

City Art Laneways

Artist Briefing

6 November 2020



Key Briefing Points

- Complete the application form and provide documents requested
- Applications close 10am Monday 16 November
- Project installation by 11 January
(Construction shutdown 7 Dec to 2 Jan, Sydney Festival starts 6 Jan)
- Budget to include all costs (artist fees, fabrication, installation, removal)
- City staff will assist with owner's consent, access to power, permits

<https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/community-support-funding/city-art-laneways>



Rush Nike Savvas

Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different. It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next.

Arundati Roy, The Pandemic is a Portal, Financial Times April 2020



Donut Brook Andrew

Artist's brief

Our once globalised city, now unusually empty, asks us to reconsider, reconfigure and regenerate public space and public life. The Covid-19 pandemic represents an extraordinary opportunity to pursue public art projects that interrogate, evaluate and reorient our civic spaces and how they influence people's experiences of our city.

We're seeking inventive projects unafraid to explore and inspire new experiences in reinterpreted public spaces, in particular laneways.

Bold, fresh, relevant and meaningful interventions that reflect on Sydney's past, present and future will be favourably looked upon, as will proposals that respectfully include Aboriginal stories, knowledge and heritage. Ideally, proposals will present a strong visual and sensory impact harnessing an increased sense of empathy for each other, the natural environment and contribute to the sustainability, health and wellbeing of people and city spaces.

Breathing life into our lanes

Sydney set to get a touch of Melbourne, writes Alexandra Walker.

Sydney could get a Melbourne-style revamp, with the City of Sydney announcing plans to “breathe new life” into the City’s laneways.

As the Sydney Lord Mayor, Clover Moore, unveiled plans to overhaul 47 laneways in the CBD, she said the council had drawn “inspiration” from Melbourne.

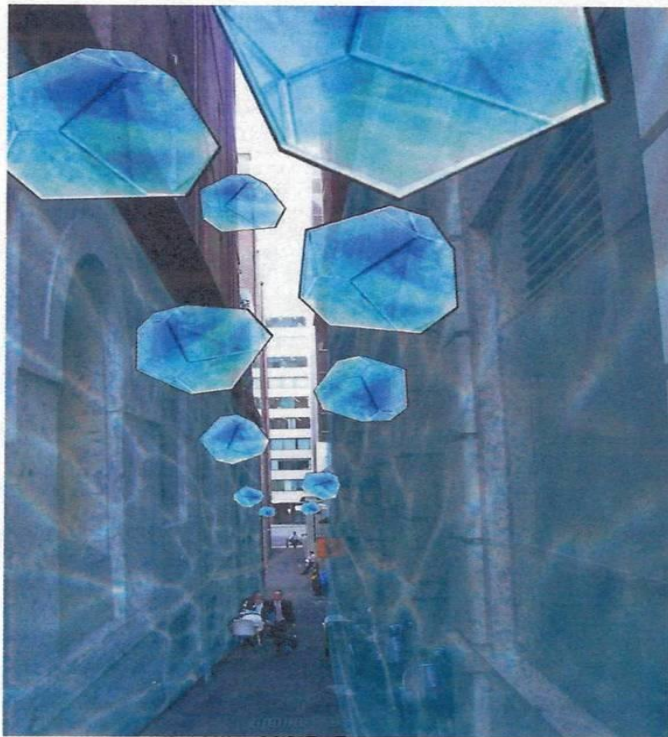
About 20 of the laneways have been marked as a priority for the council, with the first four – Abercrombie Lane, Bulletin Place, Albion Place and Council Lane – to be completed sometime next year.

“Council will provide the necessary infrastructure to assist with the change, such as upgraded paving, lighting, landscaping, street trees and colour through banners and art,” Cr Moore said.

“We will set the stage, but we will be seeking the input of the business and arts communities in partnership with the City.”

The council is considering offering incentives for new laneway businesses such as hole-in-the-wall cafes and bars, as well as public art proposals.

The laneways could be themed, with some early artist’s impressions showing Abercrombie Lane bathed in blue light.



