

Guest curator-in-residence - overview and application guidelines

OPPORTUNITY: Guest curator-in-residence program

LOCATION: Arts Project Australia (APA) Studio Northcote, Victoria, Australia

DURATION: 12 month residency (around 2 days per week, by agreement, to meet milestones)

DATES: 1 August 2026 to 1 August 2027 (with exhibition outcome in 2027–2028)

CURATOR FEE: \$30,000 fee (+ 12% superannuation)



ABOUT ARTS PROJECT AUSTRALIA:

Arts Project Australia (APA) is an internationally leading visual arts organisation that champions neurodivergent artists and artists with intellectual disability. Through our studio program, exhibition opportunities, and professional development pathways, we empower APA artists to develop their practice and build meaningful careers in the contemporary arts sector.

The APA studio, located in Northcote, is the engine room of the organisation, functioning as a dynamic creative space where artists develop their practices. Over 150 artists with disability participate, developing in-depth folios of work in mediums including photography, digital art, animation, sculpture, printmaking, painting, drawing, ceramics, and zines. The APA Gallery, located at Collingwood Yards, presents and promotes opportunities for our artists.

ABOUT THE GUEST RESIDENCY PROGRAM:

In 2026 APA is proud to launch a new Guest Residency Program, supported by a two-year grant funded by The Ian Potter Foundation. The residency program will offer three creative residencies per year:

- Two for practicing artists (6 months each)
- One for a curator (12 months)

The residencies offer an inspiring environment for guest artists and curators to engage in creative dialogue with APA artists. While APA regularly collaborates with curators, artists and designers, this residency program will be the first time we have created space within our studio for a prolonged creative exchange. The goals of this program are to:

- deepen the engagement between APA artists and their peers.
- foster creative excellence and quality art-making in the studio.

ABOUT THE GUEST CURATOR-IN-RESIDENCE OPPORTUNITY:

As a guest curator-in-residence, you will spend around 2 days per week in the APA studio and gallery exploring your curatorial practice in connection with APA studio artists. Our ideal curator-in-residence is excited by the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of APA artists, and

to champion neurodivergent artists and artists with intellectual disability in contemporary art. During the residency you will have the chance to:

- build an understanding of the work of APA artists
- research and write about the work of APA artists for specific projects
- develop an exhibition in collaboration with APA artists for the APA Gallery in 2027
- present 3 informal talks for APA artists and staff on contemporary art relevant to your curatorial practice
- build your understanding of how to integrate best-practice accessibility into exhibition design, interpretation, and communication.

HOW TO APPLY

If you are a curator interested in this dynamic residency opportunity, we would love to hear from you.

Before applying we strongly recommend visiting the FAQ section on our website.

APA values diversity. People with disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, LGBTQIA+ people and culturally and linguistically diverse applicants are strongly encouraged to apply.

If you've never been to the APA studio and would like to meet us before submitting an application, we encourage you to book in to one of the available studio tour sessions outlined in the timeline section below (please note, spaces are limited due to the nature of the studio).

Please submit your application by **Thursday 9 April** using this [Jotform application link](#).

You will be asked to fill in the following fields:

1. Letter of introduction (800 word limit)

To help us assess if you are right for this residency please include in your letter of introduction:

- A brief statement about your curatorial practice and areas of interest
- Your motivation for applying for the residency
- Your initial thinking around an exhibition at the APA Gallery and/or research you would like to undertake
- Your experience and approach to collaboration with artists

2. Curriculum Vitae (800 word limit)

Include your full name, contact details, any relevant website links to your curatorial work, and the details of a person who can speak to your practice and suitability for this residency.

3. Documentation of Curatorial Work (maximum 5 attachments, 3MB per file)

Provide examples from one or two recent curatorial projects. This may include:

- Curatorial writing
- Exhibition installation images

Alternative submission format application:

We accept alternative submission formats, that may include video (up to 5 mins), audio (up to 5 mins), and Auslan video (we can arrange interpretation of your video if needed). The Jotform application form supports alternative submission formats.

Please contact Betty Musgrove: residencies@artsproject.org.au if you have any technical issues with your application or would like to submit in an alternative format.

Timeline

Applications for all 2026 residencies open	Monday 2 March 2026
Studio tour sessions (bookings required)*	Tuesday 17 March, 10:30 –11am Saturday 21 March, 10:30 –11am
Applications for all 2026 residencies close	Thursday 9 April 2026 at 5pm
Applications reviewed by panel, and shortlisted applicants interviewed at the Studio	April 2026
All applicants notified of outcome	Mid May 2026
Guest curator-in-residence commences	August 2026

*To book a studio tour, please visit: [APA Guest Residency Studio Tour](#)

How applicants will be assessed

Applications will be reviewed by a panel made up of APA staff and independent assessors. The panel will recommend a small number of shortlisted candidates for interview at the Studio. Each shortlisted candidate will have an opportunity to meet with APA staff and artists before an offer is made to the successful candidate.

Candidates will be assessed on the following:

- the strength and clarity of curatorial thinking and previous experience
- ability to work collaboratively and respectfully with APA artists
- commitment to undertaking the residency
- feasibility of the application