



CREATIVE ART CENTRAL – GENERAL FACT SHEET

General Questions

Q. How many commissions are available for Creative Art Central 2025/26?

A. The number of commissions awarded will be based on the standard of pitches delivered. It will be a merit-based outcome, resulting in up to \$40,000 per commission across a singular financial year from the 1 July 2026 – 30 June 2027.

Q. How many registrations can I submit?

A. Only one registration can be submitted. This is inclusive to individuals, collectives, groups and arts organisations. If you are part of a collective, group or arts organisation and you would like to apply as an individual, you must declare this on the registration form where outlined. If you were successful in a previous Creative Art Central commission as a group, collective or arts organisation, though will be applying as an individual this round you are eligible to apply.

Q. What do you mean by yearly funding?

A. Commissions will be required to for delivery within a 12 month/financial year period.

Q. When are the final works due for completion?

A. All works must be completed by June 30, 2027.

Q. What is Contemporary Art?

A. As defined by Art Gallery of South Australia (AGSA), *Contemporary art is a movement that belongs to the present. Its artforms speak to our experiences of today. This definition, however, leaves open the boundaries of what exactly makes a work of art contemporary as a sign of something new, innovative or distinct from previous artforms or art-making practices.*

Q. What is classified as a 'new' work?

A. A new work is considered as being at concept stage only, meaning it has not undertaken any form of development, production or public presentation.

Q. If I was a successful arts group, organisation, company or collective of the Creative Art Central program in 2022-2025 can I apply in the 2025/26 round?

A. If you held a leadership or dominant role within an arts group, company, collective, or organisation at the time it received the commission, you are **not eligible** to apply.

If you were involved in a support capacity—such as being contracted to document the commission, working as a graphic designer or curator, or serving as a static (non-leadership) member of the group—you **must contact the Council representative** to discuss your eligibility **prior to registering** for this round.

Q. If I was a successful individual of the Creative Art Central program in 2022-2025 can I apply in the 2025 round?

A. No. All previously successful recipients between the 2022-24 round are ineligible to apply this round. You can only reapply **after three financial years have passed** since your last successful commission. So, for example, if you received funding in the 2022–23 financial year, you would be eligible again in the **2026–27 round**.

Q. How do I know if I meet the First Nations criteria?

A. To register under the First Nations category you must address the identification criteria as outlined by AIAATSIS. This includes:

- identifying as First Nations
- be of First Nations descent
- be accepted as such by community, in which you live or formerly lived.

For more information on identification of Aboriginality you can visit [HERE](#)

Q. If I register under the First Nations category, will this disqualify me from being assessed under the Creative Art Central program?

A. No. Due to Creative Art Central being a merit-based program, those who demonstrate a high level of competency against the outlined criteria will be awarded a commission. The First Nations category has been allocated to secure one of the awarded commissions to a First Nations applicant. This could also mean, that more than one commission could be awarded to a First Nations creative representative if the skills level is high in reference to the scoring criteria.

Q. If I'm employed by Central Coast Council on a permanent or casual basis am I eligible to apply for Creative Art Central

A. Council employees are NOT eligible to apply. If you are on a temporary contract, this is open to discussion with the council representative.

Q. What do you mean by art in community framework?

A. An art in community framework refers to a collaborative approach, where you as the artist works in conjunction with the community to deliver components and/or areas of the project. This results with the community being actively engaged through a participatory context, rather than a passive bystander or audience. The community become a dominant feature in the production and/or delivery of the project. This can be related to a co-designed and co-led initiative which benefits the community from a social, cultural, environmental and/or demographic context. To view some examples on projects, including accessing other resources [HERE](#).

Q. How can the seed funding be used, and do I need to pay this back if I'm not a successful recipient to the 2025/26 program?

A. No. You will not be required to pay the seed funding back. The seed funding is for the top 10 registrations only, and this is to be utilised to assist with the development of the concept you presented in your registration form. You will have up to three months to refine your initial concept by completing further research, acquiring relevant partners and/or collaborators, collate any relevant support material, investigate appropriate spaces and places, identify the community engagement component and time to prepare your pitch. The questions to refer to are the, what, how, who and why.

Q. How will I be notified if I have been selected as one of the top 10?

A. The Central Coast Council representative will contact you via phone or email. A follow-up email will also be completed, outlining all requirements, date/time and information on the next stage – Pitch stage.

Q. Who will assess and decide on the top 10 registrations

A. This will be an internal assessment undertaken by the Creative Art Central representative (Central Coast Council representative managing Creative Art Central), alongside another Central Coast Council representative. A scoring matrix has been developed to create a transparent and equitable process

Q. What will be required during the Pitch?

A. A Pitch Fact Sheet will be forwarded to the top 10 selected. This will be forwarded via email, alongside a calendar invite of the assigned Pitch date and time.

Q. What is a reasonable adjustment and who should I contact if I require this?

A. A reasonable adjustment supports applicants who have limited English or have a disability and require adjustments to any part of the process, including Pitch and Registration. Contact culturaldevelopment@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au or 0436 923 702 if you require a reasonable adjustment.