



Platform LAB | *Application Guidelines*

What is Platform LAB?

Platform LAB is a tailored residency program that supports artists to experiment with new methodologies, undertake research, grow their professional practice and contribute to contemporary dialogues. **Comprising three streams** that offer digital and onsite residencies, LAB provides time, money, space, tailored mentorship, group intensives and presentation opportunities, as well as in-house technical, producing, and marketing support.

In 2022, Platform LAB will provide each participating artist or collective with:

- \$5000
- Participation in Professional Development program
- Participation in two in-person LAB residency intensives
- Mentorships and/or financial support to engage your own creative collaborators
- Facilitated cultural and community-led programs

In addition to the above, each stream provides further support to center distinct creative goals.

Digital Residency	Studio Artists	Creative Development
A facilitated online program that will engage five artists or collectives from across Australia. The Digital Residency encourages rigorous artistic discourse and supports each artist or collective to develop new artistic works for national	An onsite studio residency that will engage three artists or collectives from across the Greater Geelong, Bellarine, and Surfcoast regions. Participants will have their own studio space, including a designated studio to support a First Nations practitioner. In	A short-term, onsite engagement that supports three participating artists to accelerate the development of their existing project and present their outcome at Platform Arts. Open to artists across Victoria. In addition to the Platform

<p>presentation. In addition to the Platform LAB framework, this stream features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Twelve-month digital residency ● Industry mentorship and/or subsidised stipend to engage collaborators ● Curated artist & industry conversation series ● Supported national outcomes 	<p>addition to the Platform LAB framework, this stream features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Twelve-month studio residency at Platform Arts ● Industry mentorship and/or subsidised stipend to engage collaborators ● Presentation outcomes ● Producing, Curating, Technical, and Marketing support 	<p>LAB framework, this stream features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Two-month studio residency ● 24-hr access to Platform's venue spaces ● Industry mentorship and/or subsidised stipend to engage collaborators ● Presentation outcomes ● Producing, Curating, Technical, and Marketing support
---	--	--

We welcome applications from artists of all ages, disciplines and stages of practice.

KEY DATES

Thurs 21 October | Applications open

Thurs 11 November 6.00pm | Information Session (online)

Sun 21 Nov, 5.00pm | Applications close

22 Nov - 10 Dec | Assessment

Thurs 9 - Fri 10 Dec | Notification of successful participants

Mon 13 Dec | Announcement

2022 | LAB program commences

Feb/Mar 2022 | LAB intensive #1

Sep/Oct 2022 | LAB intensive #2

How to apply:

Once you've read these guidelines and FAQ below, click on the **APPLY** button on our [Platform LAB 2022 EOI](#) page. You will be able to apply for one or more streams via the one application form.

You will need to provide the following (we recommend typing your responses into a word document and pasting into the form):

1. Brief description of your practice, experience and interests (max 250 words)
2. Why would you like to participate in the Platform LAB, and what would you bring to the program? (max 500 words)
3. What work, project or idea would you like to develop through Platform LAB?
4. Contact details

5. Support material must be provided in a **single PDF document**, that contains the following:
 - a) CV (max 2 pages)
 - b) up to 5 images of your work
 - c) link to up to 3 video urls of your work
 - d) links to website and/or social media

Please let us know if there are any technical barriers we can assist you with during this submission process.

Platform LAB | FAQs

Is the LAB program only open to Geelong-based artists?

Platform LAB is divided into three streams, which are open to different artists based on location:

- The Digital Residency is open to five artists or collectives from **anywhere in Australia**.
- Studio Artists will engage three artists or collectives from across the **Greater Geelong, Bellarine, and Surfcoast regions**.
- Creative Development supports three artists from **anywhere in Victoria**.

Successful applicants must be able to commit to:

- Attending individual mentoring sessions, in-person or digitally
- Participation in the digitally-delivered Professional Development Series
- Participation in monthly digitally-delivered artist & industry conversation series
- Participation in two in-person LAB Intensive Weeks. (A travel stipend will be provided to anyone travelling from interstate.)

Studio Artists will be expected to utilise their studio space at Platform in a regular, on-going capacity for the 12 months, and commitment to do so will be vital in our consideration of your application. **Creative Development** residencies will also require a frequent on-site engagement.

Excluding absence due to critical circumstances (which we understand can happen), we expect our minimum onsite engagement to be met as part of the agreement.

Please also consider any artistic outcomes will be at Platform Arts in Geelong, and you may need to commit to the production schedule and live duration required for your particular work.

