

2024

**DAREBIN ARTS SPEAKEASY
PRESENTATION AND DEVELOPMENTS
PROGRAM
GUIDELINES**



**Darebin
Arts**

Arterial
by Na Djinang Circus
Photo by Darren Gill



The Rainbow Tree
by Sarah Ward & Bec Matthews
Photo by Theresa Harrison

The Darebin Arts Speakeasy program recognises the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people who are the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land. We acknowledge their continuing connection to land, water and culture. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

For 10 years, Darebin Arts has played an integral role in Australia's arts landscape as an influential hub for performing artists to develop and present innovative new work. The Darebin Arts Speakeasy program partners with artists and organisations to generate thrilling artistic presentations for audiences and engage our diverse community. It aims to provide the highest quality experiences to audiences at the Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre and the Darebin Arts Centre.

With a strong focus on equity and inclusivity, Darebin Arts Speakeasy plays an integral role in Australia's artistic cultural ecosystem, working with independent artists and small to medium companies to develop and present new Australian works that interrogates our society, celebrates our diversity and champions the world we want to live in. Works are chosen through an open applications process, led by panel of local independent artists and Darebin Arts programming staff.

The program incorporates a suite of access initiatives for artists and audiences to ensure arts participation for everyone. We work with artists to provide access services that suit the needs of each production, such as Aslan interpreted sessions, audio described sessions, social scripts and relaxed performances. Our aim is to ensure people of all abilities are represented on stage and off, empowered in decision making processes and supported to engage with creative culture in meaningful ways.

We look to program works that are viable in their development and presentation and can demonstrate an empathy with our Programming Priorities, which include original and compelling contributions to a cultural conversation; First Nations-led work; Addressing the Climate Emergency and Access for all.

Our Programming Priorities are guided by our [2041 Community Vision](#), which positions Darebin as a place that:

- Nurtures an equitable, vibrant and connected community
- Respects and supports First Nations people, valuing Country
- Commits to mitigating the climate emergency

Underpinning this vision is the Council strategic goal of making Darebin a centre for creative industry and the arts.

The program is not guided by theme but looks to artists for their ability to speak to the questions of our time. Over the past ten years dominant features of the program include First Nations-led work, diverse local voices, fierce environmentalism, and access for all. Through the support of our independent curatorial panel, the program champions artists who push these conversations forward.

Our program will also look to align with strategic goals as detailed in the [Darebin Council Plan 2021 - 2025](#), such as

- Deepens Darebin's commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- Helps to build an inclusive and empowered community
- Promotes Darebin as a centre for creative industry and the arts
- Increases access to Council's services, infrastructure and programs by groups who are under-represented.
- Ensuring Darebin is a leader in responding to the climate emergency by supporting community to engage and drive this dialogue.

Body of Work + QWERTY
by Atalanta Eke, RDYSTDY & Daniel Jenatsch
Photo by Gregory Lorenzutti





Applications are now open for both Developments and Presentations of performance-based works at Darebin arts venues in 2024. All artists and companies are encouraged to apply, you do not have to be a Darebin resident.

The latest round of this highly successful program aims to build upon our previous partnerships in staging a broad variety of works to enthusiastic audiences. Performance works for both Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre and Darebin Arts Centre are invited to apply. The available spaces at the venues include:

- **Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre**
Presentations - Main Hall & Studio 1
Developments - Studio spaces & meeting rooms
- **Darebin Arts Centre**
Presentations - Main Theatre & Grevillea Room
Developments - Studio spaces

The two streams open for application are:

- **Developments** – Projects that are still being explored, and where time, studio space and cash support would help you and your team investigate and refine the material.
- **Presentations** – Works that are sufficiently tested and developed, and you and your team are now ready to put into production. They should only require up to four weeks in our spaces before they are presented to an audience. Presentations are required to have their teams mostly confirmed at the time of application and a clear plan for obtaining additional financial support if needed. As Darebin is making a considerable investment in the works, each company is required to collaborate with the Arts Programming team in the delivery and marketing of the shows.

