



# EOI GUIDELINES

INSTALLATIONS, ACTIVATIONS & EXPERIENCES

SUBMISSIONS CLOSE FRIDAY 3 JULY, 2026 - 5PM



2027

# WELCOME TO THE ENLIGHTEN FESTIVAL

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The Enlighten Festival returns in 2027 for a celebration of art, light and entertainment from Friday 26 February – Monday 8 March.

The Enlighten Festival brings Canberra to life each Autumn. The Festival Hub in the National Triangle unites a cohort of national cultural institutions across 11 days and nights, and with the Enlighten: Beyond program, the adventure extends across Canberra and the region.

A Festival of creativity and discovery, Enlighten shines a light on Canberra as the home of many whose role is collecting, sharing and telling the many stories of this continent, and invites audience on this journey through spectacular Illuminations, stunning art installations, captivating performances, live music, food and experiences all over the city.

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, in the National Triangle. Works can be either new works currently in development, or pre-existing work previously shown around Australia or internationally. We are considering work for the 2027 Festival, as well as 2028 and future Festivals.



# WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

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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 for the festival's audience, works that can *create connection to place and space* on site, and experiences that *activate the journey in between* the National Cultural Institutions so the whole site feels alive! We are looking for both light based work *and* proposals that help create an exciting, surprising atmosphere after dark in other ways too!

In 2027 the Enlighten Creative Vision is *HERE: celebrating place / landscape / environment*, 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 \$10,000 - \$40,000. Works that are outside of these budgets are also welcome to apply.

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

# ENLIGHTEN CREATIVE VISION 2027

**HERE:**

**celebrating PLACE / LANDSCAPE / ENVIRONMENT**

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*In 2027 we look up, out and across the world around us, towards landscapes natural, cared for and created, reflecting on how spaces and places make us feel at home, help us to belong, and encourage us to explore.*

The Enlighten Festival makes its home Ngunnawal Country in Canberra, where the mission of telling the many stories of this continent happens every day. In this place you can feel connection to the wider Australian landscape: the expansive skies that cover this Country, the waters of Lake Burley-Griffin and the rising horizons of the neighbouring Brindabella Range.

In 2027 Enlighten will look to this place and explore what it means to us right now, today. We're asking what it means to have a Festival HERE, on Ngunnawal Country, in the National Triangle, in Canberra, on this continent and even on this Earth.

We'll also ask what is it that makes any place meaningful? We'll create space to explore what makes a landscape unique, how people and communities come together to bring place to life, and how in turn the environment makes its mark on us.



# ALIGNING WITH HERE

Programming for ENLIGHTEN 2027 should be inspired by the question:

What is your place, your space, and what stories are told, do you tell and could be told there?

To help answer this, you could consider:

- *What are the physical, natural and built spaces we can or could program in to?*
- *Who made them/how were they made and who is there? Who could be there?*
- *Are the spaces natural, created, curated, imagined, ephemeral?*
- *What makes these spaces meaningful? Structures, people, environment, time, history or activity?*

These can be categorised into three main streams of interpretation:

## CANBERRA ARTISTS AND STORIES

Expressing a direct connection to this place, but extending to other stories that can be connected back here

## LANDSCAPES, ENVIRONMENT + SPACE

The physical world around us, interpretations of space, and different types of spaces, large and small, real or imagined.

