

# ENLIGHTEN FESTIVAL

EOI Guidelines

2025

Installations, activations and experiences

Submissions close Tuesday 10 September - 5pm

[Submit Your Proposal Here](#)

# WELCOME TO THE ENLIGHTEN FESTIVAL

The Enlighten Festival will be back for 2025 and will once again light up the nation's capital from Friday 28 February – Monday 10 March.

The Enlighten Festival brings Canberra to life with culture and creativity this Autumn. In 2025, Enlighten Festival will light up the National Attractions after dark in a stunning display of light, sound and movement, in celebration and revelation of Canberra's role in telling, caring for and sharing the story of this Country.

Now in its 15th year, the festival continues to go from strength to strength and in 2024 attracted over 301,000 visitors, generating \$3.84m of economic impact from visitor spend.

Artists and organisations are formally invited to lodge an Expression Of Interest for ***presenting installations, activations, performances and experiences*** as a part of the Enlighten Festival. Works can be either new works in development, or pre-existing work previously shown around Australia or internationally. We are considering work for the 2025 Festival, as well as 2026 and future Festivals.







# WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

We are expanding the scope of the EOI for the Festival this year. We are looking for *installations* that light up the National Triangle in compelling and dazzling ways, *activations* and *experiences* that create surprising and engaging moments for audiences, and *performances* that use the site in unexpected and entertaining ways.

This year, we are thinking about how the work of artists might create unique experiences at the Festival's *entrances creating thresholds* as people enter, works that create *unique experiences in surprising places* on the site, and experiences *that activate the spaces in between* the National Attractions so the whole site feels alive! We are looking for light based work, but we are also interested in proposals that help create an exciting, surprising atmosphere after dark in other ways too!

In 2025 the Enlighten Creative Vision is *Reflecting our Story* and we are looking for work that engages with this theme.

Your EOI should be for a project that can be delivered on the Festival site at the National Triangle. We are interested in projects at a range of scales, including smaller works that can be delivered for under \$5,000, to medium and larger scale projects with budgets of between \$20,000 - \$80,000 or above.

Performers and artists from diverse, cultural, gender, ability, LGBTQI and artistic backgrounds are encouraged to apply.



Voyage by Aether and Hermera

# ENLIGHTEN 2025: REFLECTING OUR STORY

**Reflecting our Story:** Celebrating Canberra's significant role in *telling, sharing, holding* and *writing* the many stories of this country - reflecting back to us, and reflecting on, our histories and achievements, our aspirations and limitless potential

It is known and celebrated that Canberra is home to the National Cultural Institutions and a community of ACT arts and cultural organisations, all a cohort with the shared mission of collecting, sharing, telling and penning the Australian story. ENLIGHTEN is the rare moment in the annual calendar where these caretakers of our stories are unified in time and place. For the Festival, the National Triangle comes alive as the only time of the year they simultaneously activate in celebration.

In this, ENLIGHTEN becomes more than another light festival: The aptness of the name ENLIGHTEN awakens through a Festival experience of revelation and knowledge all by shedding light on our champions of the Australian story that make their home in Canberra.

# ALIGNING WITH *REFLECTING OUR STORY*

EOIs for ENLIGHTEN 2025 could engage with these questions:

What are our stories - our histories, who are we today, what our possible futures?  
*and*

How can these stories be shared at ENLIGHTEN and/or prompt reflection?

To help answer this, your work could consider:

- What are the greatest stories you tell and that you champion?
- How do you tell these stories?
- What stories could you tell?

*Reflecting Our Story* also offers a variety of conceptual and aesthetic prompts:

## *Reflection*

Light moving and refracting  
Something secret revealed  
Surfaces, water  
Leading to change and transformation  
examination

Mirrors, glass  
Seeing oneself  
Contemplation, Meditation  
Self-reflection, consideration,

## *Storytelling*

Past, present and futures  
Writing, inscribing, noting and penning  
Speaking and oral stories  
Narratives  
Untold or rarely heard stories

History and news  
Books, pages, tomes  
Shared stories and community  
Recordings and documentation  
Storytellers themselves - who are they





# THINGS TO CONSIDER

Your proposed work should:

- Align with the theme *Reflecting Our Story*.
- Be weatherproof – works/materials will be left onsite for duration of the Festival (minimum 2 weeks) unless an alternative prior arrangement is made.
- Be durable – installation works will potentially be interacted with by thousands of people.
- Have all materials and specialist equipment for installing, deinstalling and/or performing the work provided by the artist/organisation.
- If the work proposed is a performance or experience, have a clear proposal of duration, location(s) and audience management strategies.
- Meet health and safety requirements under the WHS Act 2011, ensuring risk assessments, safe work practices, COVID safe practices, and engineering certifications are provided where and when applicable.
- Consider if the work is ready for presentation in 2025 or if you are proposing for a future year.