We are looking for a broad mix of artistic disciplines – circus, music, dance, theatre, live art, participatory work, etc. Festivals, artists and companies involved in previous Speakeasy developments and presentations include:

Bloomshed,
Leah Shelton, Na Djinang
Circus, **Atlanta Eke**, RDYSTDY, **Rawcus**,
Double Water Sign, **Susie Dee and Melissa Reeves**,
Joel Bray, **Michele Lee**, Alisdair Macindoe, **Riot Stage**, Richard
Frankland and Bidy Connor, **Stephanie Lake and Robin Fox**,
ILBIJERRI Theatre Company, **Melbourne Comedy Festival**, Next Wave,
Melbourne Festival, Melbourne Fringe, Hot Brown Honey, **Emilie Collyer**,
Mish Grigor, **Dancenorth**, Taree Sansbury, **Counterpilot**, Anna Seymour, **Sarah
Houbolt**, Lab Kelpie, **The Listies**, Joshua Pether, **Kerensa Diball**, Yuhui Ng-Rodriguez,
Disability Slapstick Plan, Victoria Chiu, **Joseph O'Farrell (JOF)**, Everybody NOW,
Lemony S Puppet Theatre, Ridiculusmus, **LaBoite**, Maurial Spearim, **Little Ones
Theatre**, Bec Jensen and Sarah Aiken, **New Working Group**, House of Vnholy, **Patrick
McCarthy**, Speak Percussion, **Zoey Dawson and Declan Greene**, Rachel Perks, **Elbow
Room**, Daniel Kitson, **Gravity & Other Myths**, Yana Alana, **Family of Strangers**, MKA
- Theatre of New Writing, **Paula van Beek**, No Show, **The Hayloft Project**, Sammy
J, **Candy Bowers**, James Welsby, **Amy McPherson**, Emma Fishwick, **Thomas
ES Kelly**, The Wau Wau Sisters, **Zoe Coombs Marr**, Sandra Long, **Evelyn
Krape**, Anni Davey, **Yumi Umiumare**, Circa, **Finucane and Smith**, Troy
Nankervis, **Angela Goh**, Dylan Sheridan, **Elise Hearst**, Stella Young,
Sabrina D'Angelo, Tommy Bradson, **The Last Tuesday
Society**, Nat Abbott, **Nat Cursio Co.**, Nicola Gunn,
Louris van de Geer, Bron Batten and
many more...



Slip
by Rebecca Jensen
Photo by Sarah Walker

What We Provide for Developments

- Up to two weeks of access to available studio or meeting room spaces in our venues to work on your project
- A stipend payment of \$2,000
- Access to our Arts Programming staff for advice on further development of your work to get it to the next stage of presentation. This may include marketing tips, what to consider to get it ready to tour, script feedback or sector engagement ideas



Paradise Lost
by Bloomshed after Milton
Photo by Sarah Walker

What We Provide for Presentations

We provide a total package of around \$40,000 for each presentation of a season. A typical Speakeasy production season involves 10 performances across two weeks. For smaller seasons and one-off events this package will be less. Please note that fees, staffing, equipment provided, theatre hire hours etc. varies from project to project and is negotiated and modified depending on each show's specific needs.

Presentations receive:

- Up to four weeks of rehearsal time in one of our studio spaces
- Up to two weeks of presentation time in either Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre or Darebin Arts Centre
- The use of available venue technical equipment (see the [Darebin Arts website](#) for technical specifications of each space)
- An artist/company fee – this is dependent upon the size and shape of the project
 - A 10 performance Speakeasy production season receives up to \$18,000 in artist/company fees and a box office split of 80/20 (Darebin obtaining 80%)
 - Smaller production seasons receive a lower artist/company fee and a different box office split in proportion to the production and potential box office
- Up to 60 hours of technical staff support during bump in and bump out, and a technician on duty during your season.
- Front of House and Box Office staffing for the run of your season
- Access services – We work with artists to provide access services that suit the needs of each production, such as Auslan interpreted session, audio described sessions, social scripts and relaxed performances. Please ensure that accessibility is considered as part of the project from the beginning of your process.
- Marketing and publicity support – marketing is a collaborative effort between the artist/company and Darebin Arts' marketing team. Successful applicants must be able to provide copy and images in a timely manner and run their own marketing campaign that compliments Darebin's efforts (our support includes photoshoot and production image support, copy review, publicity and a mix of digital and print distribution).

It is worth repeating that fees and support are subject to change depending on the requirements and needs of each show.

