upon sign-off and completion of the work)

Project Timeline

Stage 1

26 April 2026 Expressions of interest due date

May 2026 Artists will be notified of the outcome of their submission

Stage 2

May 2026 Shortlisted artists will be invited to develop their concept

June 2026 Shortlisted artists to develop their concept proposals and present to Selection Panel.

July 2026 Shortlisted artist notified of outcome, selected artist/artist team awarded contract.

Stage 3

August 2026 Final concept confirmed, fabrication commenced

September 2026 Public announcement of artist, design and location

December 2026 – January 2027 Installation*

February 2027 Official launch of the artwork

*Please note, timelines are subject to change.

Submission Deadline

EOI opens: **Wednesday 1 April 2026**

EOI closes: **Sunday 26 April 2026**

notification: **Friday 1 May 2026**

Applications are to be emailed by end of **Sunday 26 April 2026** to

Alexander Albrecht

Senior Public Space Coordinator

alexander.albrecht@portphillip.vic.gov.au

0424 190 202

Council encourages EOIs from artists from diverse backgrounds

Selection Process

Stage 1 – Expression of Interest

Artists are invited to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) in response to this brief.

Including:

- A brief written statement that responds to the site and brief, including why the commission is of interest to you and how the work will be experienced (1 page maximum)
- A short artist biography and curriculum vitae, including at least 2-3 examples of previous projects delivered of similar scale and budget, with supporting visuals and image captions.
- Name of applicant or company, postal address, legal entity, Australian Business Number (ABN). Please note, applicant must be incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act or supported by an Incorporated Association that is deemed to be non-profit, as classified by the Australian Taxation Office (section 103A(2) (c) of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1936).
- Please note concept design is not required at this stage, and no concept fee will be provided for responding to this EOI.

Stage 2 – Shortlisting of Artists

- Following the closer of the EOI period, a shortlist of three artists will be selected by a panel made up of Council officers with expertise in public art, urban design and project delivery. Shortlisted artists will be invited to do a site visit with a Council representative before developing detailed concepts.
- Shortlisted artists will each receive a fee of \$1000 (including GST) to develop their concept proposals.
- Shortlisted artists will have two weeks to further develop their initial concept proposals to include detailed design, sketches, drawings and/ or concept renders. Artists will be required to present their proposal to the appointed selection panel either in person at the St Kilda Town Hall, 99A Carlisle Street, St Kilda or online.
- The concept design submissions should be submitted to Council's Senior Public Space Coordinator three days prior to the scheduled presentations via (email, Dropbox, etc). Following the presentation, the submission will be assessed by the selection panel with the successful artist to be notified and awarded the commission.
- Feedback will be provided to unsuccessful shortlisted applicants upon request.

Stage 3 – Artist Commission

- A formal agreement will be signed between the Artist and Council.
- An artist fee comprising 50% of the total project budget will be paid upon signing the contact.

Assessment Criteria

- It is an original artwork/s designed and created by a professional artist/s. The artists CV will reflect the artist's past commissions, education and practice.
- The artwork achieves standards of excellence and innovation.
- The artwork/s contributes to an attractive, stimulating and functional environment, and does not detract from the amenity or safety of the public realm.
- The public artwork is robust, and materials have been selected for durability. Artwork materials will not cause impediment or interference with surrounding property, business or traffic. Any inherent risk (i.e. light, reflectivity) is addressed in the proposal where relevant.
- Consent from Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation representatives will be noted as required where cultural material and traditional arts images and icons or symbols are used or referenced. Council can support this consultation if required.
- An indicative budget is clearly articulated in the proposal.
- The artist has indicated that they can meet the required timelines for the project.