



## North Gardens Sculpture Park – Commission 2 – Artist Brief

The City of Ballarat is inviting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists (individuals or in teams) to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to create the second sculpture located within the North Gardens - a sculpture park dedicated to public art created only by First Nations artists.

### The Background

The North Garden Indigenous Sculpture Park is located on the edge of Lake Wendouree, Ballarat and is an important site for the traditional owners of the land, the Wadawarrung people. Launched in 2019, the North Gardens Indigenous Sculpture Park is a significant project for the City of Ballarat and features artworks by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, celebrating the richness and diversity of culture and telling important cultural stories. The space is also a site for Indigenous plantings and interpretation of local ecosystem.

The landscape masterplan for the Park details the project concept and approaches to public art; the natural and built significance of the site; and importantly the cultural connections to Country and the Wadawarrung and Dja Dja Wurrung Peoples occupation of the land surrounding Ballarat.

The first project to be commissioned for the sculpture park has been created by Wadawarrung artist Dr Deanne Gilson. Murrup Laarr, launched in early 2019, reflects

Wadawurrung people's use of stones to mark places of ceremony and important business. Murrup Laar has been created using local basalt stones to tell Wadawurrung stories of dreaming, memory, and ceremony.

## The Context

The City of Ballarat stands on the Traditional Lands of the Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung Peoples. In Wadawurrung language, 'Ballaarat' derives its name from 'balla' meaning 'elbow' or 'reclining on the elbow' + 'arat' meaning 'place' signifying a camping or resting place. Ballarat has been a resting place for tens of thousands of years.

The importance of telling First Nations' stories is recognised within the City of Ballarat as being a way to enhance the acknowledgement, recognition, and respect for the areas extremely rich cultural heritage. The City of Ballarat acknowledges the varied history and cultural stories that are present in our City.

The North Gardens Sculpture Park is part of Council's commitment to "work towards Reconciliation to make the City of Ballarat a place for all First Nations People to be proud of and to live together in harmony in our intercultural city." (City of Ballarat Reconciliation Action Plan 2019-2021)

The North Gardens, and the constructed wetlands within it is a significant living cultural and physical landscape to the Wadawurrung and the City of Ballarat. It is a place to celebrate and respect the environment of the Ballarat plains, and the long-standing relationship the Wadawurrung have with their Country. It is a place of stories, continuing traditions, of healing, ecologies, and a venue for gatherings to celebrate the spirit of the Lake Wendouree landscape.

## The Project Scope

The project is the development of the second sculpture for the North Gardens Sculpture Park. It is a medium-scale, stand-alone, site-specific artwork commission with a proposed budget of \$100,000. This budget includes all fees, materials, fabrication, and installation costs.

The artwork will tell the story of 'Time, Place, Country and Culture', which may include stories about the geography and geology of Lake Wendouree, Ballarat and the larger Western Basalt Plains, stories of meandering waterways, endangered wildlife, open grasslands, expansive volcanic plains or of Aboriginal spiritualities, or ancient or contemporary storytelling.

## Location

The site allocated for this sculpture is at the crossing of Wendouree parade and St. Aidans Drive. The coordinates are -37.543537, 143.826803. Please refer to the drawings at the end of this document for a deeper understanding of the location.

## Project Timeline, Commission Methodology and Budget

The timeline of this commission process is as under:

| Task  | Timeline        |
|---|-----------------|
| Release EOI                                 | 29th April      |
| Submission Deadline                         | 13th May        |
| Contracting of Artist for Design Phase      | 17th May        |
| Concept Due                                 | 12th June       |
| Concept Consultation and Refining Completed | 26th June       |
| Contracting of Artist for Final Commission  | 26th June       |
| Production, Delivery, and Installation      | July - Dec 2024 |

The methodology to be followed for this commissioning process is as under:

### Stage 1 – EOI

The Stage 1 is an open application process. Australian First Nations artists from all over the country are welcome to apply. The requirements for this application and the details of the selection process are provided below. One artist/artist group will be selected for Stage 2.

### Stage 2 – Concept Development

This stage is not competitive. The artist selected in Stage 1 will be funded \$10,000.00 to produce the concept for the sculpture. The artist will have to participate in consultation with the community and will have to work with the Public Art Officer to refine and finalise the concept. The artist contract for the final commission to the value of \$90,000.00 will be completed at the end of this stage.

### Stage 3 – Production and Delivery

All aspects of the production, delivery and installation of this work is to be managed by the commissioned artist within the budget provided.

The City of Ballarat will assist with the Permits, Heritage Exemptions and the Cultural Heritage Management Plan required for the site.

