

DAREBIN ARTS SPEAKEASY

2025 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

APPLICATION GUIDELINES



**Darebin
Arts**

No More Sugar, No More Tea (2022) by
Richard J Frankland; image by Yunis
Tmeizeh

ABOUT DAREBIN ARTS SPEAKEASY

Darebin Arts Speakeasy is Darebin City Council's award-winning year-round independent performance and development program. For more than 10 years, the program has curated and invested in contemporary dance, circus, theatre and multi-disciplinary artists whose works offer audiences a dynamic and diverse mix of stories that matter to the community, celebrate cultural diversity and reflect the times we're living in.

Darebin Arts has backed many of the groundbreaking artists and companies that make Melbourne's arts sector so iconic: Bloomshed, Na Djinang Circus, Atlanta Eke, RDYSTDY, Double Water Sign, Rawcus, Gravity Dolls, The Wholesome Hour, Susie Dee and Melissa Reeves, Joel Bray, Michele Lee, Alisdair Macindoe, Riot Stage, Richard J Frankland, Stephanie Lake, Ilbijeri Theatre Company, 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, Everybody NOW, Lemony S Puppet Theatre, Ridiclusmus, La Boite Theatre, Maurial Spearim, Little Ones Theatre, Rebecca Jensen, Sarah Aiken, New Working Group, House of Vnholy, Speak Percussion, Zoey Dawson, Declan Greene, Elbow Room, Gravity & Other Myths, Yana Alana, Family of Strangers, MKA, Paula van Beek, No Show, The Hayloft Project, Sammy J, Candy Bowers, Zoe Coombs Marr, Sandra Long, Yumi Umiumare, Circa, Finucane and Smith, Stella Young, Leah Shelton and many more.

DAREBIN ARTS ACKNOWLEDGES THE WURUNDJERI-WOI WURRUNG PEOPLE AS THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF LAND IN WHICH DAREBIN STANDS. WE RECOGNISE THEIR CONTINUING CONNECTION TO LAND, WATER AND CULTURE. WE PAY OUR RESPECT TO ELDERS PAST AND PRESENT.

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

Our Development Program offers artists the opportunity to develop and test new performance work without the pressure of production, and connect with a community of practice. Successful applicants receive a cash stipend and up to 2 weeks of in-kind room hire in one of our venues: Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre or Darebin Arts Centre.

Works are selected by application for their creative merit, viability and potential impact for audiences, the art form, and the Darebin community.

We value work that 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
- Access for all

The program is not guided by theme, but champions artists who push culture forward and show us something new.

This program is for projects at any stage of development, but without a confirmed production outcome. Projects are selected by an open application, and all artists and companies are encouraged to apply. You do not have to be a Darebin resident.

PACKAGE OF SUPPORT

AVAILABLE SPACES

Developments receive:

- Up to 2 weeks of rehearsal time in one of our spaces
- A stipend of \$2,000

There are 3 types of spaces on offer for Speakeasy Developments in 2025, at various times in the year. As part of your application, we'll ask you to select all suitable spaces and broad dates. If your application is successful, we'll refine these options with you based on what's available.

The rooms include tables, chairs, whiteboards, and a basic sound system or Bluetooth speaker, but no other technical equipment or technical support. Access to the room is for the selected team members only.

Any additional guests, showings, or other public engagement must be negotiated with the Darebin Arts team in advance.



All images by Matt Krumins

NORTHCOTE TOWN HALL ARTS CENTRE (NTHAC)

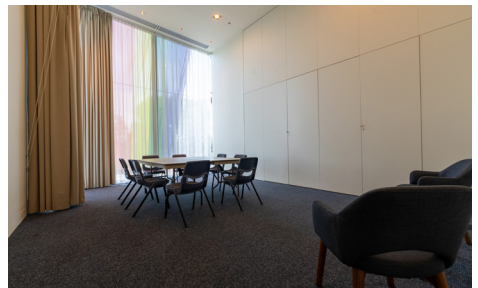
This iconic performing arts centre sits amid a busy strip of shops, bars, restaurants and music venues on High St, Northcote.

NTHAC Studios in the West Wing have solid floors, and can achieve a full blackout. These are available during business hours only (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday).

NTHAC Meeting Rooms in the East Wing have carpeted floors and plenty of natural light. These rooms are available beyond business hours (8am to 11pm, Monday to Sunday, excluding public holidays).



A studio at Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre.



One of the NTHAC meeting rooms.



Images by Matt Krumins

DAREBIN ARTS CENTRE (DAC)

This dedicated performing arts centre on Bell St, Preston was built in 1996, with an expansive, welcoming foyer and large on-site carpark.

The DAC Studio is an inviting 6.75 m x 15.7m space with polished floorboards and plenty of natural lighting. This room is available beyond business hours (8am to 11pm, Monday to Sunday, excluding public holidays).



The Studio at Darebin Arts Centre

CRITERIA

Applications will be selected by the following criteria:

1. Creative and Cultural Merit
2. Viability of the Project
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 thought out
- Demonstrates an awareness of the work's artistic and cultural context
- Interrogates current community concerns and celebrations

Viability of the Project

- Has an appropriate team attached
- Is appropriate to the space

Impact of the Project

- Offers audiences something original, unexpected and entertaining
- Aligns meaningfully with Darebin's 2041 Community Vision
- Makes an original contribution to a cultural conversation

- Pushes the artist's practice forward
- Engages meaningfully with underrepresented parts of the community
- Contributes 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

Applicants are assessed by the Darebin Arts programming team against the above criteria.

Applicants will be selected, at which point we will refine your selection of dates and venues, before making a formal offer.

All applicants will be notified by Monday 16 December 2024.

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 online 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 2025 and begin drafting your application.

Step 4: Contact Darebin Arts Programming Team if you have any questions

Step 5: Submit your application by 11:59PM Sunday 1 December 2024

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Once successful, Speakeasy Developments cannot then receive funding from other current Darebin Council support programs for the same stage of activity.

Applicants do not have to be a Darebin resident to apply

Due to the nature of the concurrent activities at our venues, the successful applicant must have or obtain a valid Working With Children Check.

Applicants must be based in Victoria, though their collaborators may be based elsewhere.

Darebin City Council staff are not eligible to apply for this program.

KEY DATES

Applications Close: 11:59PM Sunday 1 December 2024

All applicants will be informed by Monday 16 December 2024

APPLICATION SUPPORT

If you want to know more about the Speakeasy program, the selection criteria or need support to finalise your application, please feel free to email your questions to the programming team or make a time to chat with us.

Stella Charls – Senior Arts Programmer

stella.charls@darebin.vic.gov.au

Mark Pritchard – Senior Arts
Programmer

mark.pritchard@darebin.vic.gov.au