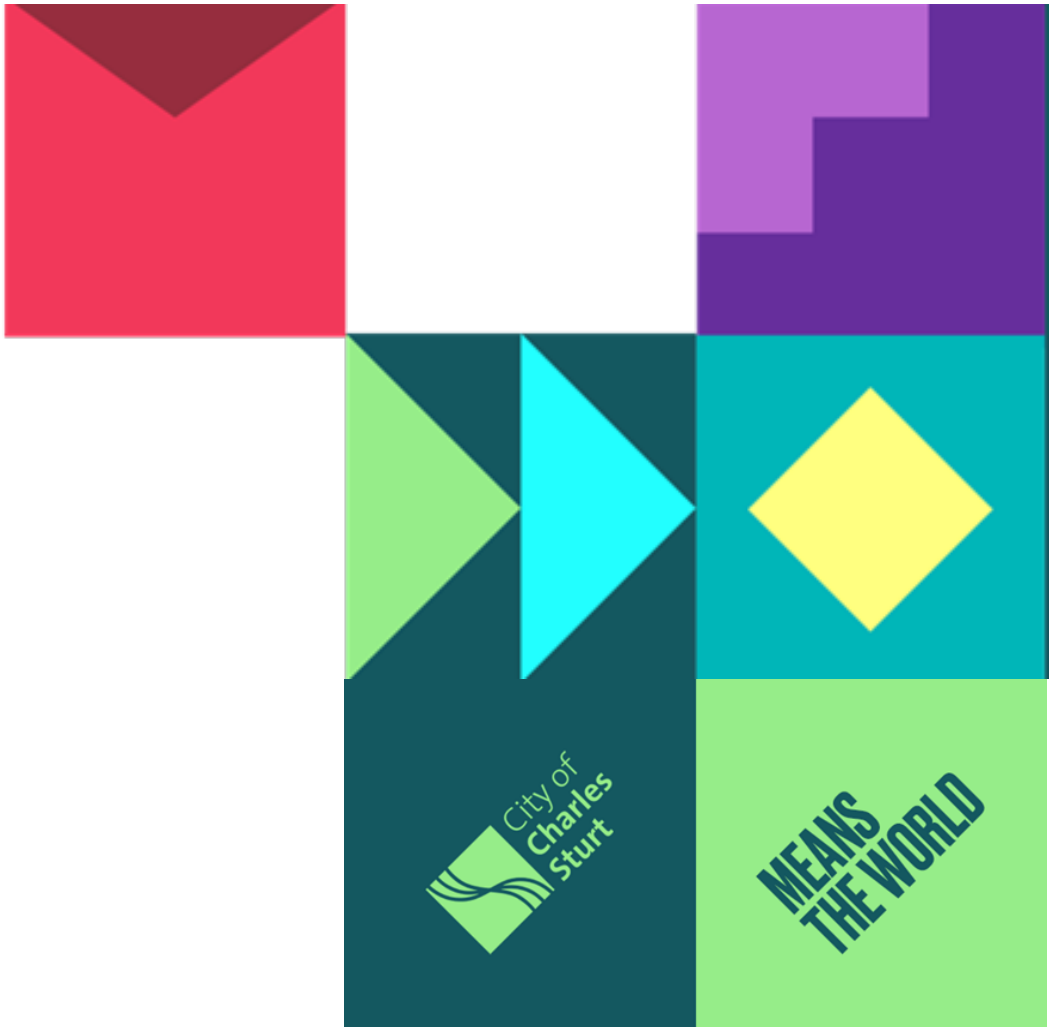
CROYDON PLAYGROUND RESERVE PUBLIC ART

ARTIST BRIEF – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST



PROJECT

Artwork commission for the basketball court at Croydon Playground Reserve, Day Terrace in Croydon.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Council is seeking an artist or artist collective to develop a site-responsive public artwork for the basketball court at Croydon Playground Reserve. The artwork should make a distinctive creative contribution to the reserve, respond meaningfully to the site and its community context, and enrich the way people experience and use the space.