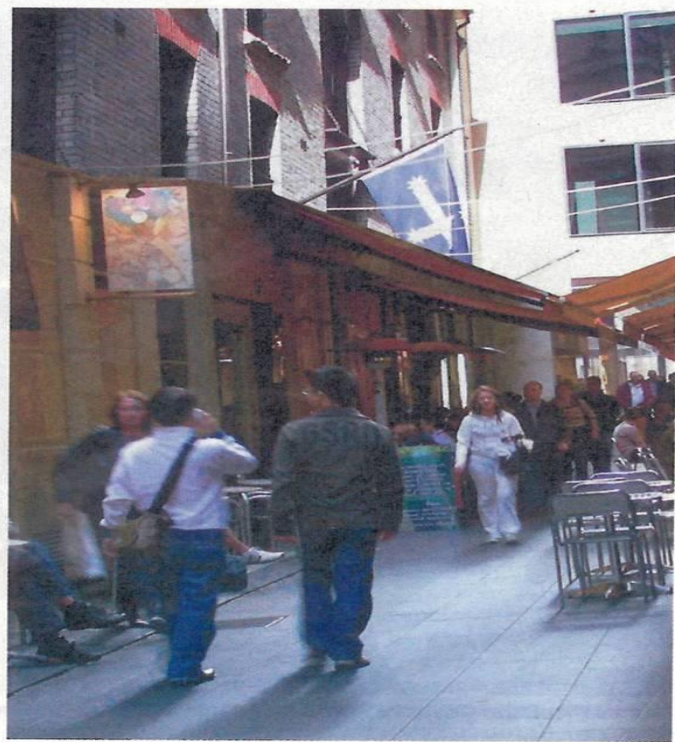
An artist’s impression of possible options for Abercrombie Lane and Bulletin Place.

The laneway revamp is one part of the council’s strategy to liven up the City’s eight villages.

Other projects to come under that banner include a proposal for Foley

Street in Darlinghurst, which appears slated for a similar makeover as part of works on the Oxford Street precinct.

The council is also planning to ex-



pand the village greens and safe walking paths from Potts Point through Woolloomooloo to the CBD, and to “enliven” the cafe and restaurant hub of Stanley Street.



Deconstructing Ways Isidro Blasco



tank project Adam Norton



Forgotten Songs
Michael Thomas Hill

Youngsters
Caroline Rothwell

*The Amazing Rolling
Picture Show*
Emma Pike,
Sarah Langdon





Seven Metre Bar Adrian McGregor, Richard Goodwin, Russell Lowe



In Between Two Worlds Jason Wing



Born into darkness before dawn Nicole Foreshow



Janet Cardiff and George Bures-Miller *The City of Forking Paths*



Village Voices Astra Howard

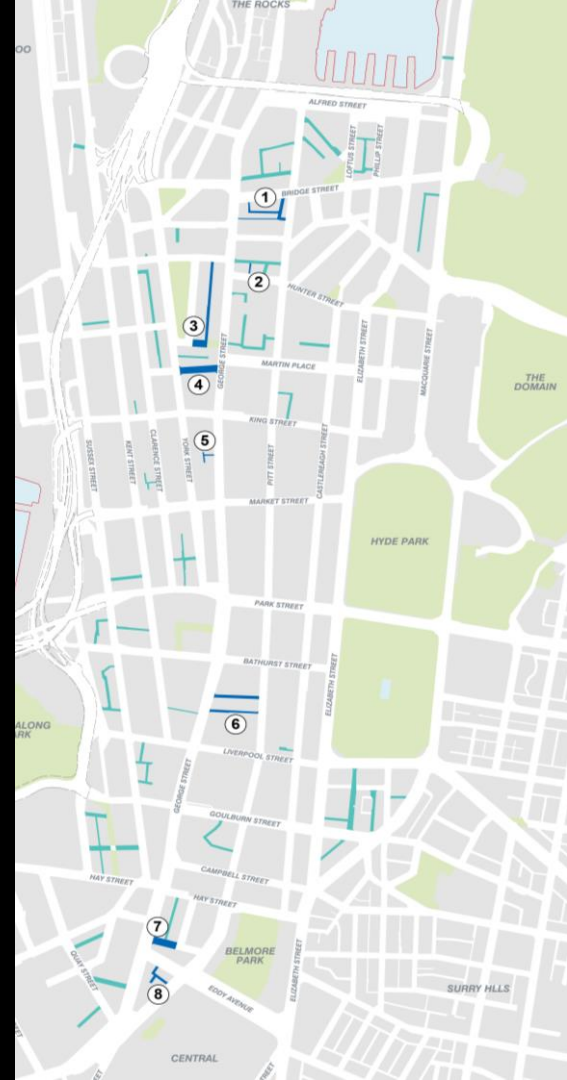
We welcome concepts that include:

- installations
- environmental art
- plant-based projects
- soundscapes
- augmented/mixed reality
- lighting and projected visuals
- timed based media art
- socially engaged practices

Mural and street art works can form a component of your concept, but we won't accept mural or street art only.

You can choose from the following locations:

1. Bridge Street/ Abercrombie Lane/ Tank Stream Way
2. Little Hunter Street
3. Wynyard Street and Wynyard Lane
4. Barrack Street
5. Temperance Lane
6. Wilmot Street and Central Street
7. Barlow Street
8. St Laurence Lane



Location Notes

- Construction shutdown 7 Dec to 2 Jan – apart from minor works
- Heritage listed buildings may cause delays in gaining approvals
- Bridge Street/ Abercrombie Lane/ Tank Stream Way are heritage listed – which may cause delays, some existing fixing points
- Wynyard Lane has ongoing construction works
- Little Hunter Street has a construction site adjacent
- Lanes already closed to traffic may be easiest to install in

Budget

\$50,000 including GST per artwork. Up to 4 artworks by different artists/teams will be commissioned

Budgets must include an indication of all costs associated with delivering, installing and removing the final artwork, including artists fees.

The City will cover the costs of engineering certification.

Low impact works will be more suitable to avoid length in achieving planning approvals and owners' consents.

The City will assist in this process and cover fees for acquiring approvals.

Timeline

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| ● 10am Monday 16 November | Applications close |
| ● Mid-November | Projects awarded |
| ● November to December | Project development |
| ● 8 December | COVID-safe Briefing |
| ● 11 January 2021 | Project installation |
| ● tbc | Launch/Opening |

Projects are to be installed for a minimum of 1 month with a preferred time frame of up to 6 months.

Selection criteria

- Strength and innovation of the concept, proposed approach and methodology
- Response to the brief, site, context and local communities
- Artist's previous experience or demonstrated potential to work site-specifically
- Capacity to install the artwork by 11 January 2021 within the budget

Successful teams will need to sign standard public art agreement

[Grants & sponsorship](#)

City Art Laneways

An opportunity to deliver temporary public art projects in the heart of the city

[Arts and culture](#)

Re-imagine and regenerate the city

Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different. It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next.

Arundati Roy. The Pandemic is a Portal, Financial Times April 2020

We're seeking Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists to create public artworks that reimagine city spaces and bring Sydneysiders back to the city.

Creative thinkers, artists and multidisciplinary teams with a strong

City Art Laneways

All applications must be made through the online form. Emailed submissions won't be accepted.

[Apply now](#)

Linda Fiskus

PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST - QUERIES REGARDING THE ONLINE FORM

Show details

City Art Laneways

Name *

First name

Last name

Address *

Street address

Street address Line 2

City

State

Postal code

Contact number *

Email *

We will use this address if we need to contact you.

Frequently Asked Questions 1

Is the artist responsible for the public liability?

As noted on the application form, if successful, you will be required to supply a public liability insurance certificate of currency for \$20 million with the Council of the City of Sydney noted as an interested party. NAVA offer this as part of their membership costs.