# FEE PROPOSAL

Applicants are to submit an **all-inclusive fee** proposal for their work as part of the EOI. This should include:

- Artist fee
- Freight
- Personnel transport and accommodation
- Hire fees for the duration of the event
- The cost of any equipment or personnel required for the creation, installation, delivery, and de-install of the work.

To maximise the opportunity for the public to engage with numerous works and performances on site, the Festival will assess submission to ensure a broad program of works of different scale – we are looking for works both big and small!

If you have questions about the program budget, please contact [entertainment@act.gov.au](mailto:entertainment@act.gov.au)



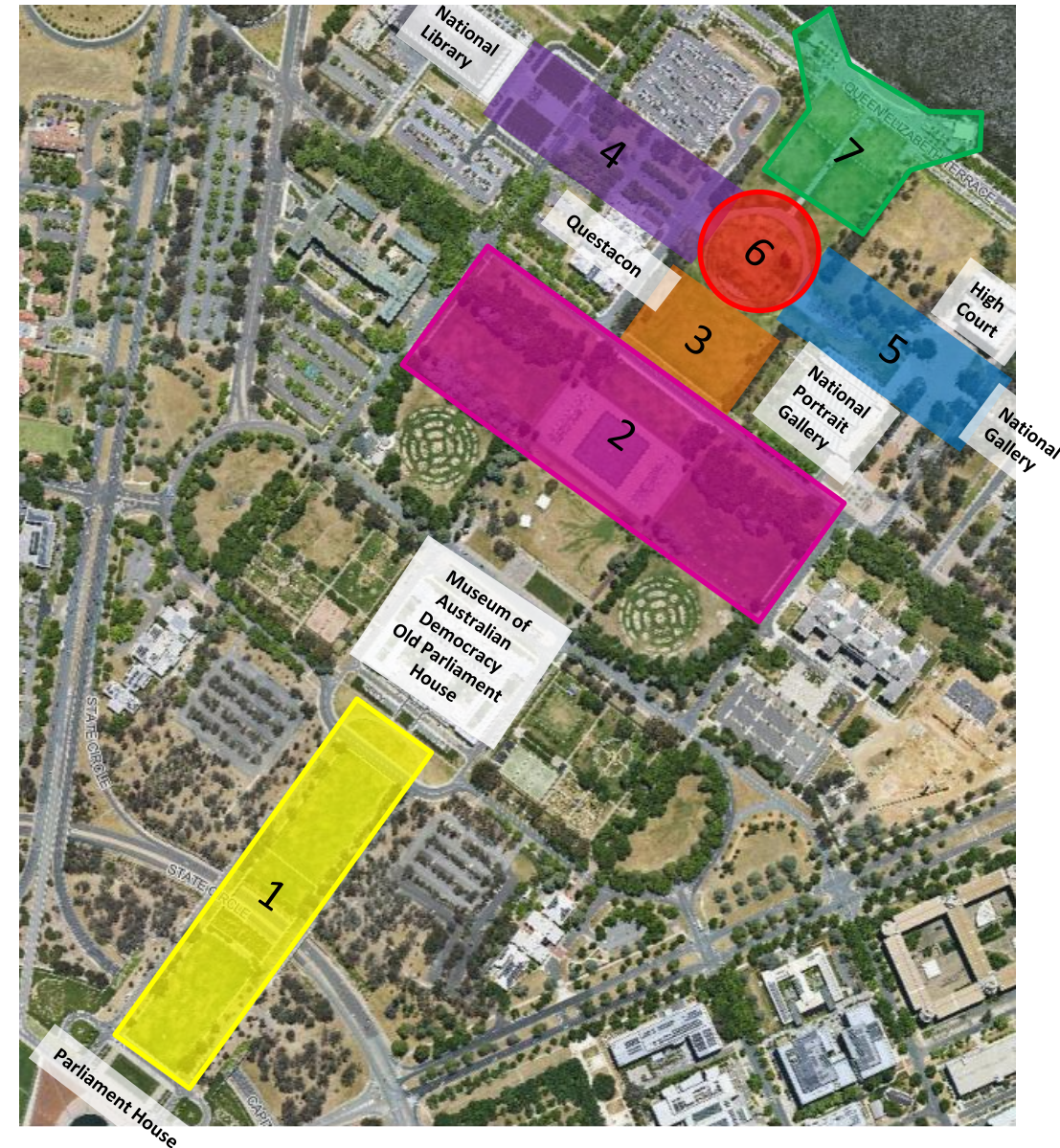


# LOCATIONS

Potential sites include:

1. Federation Mall
2. East and West Lawns including the (inoperative) Federation Centenary Fountains
3. John Dunmore Lang Place
4. Paths and walkways between the National Library of Australia and Questacon
5. Paths and walkways between the Portrait Gallery and National Gallery of Australia
6. Reconciliation Mound – Any proposals for this area must feature First Nation's work
7. Lawns adjacent to Reconciliation Place & Commonwealth Place and Commonwealth Place forecourt
8. Or your suggestion! Feel free to propose sites in you EOI.

Final installation sites are decided by Enlighten Festival



# SELECTION CRITERIA

The Festival will use the below criteria when considering the submissions:

## **Alignment with the Reflecting Our Story vision**

What part of the prompts above are considered? How does it engage conceptually and/or aesthetically with the vision? Is there a clear story being told or reflected?

## **Overall Program balance and variety of offerings across the Festival**

What experience is it offering visitors? Is there something unique or innovative in the offering? Does it reach or speak to a specific audience? Who and what does the offering represent?

## **Budget, viability and impact of investment**

Can it be delivered on time, on budget and safely? Is there a history of successful delivery? What is the value of the impact of the spend/investment?

## **Is creative, awe-inspiring, thought-provoking and contemporary**

What makes the offering exciting? What compelling ideas does it speak to? How will it excite audiences and create powerful experiences?

*Please note: The Enlighten Festival is a Curated Program. This means that not all applications submitted will be successful.*

