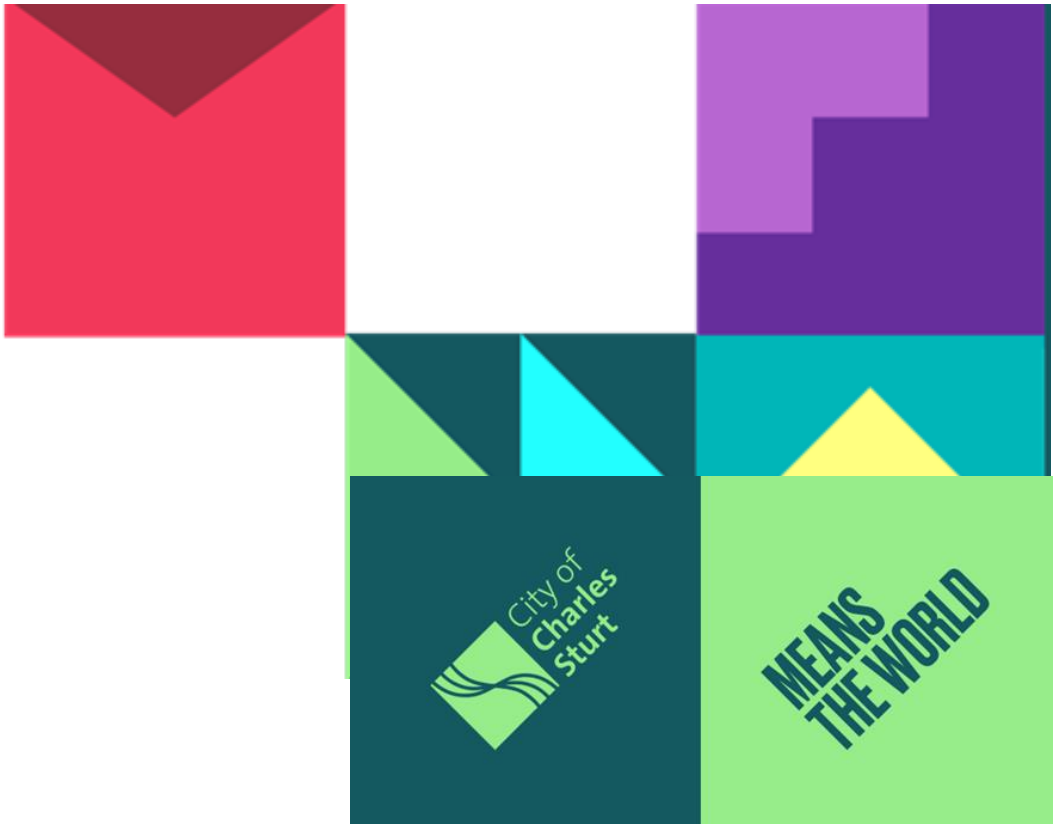
CITY OF CHARLES STURT

ARTIST EXPRESSION OF INTEREST:

POCKET GALLERIES



THE OPPORTUNITY

The City of Charles Sturt is inviting artists/artist teams to submit an Expression of Interest for the Pocket Galleries Program 2027.

Through this EOI, Council will select four artists or artist teams for the 2027 program. Each selected artist/team will be commissioned to develop and deliver one small-scale exhibition presented across all seven Pocket Galleries and will be allocated one exhibition period during 2027.

Each exhibition will be displayed for approximately three months before the galleries change over to the next selected artist/team.

Artists are not expected to submit a fully developed exhibition as part of the EOI. Following selection, each artist/team will undertake a paid concept development stage with Council before preparing the exhibition for display.

The opportunity is open to emerging and established artists working across a range of creative practices. Previous public art or gallery experience is not required.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Pocket Galleries are small exhibition spaces that bring art into everyday public places. Their compact format creates opportunities for artists to experiment with scale, materials and ideas, while giving people the chance to encounter art outside a traditional gallery setting.

The Pocket Galleries Program supports the City of Charles Sturt's commitment to making creativity part of everyday life. It creates paid opportunities for artists to develop and present work, makes art more accessible to the community, and uses creative experiences to contribute to the identity and experience of local places.

The program supports the endorsed Arts & Culture Plan 2026 - 2031 through Artist Access, Artist Practice, Audience Participation and Development, and Culture in Place, and aligns with the Public Art Policy's approach to creating high-quality public art experiences that contribute to people and place.

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

We are looking for strong initial ideas for exhibitions that make thoughtful use of the Pocket Galleries' small scale, format and different public locations.

Your idea should consider the seven Pocket Galleries as one connected exhibition. This could include:

- the same or related work presented across the galleries
- a series of individual works connected by a common idea
- works that respond differently to each location while forming part of the same exhibition
- another creative approach that connects the seven galleries.