## A CONNECTION TO PLACE

Relationships to place, how meaning is made by and with place





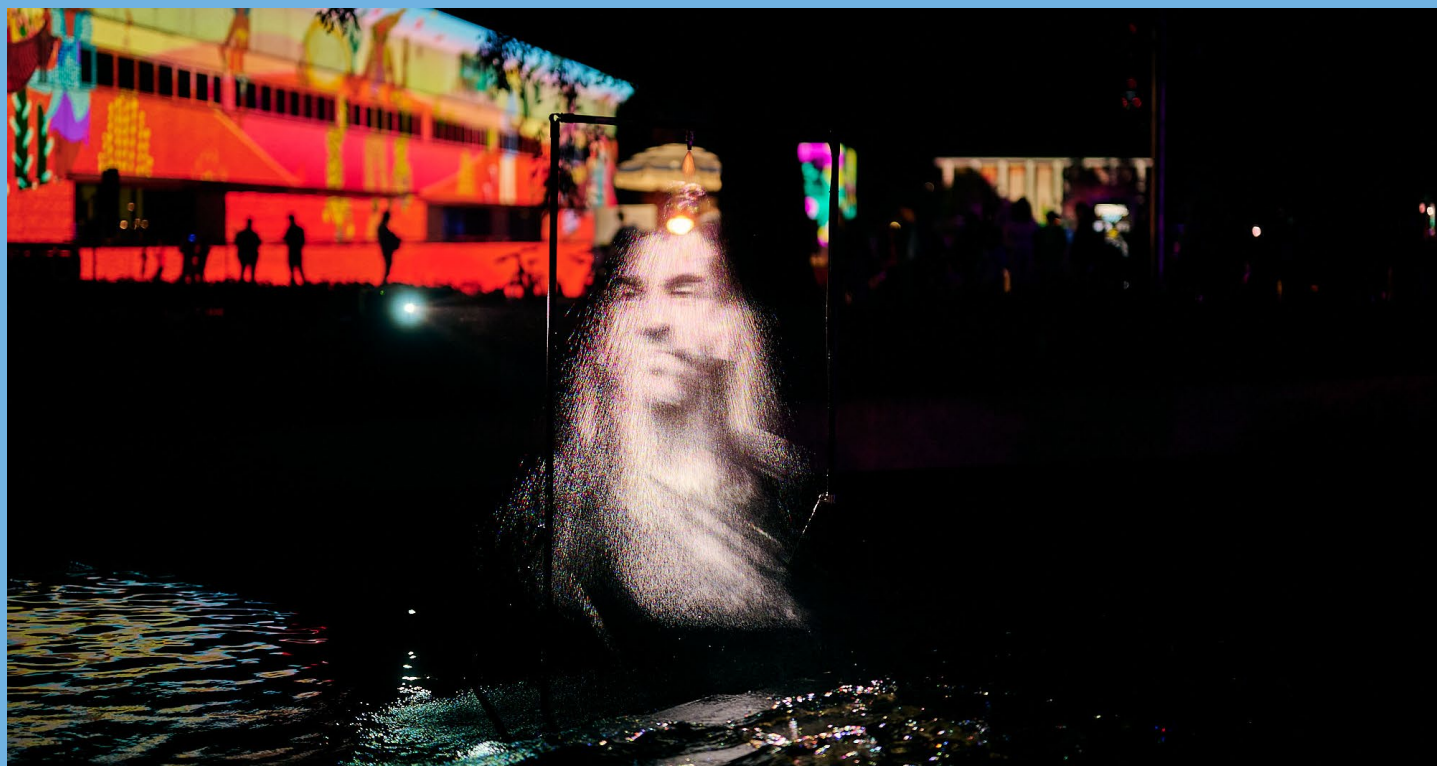
# ALIGNING WITH HERE

**This exploration of place, landscape and environment offers a variety of aesthetic or conceptual prompts, such as:**

- First Nations stories, history, culture + art
- Arrival + Departure in a place
- Buildings and their grounds and gardens
- Built landscapes, architecture
- Our relationship to place and our environment
- Natural world + environment
- Travel and liminal spaces, the in-between
- Australian landscape + environment
- Temporary spaces
- Waters, rivers, lakes
- Communities and how they gather
- The sky and the stars
- Digital worlds and augmented spaces
- Imagined and non-physical spaces
- Interior and exterior spaces
- The concept of home, sanctuary, haven

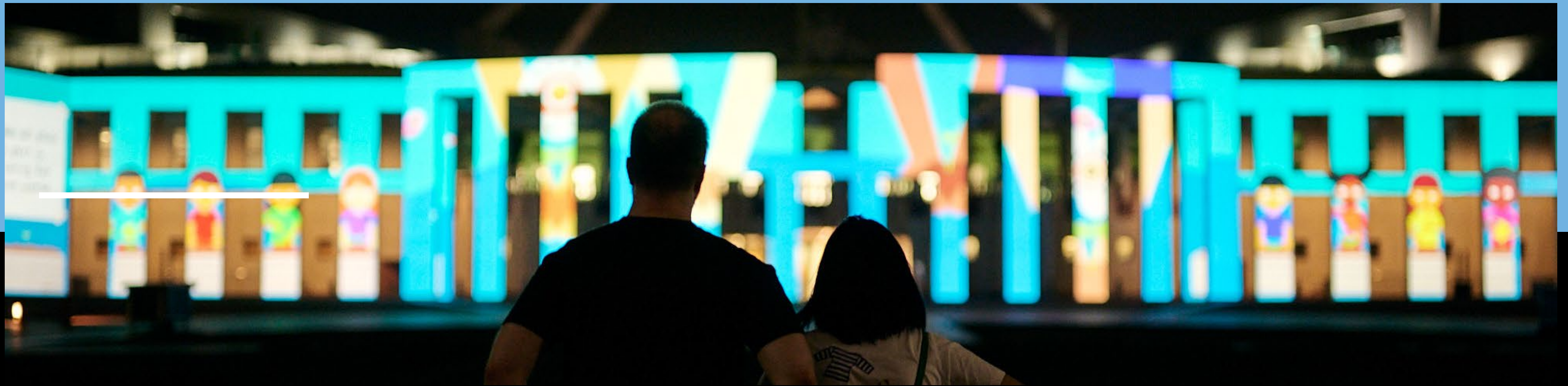
# THINGS TO CONSIDER

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## Your proposed work should:

