

Artist Studio Program

Overview

The Artist Studio Program (the Program) facilitates the short-term leasing of City of Fremantle owned spaces at low-cost to artists. The Program contributes to the City's Strategic Community Plan 2015-25 objectives to attract and retain diverse quality artists, incubate, support and develop a vibrant arts community, and support work options for artists. The Program offers leases for a maximum of five years with no option to extend, thus enabling the opportunity to be accessed by as many artists as possible.

Policy scope

This policy provides an overarching framework defining how the spaces incorporated within the Program are leased in an open and competitive manner to artists, and the ongoing management of these spaces.

Policy statement

1. The Program aims to be inclusive:
 - a. To be representative of artists diverse in career stage, cultural and linguistic background, gender, artform, media, processes and approach to artmaking
 - b. The curation of a dynamic mix of artists aims to encourage mentorship, cross-pollination, plus resource, knowledge and skill sharing
2. The Program aims to encourage experimental and exploratory work
3. The City's artist studios are working spaces available for a maximum five-year term with no option of extension
4. The portfolio of properties has potential for expansion and retraction
5. The applicant that aligns with the selection criteria to both a satisfactory and the greatest degree will be awarded the space.
6. Fees will be resolved by the City in relation to market value:
 - a. 'Market value' is described as relative to and competitive with similar offerings within the region.
 - b. Fees will inherently consider several factors including though not exclusive to floor area, availability of services and facilities, exclusive versus shared use, security and quality of light with annual adjustment in accordance with Consumer Price Index.

Eligibility

To be eligible for a lease all applicants must:

- a. Be 18+ years old
- b. Be a professional artist, defined as demonstrating commitment to and evidence of an ongoing artistic practice
- c. Have no outstanding City of Fremantle debts
- d. Be prepared to adhere to a studio agreement and relevant City of Fremantle policies
- e. Demonstrate ability to meet financial requirements.

Assessment

Expressions of interest are assessed in accordance with the following selection criteria:

- a. Artistic merit
- b. Sustained development of practice; exploration and experimentation
- c. Suitability of space to scope of practice
- d. Commitment to regularly utilise space
- e. Contribution to diversity within the program
- f. Commitment to be a cooperative and cohesive part of the Program.
- g. Preference will be given to applicants who have not previously been tenants within the Program.

Terms of lease

The following conditions apply to use of the artist studios:

- a. Cannot be used for residential purposes or primarily for storage
- b. Cannot be used for events and workshops, regular and/or commercial in nature. An exemption may be made in relation to City of Fremantle public programming
- c. Artists must be willing to be a cooperative and proactive member of the studio program when asked to contribute to City of Fremantle public programming
- d. Artists must utilise the space on an ongoing basis for most of the working week
- e. Media and processes must be appropriate for the space i.e. no fumes in unventilated spaces.

Responsibility and review information	
Responsible officer:	Manager Arts and Culture
Document adoption/approval details	24 March 2021 – FPOL2103-6
Document amendment details	Reviewed 22 September 2021 – FPOL2109-16
Next review date	22 September 2025