## Evaluation

The evaluation of the Expressions of Interest for this commission will be according to the following criteria weightage:

| Selection Criteria   | Weightage |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Artist Bio &amp; Existing Portfolio/Working History</b>   | 40%       |
|  |           |
| <b>Response to Question 1</b>  | 15%       |
| What role do you seek your sculpture to play in contemporary Australian society?<br>(200 words limit)  |           |
|  |           |
| <b>Response to Question 2</b>  | 20%       |
| How would you approach this commission through your creative practice? (200 words limit)   |           |
|  |           |
| <b>Response to Question 3</b>  | 15%       |
| How would you approach engagement with the local Aboriginal Communities?<br>(200 words limit)  |           |
|  |           |
| <b>Local Content (Mandatory City of Ballarat Criteria)</b>   | 10%       |
| The above criteria will be interpreted by the expert panel according to the following breakdown as advised by the outcome of intensive community consultation. |           |
| Wadawurrung artist living locally - 10%  |           |
| Wadawurrung artist living elsewhere – 5%   |           |
| Any other Aboriginal artist living locally – 5%  |           |
| Any other Aboriginal artist living elsewhere – 0%  |           |

## Budget

The total budget for this project is \$100,000.00. This budget is broken into two parts.

Part 1 – Concept Development and Consultation - \$10,000.00

Part 2 – Final Commission - \$90,000.00. This includes all aspects of the production, delivery and installation of the final sculpture including artist fees.

## Submission Requirements

Artists and/or artist groups are required to submit the following as an Expression of Interest to this opportunity. Please note that artists are not required to submit a concept with this submission.

1. Artist CV
2. Artist Bio (200 word)
3. Written response to the following questions:
  - a. What role do you seek your sculpture to play in contemporary Australian society? (200 words limit)
  - b. How would you approach this commission through your creative practice? (200-word limit)
  - c. How would you approach consultations with the local Aboriginal Community? (200-word limit)
4. Maximum of 10 images of your recent works

Please combine all the above as one PDF and email your submission to [publicart@ballarat.vic.gov.au](mailto:publicart@ballarat.vic.gov.au)

If you have any questions, please direct them to Anindita Banerjee, Public Art Officer at [anindita.banerjee@ballarat.vic.gov.au](mailto:anindita.banerjee@ballarat.vic.gov.au)

*The image used in the header is from the opening ceremony of Dr. Deanne Gilson's MURRUP LARR and features her cousins and other family members. Image credit – Yum Studios.*

The City of Ballarat acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land we live, work on and virtually meet, the traditional custodians of the City of Ballarat the Wadawurrung and to the North of the municipality the Dja Dja Wurrung Peoples, and recognise their continuing connection to the land and waterways. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and extend this to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.





# CONTEXT MAP & SITE MAP



Figure 1: Context Map



Figure 2: Site Map



**PLANNING ZONES, OVERLAY AND THE NORTH GARDEN PRECINCT MAP**



Figure 3: Zoning Map

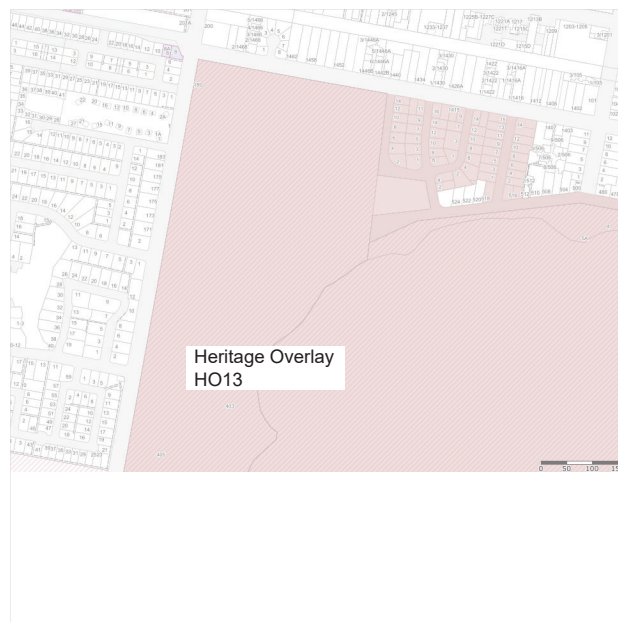


Figure 4: Overlay Map



Figure 5: Possible locations for future artwork

**Possible Locations for Artworks**

- Permanent Sculptures. - P.Sc
- Meeting Places. - F
- Functional Works. - F
- Contemplation Spaces. - F

This should be seen as a guide only. Once land cleansing, forming and landscaping has occurred and created new site lines and boundaries. Along with permanent Sculptures creating there own space and context it will be better understood where individual works are located.



**SITE MAP**



Figure 6: Site Map