<https://visualarts.net.au/Membership/insurance/>

Where people are encouraged to touch objects, or participate in events, will they need to consider COVID-safe measures?

Yes. The brief asks artists to respond to this time we are in. Although Covid-Safe plans are not required at this stage for submissions.

A briefing on holding a COVID-safe event is planned for December 8. Selected artists will be invited to attend this briefing.

Frequently Asked Questions 2

Is there flexibility with the installation and removal date?

Not really. The aim is to install works to align with first week of Sydney Festival. Popular works may be invited to stay longer or made permanent.

What lanes have power?

There are no purpose-built power outlets for artworks in the lanes. City staff will assist in securing power from building owners and tenants.

What do you mean by low-impact works?

Low impact works may be freestanding works, works not attached to heritage listed buildings or works without in-ground footings for example.

Frequently Asked Questions 3

Is property owner's approval required for projections onto their buildings walls?

Yes. The City will assist in gaining property owner's approvals. Artist teams are not required to secure this.

Do you have preferred suppliers?

No. Artist teams will need to secure suppliers.

Are the preferred laneways for...?

No. Artist teams are encouraged to explore and select a location that suits their proposal and will encourage others to return to or visit the city.

Frequently Asked Questions 4

Do access requirements for tenants, deliveries etc effectively preclude locating works on the ground plane?

No. Installation of these works will need to be negotiated and co-ordinated around business and tenants' requirements.

Do you have photos of the lanes?

Sorry there aren't any photos of the lanes. We are hoping artists will visit the lanes as part of the process of making submissions.

Can organisations apply?

As we are seeking artists *and* creative thinkers, we would be happy for your organisation to make a submission.

Frequently Asked Questions 5

Can interstate and international artists apply?

If you can install by January 11 we welcome your submission. You'll need to demonstrate you can cover costs and schedule install in the timeframe.

When will be the next round of applications following this one, given the short time frame for this round?

The City invites proposals from artists several times a year. You can get information on these opportunities from City of Sydney News - Arts and Culture updates by subscribing [here](#)

Will the briefing be recorded?

No. We will share this presentation to interested people and those who registered for the briefing.

Artist Briefing – Zoom Chat – Questions and Answers 1

How does property owners approvals work with projections on buildings walls? Eg, did the Australian Museum have to give permission for the work to be projected on the building?

Yes, property owners consent is required for projections. The City will assist in securing this consent.

If there are on going construction works in some of the lanes, why have they been included as options? Will it be possible to install a suspended work in a laneway with construction happening?

Some building works are scheduled to be completed by Xmas, but this may not be the case. There are other spaces adjacent to the lanes nominated that may still be suitable for certain types of artworks. It may not be possible to suspend artworks from construction scaffolding and hoarding so it is not recommended to propose suspended works in these areas.

Hi, is there any flexibility to install dates?

Not really. See FAQ on slides above regarding this question.

Artist Briefing – Zoom Chat – Questions and Answers 2

What is the installation timeframe? is 11th of Jan the opening?

Refer to timing in FAQ slides above. At this stage no opening has been planned.

What does 'low impact' include/exclude?

Refer to discussion of 'low impact' in FAQ slides above.

Can any of these projects be installed for longer than 6 months?

Refer to timing in FAQ slides above.

Do access requirements for tenants, deliveries etc effectively preclude locating works on the ground plane?

Refer to FAQ slides above.

Artist Briefing – Zoom Chat – Questions and Answers 3

Do you have a preferred supplier for projection hardware? If so can we approach them for cost estimates

Refer to FAQ slides above.

Could you explain the budget more fully, I don't really understand the '\$50k up to 4 projects' Does this mean 4 per person, or 4 in total each location, or 4 in total overall?

Refer to the Budget slide in the presentation.

Can a team submit more than one concept?

Yes. But it is recommended to develop and focus on one submission.

Is there a city-wide temporary structures DA that allow for these works to go in with out needing separate DAs?

Not as far as we are aware. Artworks may be exempt and complying development, and not require a DA. In either case, City staff will assist with approvals. Artist teams are not required to lodge DAs.

