

## 2026 OPEN CALL BUS PROJECTS

**Deadline:** Sun. 28th Sept. 2025, 11:59pm (AEST). Apply online via our website: [busprojects.org.au/program/apply](https://busprojects.org.au/program/apply)

Bus Projects invites artists, curators, collectives, and creatives to submit proposals for our 2026 artistic program. We are seeking bold, rigorous, and experimental ideas for exhibitions, public programs, performances, and more.

Founded in 2001 by a group of artists and designers, Bus Projects was originally located at 117 Little Lonsdale St in Naarm Melbourne's CBD. Bus Projects' early years were characterised by experimental and interdisciplinary programming, championing generations of pioneering artists working in ephemeral mediums such as video, sound, installation and performance.

As we celebrate our 25th anniversary in 2026, we're re-centring our commitment to our origins in experimentation, self-determined practice, and artist-led production.

## EXHIBITIONS IN 2026

The 2026 program will consist of 11 exhibitions selected from the open call within the two exhibiting streams Gallery 1 & Project Space. 2 exhibitions in our program will be dedicated to celebrating the 25th Anniversary, including the annual fundraiser exhibition.

Exhibition duration: Shows will run for 3 weeks, with dedicated time for install and de-install.

## WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

We are looking for proposals that:

- Engage deeply with experimentation in form, process, or concept
- Reflect social, political, or cultural responsiveness
- Offer new directions or departures in an artist's practice

We welcome applications from:

- Artists and curators at all stages of their careers
- Solo & group exhibitions/projects
- Creatives who have not previously shown with Bus Projects
- Artists from historically underrepresented or structurally excluded communities

## APPLICATION STREAMS

Exhibiting at Bus Projects is free

- Gallery 1: \$1,150 + 12% superannuation (NAVA minimum) paid to exhibitor/s
- Project Space: \$500 project fee + 12% superannuation (NAVA minimum) paid to exhibitor/s

## WHAT WE PROVIDE

- A 3-week exhibition in one or both gallery spaces
- Artist-fees in line with industry standards
- Installation/de-install assistance
- Access to limited technical equipment (AV gear, media players, projectors, screens)
- Marketing via website, email, and social media
- Public event (opening, closing, or talk)
- Project support including install assistance, curatorial input, promotion and letters of support for funding applications

## WHAT WE ASK OF YOU

- Collaborate with the Bus team on project development
- Provide timely text/images for marketing
- Be present for install/deinstall unless otherwise agreed
- Follow all OHS and safety protocols

## ABOUT THE SPACE

- Gallery 1: 6.7 x 5.6m, Gallery 2: 2.3 x 5.6m
- Ceiling height: 3.4m, walls: 3m high
- Some walls have brick backing (drilling limitations)
- [Downloadable floor plan](#)
- [Downloadable equipment register](#)

## ACCESSIBILITY

Further information about physical access and navigation, refer to our Access Document & Visual Story.

- 2-minute walk from 96 tram (Stop 20)
- Ground floor entry, some uneven footpaths
- Entry widths: Front/Gallery 2: 79cm; Gallery 1: 81cm; Toilet: 68cm
- Accessible, gender-neutral toilet on-site
- Auslan interpretation available upon request for public programs and events

## SELECTION PROCESS

Applications are peer-reviewed by the Artist Committee and Bus Projects staff. Criteria:

- Concept strength and clarity
- Artistic merit and risk-taking
- Feasibility within gallery constraints
- Alignment with Bus Projects' curatorial vision
- Contribution to diversity of practices and perspectives

## FURTHER INFORMATION

[About Bus Projects](#) & [History of Bus Projects](#)

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Notifications: 4–6 weeks after application deadline.

Selected projects scheduled in consultation with staff.

**Drop-in Information Session: Sat. 20 Sept. 2025, 10-2pm**

## QUESTIONS OR ACCESS NEEDS

To apply via non-written formats (e.g. video/audio) or for any further questions please contact Kyle McIntyre, Gallery Manager: [kyle@busprojects.org.au](mailto:kyle@busprojects.org.au).