

Lord Mayor's Creative Fellowships

Program Guidelines 2026–27



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Introduction

The Lord Mayor's Creative Fellowships is delivered by Brisbane City Council.

These guidelines outline the program, eligibility requirements, and how applications are assessed.

About the program

Program overview

The Lord Mayor's Creative Fellowships supports emerging Brisbane artists and creative workers to build their careers through structured professional development.

The program aims to:

- support emerging Brisbane artists and creative workers to build their careers
- fund structured professional development opportunities (e.g. training, mentoring, residencies, and industry programs)
- support a sustainable creative sector.

Funding available

- up to \$10,000 per application (GST exclusive)
- for individual Brisbane-based emerging artists and creative workers.

Key dates

- Applications open: 28 September 2026 at 9am
- Applications close: 16 November 2026 at 3pm
- Notification: Late March 2027
- Supported activity: Must occur between 23 March 2027 and 21 March 2028.

Eligibility and grant requirements

Who can apply

Applicants must:

- be an emerging or early career artist or creative worker
- submit one application per round and do not apply to the Creative Sparks grant in the same financial year
- have no overdue acquittals with Council
- have an ABN linked to a Brisbane postcode or be supported by an eligible Brisbane-based auspice organisation. The ABN and address postcodes must match.
- be an Australian citizen or permanent resident status aged 17 or over
- live in Brisbane.

Priority may be given to applicants who did not receive Council creative grant funding in the previous financial year.



Who cannot apply

You cannot apply if you are:

- not an individual applicant
- not an emerging artist
- a Council staff member
- currently in receipt of creative funding from Council to the value of \$10,000 or more in the same financial year that the grant round is open
- using an ABN registered outside the Brisbane local government area.

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Activity eligibility

Activities must:

- be structured professional development that builds the applicant's practice and career
- be delivered by a recognised organisation or industry professional
- not start before funding is approved
- be completed within 12 months of notification.

Other eligibility requirements

Applicants must submit a complete application that:

- shows evidence of the applicant's practice as an emerging artist
- includes a co-contribution (cash or in-kind)
- includes a balanced, GST-exclusive budget in Australian dollars
- provides supporting evidence for all grant-funded costs; current quotes (≤ 6 months) required for grant-funded items over \$500 and currency conversions where needed
- includes any required support material (for example CV, timeline, relevant letters and auspice or cultural permissions where needed).

Applications that are incomplete or do not include required documents will not be assessed.

Assessment criteria

Applications are assessed against:

Criteria	Description	Weighting
Quality	Evidence of artistic potential and why the opportunity is relevant and of high quality	40%
Benefit	Clear impact to the applicant's future career or creative practice	40%
Viability	A clear, realistic plan, budget and timeline showing you can deliver.	20%

What we fund

- Course or program fees
- Mentor or artist fees providing the professional development
- Activity travel, touring, accommodation or living expenses (within limits)
- Materials and equipment hire (directly related to the development opportunity).

What we do not fund



Ineligible activities

We do not fund activities that:

- start before funding is approved
- request full activity funding (no applicant contribution)
- allocate more than 50% to travel, touring, accommodation or living expenses (per diems)
- do not pay industry rates
- are self-directed or not structured professional development
- are unclear or incomplete
- have not supplied required support material
- cannot be completed within the timeframe
- are submitted late
- are for:
 - public artworks or mural production
 - self-directed retreats or informal learning
 - competitions, awards, fundraising, charities or political activity
 - creating or presenting work (e.g. exhibitions, performances, recordings, publications, workshops and events)
 - formal study leading to qualifications.

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Ineligible costs

We do not fund:

- payment for the applicant's own time to undertake the activity
- equipment purchases
- contingency or general consumables
- insurance
- debts or loans
- food or alcohol.

Successful applicants

Successful applicants must:

- sign a funding agreement with Council
- deliver the activity as approved
- acknowledge Brisbane City Council in all promotion using required wording and logos
- submit an acquittal within 12 months of notification, including receipts for all grant-funded expenses.