There is no set theme. We encourage artists to propose ideas that reflect their own creative practice, interests and perspectives and give people something interesting to encounter as part of everyday life.

SCOPE OF WORK

Each selected artist/artist team will develop and deliver one exhibition across all seven Pocket Galleries during their allocated exhibition period. The exhibition will be installed across the four Pocket Gallery locations at the same time and remain on display for approximately three months.

Council will work with the four selected artists/teams to confirm their allocated exhibition periods following selection.

Pocket Gallery Locations

The seven Pocket Galleries are located at:

- Civic Centre, Woodville: three galleries
- Ngutungka Henley: two galleries
- Jetty Street, Grange: one gallery
- West Beach walking trail: one gallery

Each exhibition should work as a connected body of work, while allowing individual artworks to respond differently to each gallery or location.

Concept development

Following selection, each artist/team will work with Council to develop their EOI idea into a final exhibition concept.

The concept development stage will confirm:

- the overall idea for the exhibition
- the proposed artwork or content for each of the seven galleries
- how the galleries connect as one exhibition
- whether existing, adapted or new work will be used
- proposed materials
- display and installation requirements.

Council will provide one round of consolidated feedback on the concept. The artist/team will then have the opportunity to refine the concept before it is confirmed for production.

The artist/team retains creative responsibility for the exhibition. Council feedback will focus on ensuring the proposal is suitable for the Pocket Galleries, can be safely and practically delivered and remains consistent with the selected EOI.

If Council requests substantial additional changes outside the agreed concept development and refinement process, any additional artist work will be discussed and agreed before it is undertaken.

Artwork Requirements

Final artwork must:

- fit safely within the gallery - approximately 290 mm wide, 150 mm deep, 175 mm high at the rear and 185 mm high at the front, an image is provided in Appendix 1
- be suitable for display for approximately three months
- be stable and safe for display in a public place
- not damage the Pocket Gallery
- be suitable for environmental conditions including heat, sunlight, condensation, humidity, dust and changes in temperature

- not include hazardous, perishable or living materials unless agreed with Council
- not include loose or unsecured materials
- be original work, with the artist holding the necessary rights to exhibit it.

Working with Council

Council will:

- confirm the exhibition period with each selected artist/team
- support the concept development process
- provide one consolidated round of feedback
- confirm display and installation requirements
- provide access to the Pocket Galleries for artist/artist teams to install and deinstall the exhibition in all locations
- promote the Pocket Galleries Program through relevant Council channels.

ARTIST FEE & BUDGET

Each selected artist or artist team will receive a total artist fee of **$525 excluding GST** to develop and deliver one exhibition across all seven Pocket Galleries.

The fee recognises both the artist's creative development and the work required to prepare and deliver the exhibition. The fee will be paid in two stages:

Stage	**Fee – excl GST**
Concept development and one round of refinement	$125
Preparation and delivery of exhibition-ready work	$400
Total	$525

WHO CAN APPLY

We welcome applications from emerging and established artists and artist teams working across a range of creative practices.

You do not need previous public art or gallery experience to apply.

Applications are welcome from artists across South Australia. We particularly encourage applications from:

- Artists who live, work, study or have a connection to the City of Charles Sturt
- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander artists
- Artists from diverse backgrounds and practices
- Artists living with a disability
- Preference may be given to artists who live, work, study or have a demonstrated connection to the City of Charles Sturt. This does not prevent artists from outside the council area from applying.

For artist teams, one person should be nominated as the main contact for the application and commission.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural material

Any proposal involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural knowledge, stories, language or imagery must respect the cultural authority of the relevant knowledge holders and appropriate cultural protocols.

Council will respect artists' intellectual property, moral rights and Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property.

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR EOI

Please provide the following information in your proposal:

1. About you: 150 words max – tell us briefly about your creative practice and why this opportunity interests you.
2. Your exhibition idea: 500 words max - tell us what you would like to present across the seven Pocket Galleries. Include:
    - the idea behind the exhibition
    - the type of work you would like to present
    - how the seven galleries will work together as one exhibition.
    - the materials you plan to use and any particular display or installation requirements.
3. Examples of your work: provide three to five images of previous work that help us understand your creative practice.
4. Artist CV: 2 pages max - Provide a short CV or artist biography. Artist teams should provide brief information about the artists involved.
5. Confirmation of your availability - Tell us if there are any times across the proposed exhibition period in 2027 when you are not available.

You do not need to provide finished artwork, detailed designs or fully resolved concepts at the EOI stage.