I am not a young, emerging artist — can I still apply?

Absolutely! Our 2022 LAB program welcomes applications from artists of any age, from any contemporary arts discipline and stage of career.

Which artistic disciplines can apply?

Artists from all contemporary disciplines and cross-disciplines are invited to apply, including (but not limited to) performance makers, visual artists, new-media artists, animators, installation artists, public artists, dancers, choreographers, writers, sound artists, musicians, composers, and designers. If you have any queries regarding your artistic discipline and how your work translates into a presentation outcome, please [get in touch](#).

How accessible is the Platform Arts venue?

Platform Arts is fully wheelchair accessible, with two disabled parking spaces just outside the entrance on Gheringhap Street and a wheelchair accessible bathroom and lift. Please note, the entrance does not have automatic doors so you may require assistance. Guide and assistance dogs are welcome throughout the venue.

Current staff are not fluent in sign language. There is Braille signage for bathrooms, but this is not consistent across every room in the building. If you wish to apply for LAB and have additional accessibility requirements such as an Auslan interpreter, please contact us at hello@platformarts.org.au.

There is on-street parking on Lt Malop St and off-street parking across the road. There are bike racks near both entrances, and additional bike space in the Courtyard. We are located a 5-minute walk from Geelong Railway Station. Information about venue accessibility can be found on [our website](#).

What will happen during the LAB Intensives?

All artists in the Platform LAB program will be invited to participate in two in-person LAB Intensives that will take place throughout the 12-month program.

The LAB intensives are a program of workshops, discussions and interrogations designed to get you thinking about your artistic practice or research through a range of disciplines and modes of inquiry. Through discursive and practical methodologies, the intensives dissect and interrogate creative practice through the thematics of curation, spatial practice, artistic collaboration and site specificity. Each intensive will be delivered on-site in regional Victoria, and facilitated by a national cohort of artists, researchers and curators.

When are the LAB Intensive dates? Are they flexible?

The LAB Intensives are a key part of the program and will be delivered in person in regional Victoria. Intensive #1 will run on dates TBC in Feb/Mar and Intensive #2 will run on dates TBC in Oct/Nov 2022. Exact dates will be discussed and agreed upon once artists are selected. Please indicate in your application whether you will likely be available to attend during these periods i.e. you do not have plans to be travelling for 6 weeks at some point during these months.

What's involved in the Platform Professional Development program?

The Platform Professional Development program runs online over 12 months and aims to equip you with tools for sustainable arts practice. Across four separate seminar series, you will deep dive into critical analysis, arts management, curation and community engagement and more.

Am I required to have a realised outcome at the end of the residency?

We've created this iteration of LAB to support artists who have a compelling concept or work-in-development and would profoundly benefit from the time, money, or space offered in order to execute their artistic vision as a presentation outcome in 2022-23.

LAB aims to cultivate new artistic works from artists in a post-pandemic environment, and helps them foster new partnerships and touring opportunities, thereby strengthening the recovery or sustainability of their artistic practice.

What spaces does Platform Arts offer for the presentation outcomes?

Platform Arts provides in-kind use of our Rehearsal and Performance Spaces, as well as use of our Gallery spaces, our Courtyard Gallery, laneway and any other spaces you would like to activate in our building. Artists will also be able to use our technical equipment, projectors and arts materials. You can read more about our spaces (including technical specifications) [here](#).

We also encourage and support artists to develop work for the public realm, both in Geelong and through local councils in your region.

Can the LAB be undertaken remotely?

The **Digital Residency** can be undertaken remotely, with the exception of in-person attendance during the LAB Intensives. Both **Studio Artists** and **Creative Development** will require artists to be onsite at Platform consistently throughout your residency period (see first question above), so is recommended for artists based locally in the Geelong/Surf Coast/Melbourne/Ballarat region, or who are able to travel easily and regularly to Platform Arts.

To receive the full benefits of the program, participants need to be able to: travel to Victoria for Intensives; attend key program dates (where applicable to each stream); and be available for the production schedule and live presentation duration that may be specific to their artistic outcome—including the bumping in and out of your exhibition/installation/performance. You will have the opportunity to indicate your feasible level of onsite attendance in the application form. If you have any concerns or would like clarification please [get in touch](#).

How do I make my application stand out?