The commission is intended to support an artist-led response rather than prescribe a particular visual outcome. Artists may consider local identity, movement, play, gathering, the reserve's relationship with the railway, and the present and future character of Croydon. These are prompts rather than required themes.

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

Croydon Playground Reserve is a well-loved community and neighbourhood park located adjacent to Croydon Railway Station. The playground is renowned for its train-themed play equipment, which reflects the site's unique location and contributes to its strong local identity. The reserve provides an important gathering space for families and residents, supporting children's play, informal recreation, picnics and community connection.

Recent upgrades to the reserve have created an opportunity to further enrich the space through the inclusion of public art. This project seeks to provide an inclusive platform for both emerging and established artists to create work that enhances the character of the reserve, celebrates community identity and encourages people of all ages to engage with the space.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- To make a distinctive artistic contribution to Croydon Playground Reserve and strengthen its identity, character and public experience.
- To reflect and celebrate the unique identity, heritage, character and diversity of the local community and the City of Charles Sturt.
- To create an artwork that is welcoming, inclusive and accessible to people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds and enhances the visitor experience.
- To develop a durable, low-maintenance and weather-resistant artwork that is safe within a public environment.
- To encourage community connection, interaction and pride in the reserve as a valued local gathering place.
- To make creative expression visible and accessible within an everyday neighbourhood setting.

SCOPE OF WORK & FEES

- **Location:** The artwork is proposed for the basketball court at the Croydon Playground Reserve. Applicants are strongly encouraged to undertake a site visit, which is open to the public at all times, before developing a detailed concept. A facilitated site visit will be offered to shortlisted artists during the paid concept-development stage.
- **Possible approaches**: Artists may propose works in a variety of mediums, including but not limited to:
    - Mural painting
    - Artist-designed inlaid or integrated surface treatment
    - Artists may propose an artwork that uses part or all of the basketball-court surface, provided the proposal retains the court's safe and functional use and responds appropriately to the existing surface, can incorporate relevant court markings and the surrounding reserve.
- **Budget:**
    - Shortlisted artists will receive a design fee of $500 excluding GST
    - The artist engaged for the work will receive a commission fee of $24,000 excluding GST. This should cover final design, all materials including anti-graffiti coating (if a mural), hire of equipment, artist fees and installation costs.
- **Timeline:** The commissioned artwork must be completed and installed by 1 June 2027. Please note: construction of a shade sail within the reserve is scheduled for February 2027 and should be considered when developing project timelines and installation plans. Whilst not a direct impact to the installation, coordination will be required, with support from the City of Charles Sturt.
- **Policy:** All proposals need to meet the City of Charles Sturt Public Art Policy 2026 and should consider Council's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2026-2030
- **Approvals:** Artists should allow time for approvals, materials procurement and installation.
- **Access:** Council will facilitate reasonable access to the site for the selected artist during design development and installation, subject to agreed timing, site conditions and safety requirements.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

This opportunity is open to professional artists and collectives based in South Australia and beyond, with a strong portfolio in public or large-scale art. The City of Charles Sturt Council encourages submissions from artists with diverse backgrounds and experiences, particularly artists who have worked in public spaces or have an interest in community engagement through their work. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists are strongly encouraged to apply.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Artists EOIs must include the following:

1. **Artist Statement** – A brief statement (max 300 words) outlining your artistic practice, and why this project and location are of interest to you.

2. **CV** – A professional CV (max 2 pages) highlighting your relevant experience, particularly with public art or large-scale projects.

3. **Portfolio** – 3-5 high-quality images of previous works, especially large-scale projects, public installations, or work related to the themes of community, history or identity.