HOW APPLICATIONS WILL BE ASSESSED

A selection panel consisting of City of Charles Sturt staff and, where appropriate, community or arts representatives will assess submissions. Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

Selection criterion	What the panel will consider	Weighting
Creative idea	Is the proposed exhibition clear, engaging and artistically strong?	35%
Response to the opportunity	Does the proposal make thoughtful use of the seven-gallery format, small scale and public setting.	30%
Creative practice	Do the examples provided show a practice and approach relevant to the proposed idea?	15%
Practicality, safety and feasibility	Can the work be safely and practically displayed for approximately three months.	10%
Ability to deliver	Does the application show that the artist/team can deliver the proposed exhibition within the timeframe and artist fee?	10%

Council may contact applicants if clarification is needed before making a final decision.

ARTIST RIGHTS & USE OF IMAGES

Artists retain copyright in their artwork.

Selected artists will be asked to allow Council to photograph their exhibition and reproduce images of the artwork for non-commercial purposes associated with promoting, documenting and reporting on the Pocket Galleries Program. Council will respect artists' moral rights and will discuss any proposed use of artwork images outside the agreed purposes with the artist.

Artists will be credited wherever reasonably possible.

TIMELINE

Stage	**Timing**
EOI Opens	Friday 13 November 2026
EOI Closes	Sunday 13 December 2026
EOI Assessment	Week commencing 14 December 2026
All Shortlisted Artists Notified and Exhibition Periods Confirmed	Friday 18 December 2026
Concept Development Due Date	Artist Team 1: Monday 1 February 2027 Artist Team 2: Monday 12 April 2027 Artist Team 3: Monday 7 June 2027 Artist Team 4: Monday 9 August 2027
Installation & Exhibition Dates	Artist Team 1: April - June 2027 Artist Team 2: June - August 2027 Artist Team 3: August – October 2027 Artist Team 4: October - December 2027

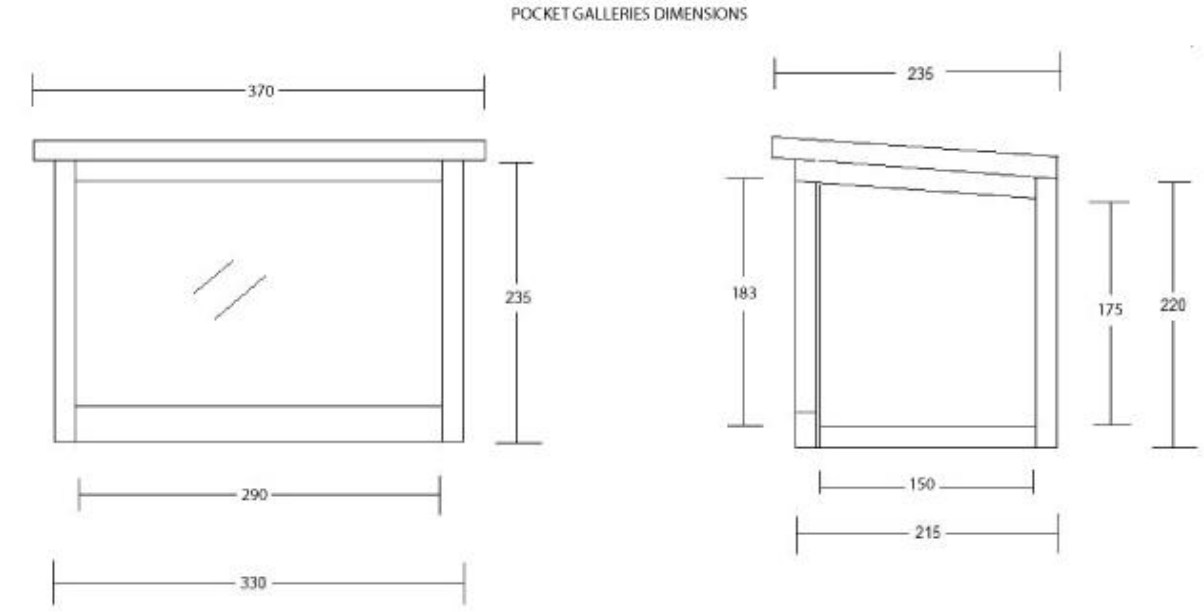
HOW TO APPLY

Please submit your EOI by email prior to **midnight, Sunday 13 December 2026** to psilvano@charlessturt.sa.gov.au

For more information, contact:
Paola Silvano
Place Leader
City of Charles Sturt Council
M: 0438 020 892 or 8408 1212
E: psilvano@charlessturt.sa.gov.au

Amy Evans
Activator, Ngutungka Henley
City of Charles Sturt Council
M: 0407 653 393
E: aevans@charlessturt.sa.gov.au

APPENDIX 1: POCKET GALLERY DIMENSIONS



INTERNAL DIMENSIONS - w285mm x back h175mm / front h183mm x d150mm

