

Bus Projects



Open Call 2024 – 2025,
Seeking proposals for
exhibitions and projects
Applications close
Friday 6 Oct. 2023

Bus Projects

Introduction

Bus Projects is seeking proposals from artists, curators, and creatives to be part of our 2024 – 2025 Artistic Program. We have slightly changed how we do things, while maintaining a focus on our core mission: supporting artists to exhibit work that is experimental, responsive, socially responsible, and rigorous. Whether you're new to Bus, or you have worked with us before, we welcome proposals from you.

We look forward to hearing from you!

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.

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.

Now in our 22nd year of operation, Bus Projects has recently moved into a new, standalone home in Brunswick East. We continue to operate as a not-for-profit organisation, with two part-time employees and a volunteer Board.

Bus Projects



What are we looking for?

Bus Projects welcomes applications from cultural producers including artists, collectives, collaborators, writers and curators working across diverse disciplines. Proposals can be for exhibitions, as well as 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.

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

Bus Projects

Our 2024 — 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 the first time, 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 will be led by the Bus Projects team and Bus Artist Committee.

Bus Launch

This new program supports early-career artists who self-define as 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 new program.

Bus Engages

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

Bus Screen

As part of our new space, we will be piloting the introduction of a screen-based program. If you work in screen-based media or are interested in presenting work on a TV screen, we want to hear from you.

Bus Projects

What we provide

Exhibiting at Bus Projects is free.

In addition to access to our spaces, we will provide additional support in the form of:

- Project planning, install and deinstall assistance from the Bus Projects team.
- Curatorial support and mentorship.
- Marketing and promotion of exhibitions 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, a data projector, and audio equipment.
- 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.

IMPORTANT: We are currently seeking additional funding to support the payment of artist and curator fees at NAVA industry rates for the 2024 - 2025 Artistic Program. If successful, all artists and creative personnel involved will be paid at industry standards. If unsuccessful, our spaces remain free to use.

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, in line with our style guide.
- 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 content insurance—however, applicants are welcome to purchase this at their own cost. We also encourage artists to maintain their own public liability and professional indemnity insurance as relevant to their practice.

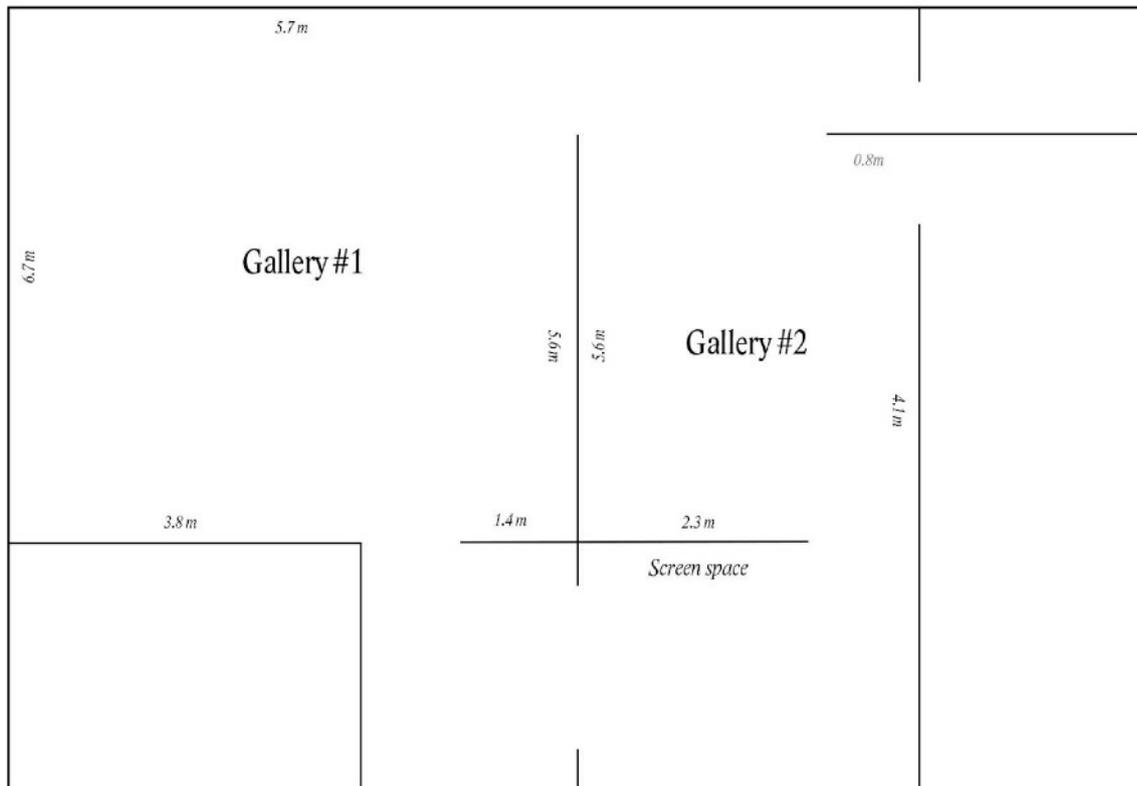
Successful applicants will be offered a three-four week exhibition and will be required to enter into a short-term agreement. Bus Projects is able to negotiate projects with shorter durations.

Bus Projects

About the space

Floor plan

Bus Projects



* Wall height: 3.04 m
* Ceiling height: 3.47 m

Bus Projects' new venue 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.

Also be advised that floor-plan measurements are a general guide only.

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. 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' intentions to deliver a program that is diverse in terms of artistic production, forms, methodologies and practices.

General feedback on what made a successful project proposal will be given at the conclusion of the selection process. Project-specific feedback will be provided where possible on request.

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. 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

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

What next?

Applicants close: Friday 6 October, 9pm in
your local timezone.

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

Applications will be notified of outcomes
by end of October 2023.

*Image captions for p1 & p 3: Bus Projects 2023 Fundraiser exhibition opening with performance by Zoë Bastin.
Photographs by On Jackson Street.*