4. **Initial Concept Proposal** – Proposals must address the following

a. Creative concept

Please describe:
- your initial creative idea;
- the story or inspiration behind it;
- how the concept could use part or all the basketball-court surface.

b. Response to the site and community

Explain:
- how the concept responds to Croydon Playground Reserve and its surrounding context;
- how it relates to the area's identity, history, culture or community;
- how it would contribute to the reserve's character and sense of place; and
- how it would support the reserve's role as a neighbourhood place for play, gathering and connection.

c. Practicality and feasibility

Provide an initial explanation of:
- the proposed materials and application or installation method;
- how the artwork would retain the court's safe and functional use;
- how durability, weather exposure, maintenance and public safety would be considered; and
- any significant installation, access or technical requirements you have identified.
- detailed technical specifications are not required at the EOI stage.

d. Public experience and interaction

Explain how the proposed artwork would:
- create a welcoming, inclusive and engaging public experience;
- be experienced by people of different ages, abilities and backgrounds; and
- encourage interest, interaction, enjoyment or connection within the reserve.

e. Capacity to deliver

Briefly describe:
- how your previous experience demonstrates your ability to develop and deliver the concept;
- your availability and capacity to complete the project within the required timeframe;
- any key project risks or delivery considerations you have identified.

f. Indicative budget

Provide an indicative budget showing how the available commission budget of $24,000 excluding GST would be allocated.

- The budget should identify, as applicable:
    - artist fees;
    - design development;
    - materials;
    - surface preparation;
    - fabrication or production;
    - equipment hire;
    - travel and transport;
    - installation;
    - subcontractors;
    - protective coatings;
    - insurance;
    - contingency; and
    - any other project costs.

The indicative budget may be refined during the paid concept-development stage however must stay within the overall budget allocation of $24,000.

g. Referees

- Provide the names and contact details of two professional referees who can comment on your ability to develop and deliver relevant public art, outdoor artwork or comparable projects.

SELECTION PROCESS & CRITERIA

Council will undertake a two-stage selection process.

Stage 1 - Expression of Interest
Artists submit an Expression of Interest addressing the requirements outlined in this brief.

Stage 2 - Paid concept development
A shortlist of two artists will be invited to participate in a paid concept development stage. Shortlisted artists will receive a fee of **$500 (excluding GST)** to further develop their concept proposal. This stage may include a project briefing, facilitated site visit and further discussion with Council.

Final selection
Following assessment of the concept proposals, one artist or artist collective will be selected and contracted to deliver the final artwork.

The selection panel consisting of Council staff and community representatives will assess submissions against the following criteria. The panel's decision will be final and binding.

Selection criterion	What the panel will consider	Weighting
1. Artistic quality and creative concept	Strength, originality and clarity of the initial concept; quality and distinctiveness of the artistic response; potential to create an engaging and memorable public artwork; and quality and relevance of previous work.	35%
2. Response to the site and community context	Meaningful response to Croydon Playground Reserve and its surrounding context; contribution to the reserve's identity, character and sense of place; support for play, gathering and connection; and consideration of people of different ages, abilities and backgrounds.	25%
3. Practicality, safety and feasibility	Suitability of the proposed materials and installation method; retention of the court's safe and functional use; durability, weather exposure, maintenance and public safety; and consideration of technical, access and installation requirements.	20%
4. Capacity to deliver within the budget and timeframe	Demonstrated ability to deliver comparable projects; relevant experience and role in previous projects; availability and capacity to meet the required timeframe; management of key delivery risks; and a realistic, complete and achievable budget within the **$24,000 excluding GST** commission fee.	20%

TIMELINE

Stage	Timing
EOI Opens	Friday 6 November 2026
EOI Closes	Midnight, Sunday 6 December 2026
EOI Assessment	Thursday 10 December 2026

Shortlisted Artists Notified	Friday 18 December 2026
Concept Development	Sunday 31 January 2027
Concept Presentations (if required)	Week commencing 8 February 20274
Preferred Artist Selection	On or before Friday 12 February 2027
Artwork Completed	On or before Wednesday 30 June 2027
Handover	On or before Wednesday 30 June 2027

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit your EOI **by midnight Sunday 6 December 2026** to psilvano@charlessturt.sa.gov.au

For more information, contact:
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APPENDIX 1: SITE DIMENSIONS

Approximate court dimensions: 9.7 metres × 9.9 metres. Artists may propose an artwork using part or all of the court surface.