Applications will ask for:

- Contact Details
- Information about yourself or your organisation's work
- What type of work are you proposing? (installation, performance, activation, or other)
- Is your work new or existing?
- What is your idea?
- What is the experience for the audience?
- How does your work align with the theme 'Reflecting Our Story'?
- Technical Requirements
- Fee Proposal

You can also submit a detailed pitch document for existing work as an attachment in place of answering the questions. Ensure that all questions asked in the form are clearly addressed in the document.



# HOW TO APPLY

1

Prepare your submission and register for the [Online Information Session](#).

2

Go to the online application here:  
[eventsact.festivalpro.com/form/AvGbSdMDRviTgatvdFgm/53](https://eventsact.festivalpro.com/form/AvGbSdMDRviTgatvdFgm/53)

3

Complete the application details as prompted, including uploads.  
If you would like to submit more than one work for consideration, please include all works as part of a single application.

4

Submit your Expression of Interest by **Tuesday 10 September – 5pm**

Successful EOIs will be contacted directly by Events ACT and may require further information and negotiation.

If you have any questions regarding your submission, please email: [entertainment@act.gov.au](mailto:entertainment@act.gov.au)



Photo by Richard Poulton



# TIMELINE

DATE	DESCRIPTION	NOTES
27 August	Online Information Session	An information session will be held to provide information about the event and the application process. <a href="#">Register here.</a>
10 September 2024	Expression of Interest submissions close, 5pm.	Link to submit your Expression of Interest: <a href="#">Submit here.</a>
October 2024	Applicants notified of outcome by email, whether successful or unsuccessful	Successful applicants will be contacted regarding next steps
1 November 2024	Marketing content to be submitted for inclusion within Enlighten Festival program	Details will be provided to successful applicants
19 February 2025	Enlighten Festival Bump In	Installation bump in timings will be discussed with successful applicants
28 February – 10 March 2025	Enlighten 2025	Works are required to be in place for the duration of the Enlighten Festival period
11 March 2025 – 14 March 2025	Enlighten Festival Bump Out	Bump out for installations commence midnight Monday. Schedule to be confirmed with successful applicants.

START APPLICATION