1. Explain clearly how the benefits of LAB will impact *you*, and what you can offer to the program. We are looking for artists who will respond profoundly to this opportunity and thrive, and your application will help us identify you.
2. If you've worked as an artist with us before, it's important to write your application from the perspective of an unknown artist, because our industry peer assessors may not know you or your work, and details of your practice and methodology cannot be assumed as 'prior knowledge'.

3. Succinctly describe your purpose and goals with the presentation of your artistic work, and describe your planned activities. Although the concept doesn't have to be fully realised, explain how the development and delivery of your project is feasible within the timeframe.
4. Note that the aim of Platform LAB is to further artist development and increase the calibre of live presentation outcomes for artists working across contemporary practice. Consider how your project, your goals for your artistic practice, and your capacity for program commitment align with these long-term objectives.

Platform LAB | *Your questions answered*

What do you mean by the term 'contemporary arts' and what is not included?

'Contemporary art' is such a broad term and its meaning can change so much, but in the context of LAB what we look for is artists and projects that are relevant to our times. They may respond to social or political issues, or focus on contributing to new research in a chosen medium. Essentially, artists working across contemporary practice are constantly aiming to drive and generate new ways of working and thinking.

Are we able to apply for more than one stream?

Yes, absolutely. There is a check-box on the application form where you can indicate which stream/s interest you.

Is it possible to apply to different streams with different projects?

We've set up the application form to be as simple as possible, but yes, you're welcome to apply with multiple projects. Just make sure you clearly label your responses and additional document attachments.

Is it possible to apply as a collective rather than an individual artist?

Yes, we actually had a collective in the first LAB program in 2020. Just be mindful of your collective's size, as large groups may be difficult to accommodate during the Intensives. The \$5000 artist fee is awarded to each artist/collective, so that money would be split amongst your group.

I don't quite understand the Intensives. Could you explain this a little more?

The Intensives are a really fun part of the LAB, and there will be two of these running during the 2022 program. LAB Intensives aren't focused on your projects or specific practice, but designed as a short, concentrated program which will get you thinking about your practice, methodologies and collaborating with your peers as well. We invite external facilitators from diverse creative practices and industries to lead workshops and conversations, often there will be two sessions per day.

How long will the LAB Intensives run?

At maximum, they will run for around 4-5 days (between Monday-Friday).

Is there already a designated two-month period for the Creative Development stream?

We're really flexible with this! As there will be 3 artists/collectives undertaking a Creative Development residency, we will tailor the dates to suit you.

Can the application involve a practice-research component? E.g. development of work contributing to a research degree (PhD)?

Often grant opportunities explicitly exclude this, but we do understand a lot of you may be doing postgraduate study. If this is what you're interested in going, just be aware of the time commitment and consider whether you'll be able to commit to regular conversations and the two Intensives while you're undertaking study. The other consideration is how you might present your research as a public outcome with Platform.

How important is the artist's CV/experience in the art world in the assessment of their application?

The first two iterations of LAB were tailored towards early-career or emerging artists, so we recognised that many artists may not have much experience. In 2022, since we're opening LAB up to artists of all career stages, we are expecting a high volume of experienced applicants. However we are still committed to supporting early-career artists. If you haven't had much experience, we would encourage you to emphasise in your application how the residency would benefit your practice.

Could proposed public outcomes for LAB include running workshops and an exhibition?

Yes, we would absolutely welcome proposals that include multiple elements for public outcomes. Just be mindful of your workload commitment!

If artists don't live in Geelong, is accommodation provided or supported financially during the residency?

For artists who live interstate, we would encourage you to apply for the Digital Residency. To attend the in-person LAB Intensives, we will provide you a cash stipend for travel and accommodation. For Creative Development artists, we would expect that if you're travelling within Victoria/from outside Geelong that you would be able to travel daily or organise your own accommodation during that period.

What made last year's applicants stand out?

Applications are assessed in two different ways. Firstly, we look at your actual project and secondly, we consider how well you articulate how the program will benefit you. Our 2021 artists expressed their interest in having open and ongoing dialogue, being open to provocation, questioning, discussion and working with other artists or mentors.

In terms of the Creative Development stream, what spaces are available and do you have photos online?

Our venue spaces can be found [here](#), or you're welcome to come by between Monday-Friday so we can show you around.

If we have more questions - or would like to get some advice on our application, is there someone we can reach out to?

We're able to arrange 20-minute phone chats until Friday 19 November. Please email hello@platformarts.org.au to enquire and let us know your availability.

Platform LAB 2022-23 is made possible with the support of the Australian Government through the Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund.



Australian Government

RISE Fund