Security
by Michelle Lee
Photo by Jodie Hutchinson





Criteria

Applications will be selected by the following criteria:

- 1. Creative and Cultural Merit**
- 2. Viability of the Project** (for Presentations only)
- 3. Impact of the Project**

These criteria will be guided by the following prompts:

Creative and Cultural Merit

- Is original, compelling, imaginative and timely
- Is clearly articulated and rigorously thought out
- Demonstrates an awareness of the work's artistic and cultural context
- Interrogates current community concerns and celebrations

Viability of the project (for Presentations only)

- Has a skilled team with the demonstrated capacity to deliver the proposed project
- Is it technically able to be delivered in the Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre or Darebin Arts Centre
- Demonstrates an understanding of the target audience and how to reach them
- Demonstrates the ability to deliver the work in the timeframe required
- If required, evidence of further support (government, philanthropic, private, etc.) as well as support from other sector and community organisations. A coherent and realistic plan to attract the required funding to stage the work is highly recommended.

Impact of the project

- How does the work align meaningfully with Darebin's 2024 Community Vision?
- How does the work make an original contribution to a cultural conversation?
- How does the work push your practice forward?
- How does the work engage meaningfully with community?
- How does the work contribute to the vitality and creativity of Darebin?

Applications must be submitted via the [SmartyGrants](#) platform. If an online form application is a significant barrier to you, please see below for the support contact details to discuss your idea.

Assessment Process

We have endeavoured to make the application process as streamlined as possible.

The three stages for programming selection are:

Stage 1 - Initial assessment - applications are assessed by a rotating panel made up of a diverse representation from the local creative community.

Stage 2 - Further detail - only applications progressed to Stage 2 will be asked for further detail to assist in understanding if we are a right fit for your work. This may include further discussions around the technical parameters the venue has, your vision for marketing materials or additional information required from your application. **Stage 3 - Initial Offer** - Once we are confident we can deliver everything you need to realise your work, we will be formulating the support package, agree on key milestones for technical and marketing information and season details. **Stage 4 - Contracting** - Once this information is provided a support package offer will be formally made.

Stage 3 - Initial Offer - Once we are confident, we can deliver everything you need to realise your work, we will formulate the support package, agree on key milestones for technical and marketing information and season details. Once this information is provided a support package offer will be formally made.

Stage 4 - Contracting

Stage 5 - Successful applications will then move to the delivery stage, working closely with Arts Programming and the venues teams to deliver the projects to set milestones. Milestones including the confirmation of ticketing, production and marketing details must be met in order for the projects to be delivered.

Batsh*t
by Leah Shelton
Photo by Pia Johnson



How to apply:

Applications are submitted online using: <http://darebin.smartygrants.com.au>

Step 1: Access the SmartyGrants webpage - by using the above link.

Step 2: Log in (if you haven't used SmartyGrants to submit an on-line application form before, you need to register. To do this you need to have an email address and set up a password.)

Step 3: Select **Darebin Arts Speakeasy Developments 2024** or **Darebin Arts Speakeasy Presentations 2024** and begin your application.

Step 4: Select one of two ways to submit a Presentation application:

- Written application
- Video application

Step 5: Ensure you have provided as much information as possible and contacted Darebin Arts if you have any questions.

Key dates:

Applications Open: **28 April, 9am**

Applications Close: **28 May, 11:59pm**

information session: **10 May, 6pm** [RSVP HERE](#)

Successful applicants will be informed in July

Presentations will occur between March and November 2024

Eligibility Information:

- Speakeasy Presentations cannot then receive funding from other current council support programs.
- Applicants do not have to be a Darebin resident to apply to be part of 2024 Darebin Arts Speakeasy programming
- Darebin staff are not eligible to apply for this program

Application Support

An information session will be held online on **Wednesday 10 May** from **6-7pm**. If you would like to attend please [RSVP HERE](#) or email april.erskine@darebin.vic.gov.au. This will be recorded and be accessible from the Darebin Arts website the following day until applications close.

Applicants can contact Programming, Marketing or Production staff between **9am - 11am** each **Tuesday** across the application open dates. Please see names and emails below to book in a time!

April Erskine - Marketing Supervisor Speakeasy

If you are unsure about who your show is best suited for, what kind of materials we will require from you or how you will collaborate with us to promote a season, feel free to make a time within the above stated dates and hours by emailing april.erskine@darebin.vic.gov.au.

Mark Pritchard & Rosie Dwyer - Senior Arts Programmers and Beau McCafferty - Head of Programming

If you want to know more about the Speakeasy program, the selection criteria or support to finalise your application, please feel free to make a time within the above stated dates and hours with either Beau, Mark or Rosie by emailing beau.mccafferty@darebin.vic.gov.au, mark.pritchard@darebin.vic.gov.au or rosie.dwyer@darebin.vic.gov.au.

CITY OF DAREBIN

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