



Artist's Brief

Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens

Commission	Artwork for the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens
Eligibility	Tasmanian Aboriginal artists who meet our general eligibility criteria
Selection process	<p>The selection committee considers all eligible applications against the selection criteria. The committee then:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• shortlist up to four artists to develop their ideas further (each artist will receive a fee of \$1,200)
Location	11 Lower Domain Road, Queens Domain Tasmania 7000
Audience	International, interstate and intrastate visitors of all ages.
Fee	Up to \$72,000 + GST (if applicable) for artwork concept, project management, detailed design, fabrication, footings and installation
Key dates	<p>Applications close: Monday 14 August 2025</p> <p>Artwork installed by: TBC September 2027</p>
Contact	<p>Mish Meijers, Public Art Officer</p> <p>Ph 03 6165 6672</p> <p>mish.meijers@arts.tas.gov.au</p>
Apply	<p>www.arts.tas.gov.au/public_art</p>

The commission

The Department of StateGrowth and the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens invite expressions of interest from Tasmanian Aboriginal artists to create contemporary artwork for the gardens.

Background

The Botanical Gardens sits on Country cared for by the Muwinina people. Extensive living landscapes hold their story within the Gardens, with cultural elements dating back over 5,000 years.

Established in 1818 and located in the Queens Domain in Hobart, the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (RTBG) is a state government statutory organisation, governed by the *Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens Act 2002*, which is administered by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania.

The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (RTBG, the Gardens) is Australia's second oldest botanic gardens and home to significant botanical collections, heritage infrastructure, much of which dates to the establishment of the Gardens.

More than 461,000 people visit the Botanical Gardens each year, making it one of Tasmania's most visited attractions. It is popular with international, interstate and local visitors.

The RTBG has been allocated \$7.6 million to enhance the visitor experience by undertaking access improvements, refurbishments of the Visitor Centre and developing of a new welcome point near the Garden's main entrance. The construction of the project started in 2024 and will continue into 2025.

For more information about Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens visit: <https://gardens.tas.gov.au/>

Objectives

Arts Tasmania and RTBG would like to commission contemporary artwork for the outside areas in the garden – see plan attached below.

Tasmanian Aboriginal artists who wish to work in collaboration with non-Aboriginal artists can apply, as long as it is Tasmanian Aboriginal-led.

We are seeking expressions of interest from Tasmanian Aboriginal artists to create artwork for the Botanical Gardens that will:

- be distinctive and contemporary
- appeal to the wide age range of daily visitors
- be understood by local and international audience

Artists are invited to propose **artwork concepts and materials that are robust for an outdoor environment and safe for public**. Artists may prefer to propose either one artwork, or a series of smaller works.

See the attached plan provided with areas for possible artwork sites. Other areas in the garden maybe considered in negotiation with the gardens. But please note, there are some areas in the garden that are not able to site an artwork.

Other requirements

- Artwork should be designed to last up to 10 to 15 years. Concepts with a shorter lifespan can be negotiated with the selection committee at the shortlist proposal phase.
- All artworks must be safe for the public.
- The budget will need to cover all aspects of the commission including (but not limited to) design, project management, fabrication, footings, installation and any permits required.
- Information collected as part of the sites Aboriginal Heritage consultation can be made available to the shortlisted artists.

Apply

You can apply online via Smartygrants. You should include

- information about your artistic practice and how you would approach the commission.
- a brief biography or CV.
- artistic support material – examples of previous work

Concept drawings will not be required at this stage and will not be considered by the selection committee.

How it works

Selection committee

The selection committee is comprised of building users, capital project managers and representatives of partner agencies.

- Jaqui Cooke, Project Manager, Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
- Tasmanian Aboriginal arts representative - TBC
- Yann Gagnon, Director of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
- Mish Meijers, Public Art Officer, Arts Tasmania, Department of State Growth
- Philip Mussared – Board Member - Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens
- Sarah Wilcox, Director, Cooee Tunapri Pty Ltd

Members of the selection committee may nominate a colleague to participate in the selection process on their behalf.

Selection process

The selection committee will assess all eligible expressions of interest against the criteria below to select a shortlist:

	Shortlist criteria
Quality	Are the key personnel experienced, or have the potential to develop and grow? Is the artist's work distinctive?
Planning	What is the track record of the artist or artist team to manage projects?
Benefit	How would receiving this commission benefit the artist or artist team, the Tasmanian Government Art Site Scheme, the site and the site users?

Shortlisted artists will be asked to prepare a more detailed concept proposal.

The selection committee will choose an artist to work on the commission using the criteria below:

	Artist selection criteria
Suitability	To what extent do the artistic concept, design, materials and delivery method address the brief?
Viability	How feasible is the project given the commission budget, constraints and timelines?
Capability	To what extent does the team demonstrate the necessary skills and experience to deliver the commission?
Vision	How well does the proposal demonstrate a creative or innovative vision in terms of concept, media, construction methods, materials and/or collaborations?

Commissioning process

Shortlist

If you are selected as a shortlisted artist, you will be asked to:

- meet at the Botanical Gardens for an information session and site exploration to assist you with working up a concept proposal
- develop a concept proposal and present this to the selection committee in person (if possible). This will include concept, sketches or mock-ups, an indication of timeline and draft budget

- provide an invoice for \$1,200 after the shortlist presentation

Commission agreement

If you are selected to work on the commission, you will be asked to:

- meet with us to discuss arrangements for the commission, such as payment instalments, roles and responsibilities, insurance
- sign a commissioning agreement to confirm this information in writing

Detailed design development

Once you have signed the commission agreement you will be asked to:

- produce a detailed design plan to realise your concept, including artwork specifications such as drawings
- make sure your design meets all relevant building standards
- report regularly to the selection committee as the commission progresses
- manage all aspects of design through to handover

Fabrication and/or installation

Once your detailed design has been approved by the selection committee you will be asked to:

- fabricate and/or install your artwork according to the detailed design plan
- meet all work health and safety and other requirements while on site
- keep us updated on progress and let us know as soon as possible if you need to vary the approved timeframe or design

Handover your artwork

Let us know as soon as possible when you are ready to complete your artwork so we can:

- make sure it meets the approved detailed design plan
- provide you with a handover certificate
- document it for our records
- promote it.

General information

The Tasmanian Government Art Site Scheme

This commission is supported through the Tasmanian Government Art Site Scheme. For information about the scheme please visit [the Arts Tasmania website](#).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island content

If your activity involves Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander content, your application must provide evidence of how you are working with the Aboriginal community. The Tasmanian Government's Office of Aboriginal Affairs can provide advice on working with Tasmanian Aboriginal people and organisations. Please also refer to Creative Australia's [Protocols for using First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property in the Arts](#).

Code of practice

Arts Tasmania encourages artists and arts organisations to comply with the National Association for the Visual Arts' [Code of Practice for Visual Arts, Craft and Design](#).

Workplace health and safety

Siting artworks in the public domain can result in safety risks for the public and for artists. The Department of State Growth requires that commissioned artists comply with [Tasmania's Work Health and Safety laws](#) and the [State Growth Work Health and Safety Contractor Standards](#).

If selected for the commission, you will need to have public liability insurance cover of at least \$10 million.

Working with vulnerable people

The [Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013](#) aims to protect vulnerable persons, including children and young people, from the risk of harm. It requires those working with children and young people to have a current registration and [Working with Vulnerable People \(WWVP\) card](#).

Please visit our website to see Arts Tasmania's [policy on working with children and young people](#).