- Align with the theme *HERE*
- Be weatherproof – works/materials will be left onsite for the 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 and engineering certifications are provided where and when applicable.
- Consider if the work is ready for presentation in 2027 or if you are proposing for a future year.
- Projection based work for this EOI are welcome, but note that Enlighten works with six National Cultural Institutions on yearly commissions for major architecture projection works, and as such we are unlikely to program more projections on buildings.



# FEE PROPOSAL

**Applicants are required to submit an all-inclusive fee proposal for their work as part of the EOI**

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The fee proposal should include:

- Artist fee
- Freight and logistics
- 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 submissions to ensure a broad program of works of different scale – we are looking for works both big and small!

**PLEASE ENSURE YOU HAVE FACTORED ALL COSTS INTO YOUR FEE PROPOSAL.**

If you are unsure or have any questions, please contact us at [entertainment@act.gov.au](mailto:entertainment@act.gov.au)

# LOCATIONS

## Potential sites include

1. Reconciliation Mound – Any proposals for this area must feature First Nation’s work
2. East and West Lawns, including the former Federation Centenary Fountains (now an open, flat space and adjacent garden beds)
3. John Dunmore Lang Place
4. Reconciliation Place West - Paths and walkways between the National Library of Australia and Questacon
5. Reconciliation Place East - Paths and walkways between the Portrait Gallery and National Gallery of Australia
6. Federation Mall
7. 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 *HERE* theme**

What part of the prompts above are considered? How does it engage conceptually and/or aesthetically with the theme?

## **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? Does the work have enough impact for the scale of the festival site?

## **Is it 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?

## **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 *HERE*?
- Technical Requirements
- Fee Proposal

You can also submit a detailed pitch document for existing work as an attachment in place of answering the questions. If you choose this option, please ensure that all questions asked in the form are clearly addressed in the document.

# HOW TO APPLY

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01

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

02

Go to the online application [here](#):

03

Complete the application details as prompted, including uploads. If you would like to submit more than one work for consideration, please submit a separate form for each work.

04

Submit your Expression of Interest by Friday 3 July – 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)

# TIMELINE

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DATE	DESCRIPTION	NOTES
24 June, 2026	Online Information Session	An information session will be held to provide information about the event and the application process. <a href="#">Register here.</a>
3 July, 2026	Expression of Interest submissions close, 5pm	Please ensure your online EOI form is completed and submitted prior to the cutoff time. <a href="#">Apply here.</a>
31 July, 2026	Applicants notified by email, whether successful or unsuccessful	Successful applicants will be contacted regarding next steps.
2 October, 2026	Marketing content to be submitted for inclusion within the Enlighten Festival program	Details will be provided to successful applicants.
17 February, 2027	Enlighten Festival bump in begins	Installation bump in timings will be discussed with successful applicants.
26 February – 8 March 2027	Enlighten Festival	Works are required to be in place for the duration of the festival period.
9 March – 11 March 2027	Bump out	Bump out schedule to be confirmed with successful applicants.

# THANK YOU

[START YOUR APPLICATION HERE](#)

# ARTWORKS PICTURED

*Kukawarra kwatja, pmara nhanhanama marra inthurra, soft rain, strong Country*, Grace Kemarre Robinya, Yarrenyty Artere Artists and Tangentyere Artists, National Gallery of Australia, Enlighten Festival 2026

*The Page Turner*, Eleanor & Giovanni, National Library of Australia, Enlighten Festival 2026

*You Are Me*, Niow, Enlighten Festival 2026

*Illuminate: How Science Comes to Light*, The Electric Canvas, Enlighten Festival 2026

*Serendipity*, Atelier Sisu, Enlighten Festival 2026

*Queens of the Desert*, Kaylene Whiskey, National Portrait Gallery of Australia, Enlighten Festival 2026

*Flamingo Flock*, Liz Lea Dance, Enlighten Festival 2026

*Glitch Monument*, Collide Public Art, Enlighten Festival 2026

*Democracy!*, Philip Bunting, Australian Parliament House, Enlighten Festival 2026

*Meliora*, Atelier Sisu, Enlighten Festival 2025

*The Guardians*, Matthew Aberline, National Library of Australia, Enlighten Festival 2025