Artist Briefing – Zoom Chat – Questions and Answers 4

Can an installation have 2 parts? I.e. a full immersive light and sound for 1st month then a less immersive experience for the remaining 5 months?

Yes, if you think it will be as compelling in both states.

Hi, a few questions:

Do you encourage artists to use their own engineers or is it best to use council engineers due to tight time frame?

The City will engage an engineer to certify artworks as this will be the most expeditious for both parties. If you have access to an engineer you are welcome to seek their advice. The City will cover the costs of engineering certification.

Do you require full quotes or indicative costings?

No full quotes for each aspect of the project are not required, but a reasonably detailed budget must be submitted that demonstrates that you have thought of every likely cost.

Artist Briefing – Zoom Chat – Questions and Answers 5

Which laneways have pre-existing infrastructure to hang works?

We do not have detailed information regarding existing infrastructure to provide, so cannot recommend or advise which laneways have existing infrastructure. It will be up to artist teams to identify potential existing infrastructure.

I'm assuming there are noise limitations in the lane ways. if the work has sound what time does it need to end each night?

Yes, that will depend on the sound emitted, and the exact location of the work. There are now many more apartments in the City so you can assume there will need to be a curfew on sound from 10pm or thereabouts.

Is the Australian Museum available to project video on the building during the timeframe of this project?

We don't have that information at this point. City staff will investigate that if your project is selected. Also we have done a project in this location, so there would need to be a good reason not focus on the locations nominated in the artist brief.

Artist Briefing – Zoom Chat – Questions and Answers 6

Do you have a relationship with AV company for Projection supply ,install? i imagine projection hire for 6 months would be prohibitively expensive.

Refer to preferred suppliers in FAQ slides above.

Will the city light sculptural works or does the budget need to provide for lighting as well?

No. There is a lot of existing lighting in laneways. If a work requires lighting the budget will need to cover this.

With regard to a socially engaged project, would we aim to engage COS residents and workers or could any kind of workshop components have a broader audience reach?

It can have a broader reach as we are seeking to incite people to return to the city for work and play.

Artist Briefing – Zoom Chat – Questions and Answers 7

Can you submit more than one application idea ?

Can we submit with 2 versions? I.e. one with fixtures then if not approved, a low impact version of the installation?

Yes. But it is recommend to focus on one option and submit your best idea.

can the width of the lane be reduced? are there any rules on bottlenecking? what's the minimum width?

Lanes that service vehicles and pedestrians will need to retain this use. At a minimum pedestrian laneways will need to maintain disabled access.

Is projection art accepted?

Yes.

will the engineering certification be a cost for the artist or will council be in charge of certification?

The City will cover the cost of engineering certification.

Artist Briefing – Zoom Chat – Questions and Answers 8

I noticed many previous projects are done in teams. Can a single artist apply?

Yes.

is the artist responsible for the public liability

Yes. Refer to the application form and the FAQ slide on insurances above.

Is there preferred sites for projection works?

No.

Can any of these projects be installed for longer than 6 months?

Possibly. That is not the aim of the project at this point.

Is there any preferred site for generative design works; works that can expand based on the size of the site (ceiling)?

No. It is up to artist/design teams to nominate their preferred site.

Artist Briefing – Zoom Chat – Questions and Answers 9

When will be the next round of applications following this one, given the short time frame for this round?

Refer to the FAQ 5 slide above.

In the past, have projected visuals only appeared at night? What happens to them through the day?

Some projections can still work in low-light laneway environments.

For interactive projects where people will be encouraged to touch the objects, will we need to consider hygiene and anti COVID measure?

Yes. Refer to FAQ 1 slide above.

The previous question was about submitting one application with 2 versions, one preferred, then a lower impact version of the same installation? I.e. options

It is recommend to focus on one option and submit your best idea.

Artist Briefing – Zoom Chat – Questions and Answers 10

Is a periodic activation type work viable - ie. for night time display only, primarily?

Yes.

is there a COVID-safe component that submissions must adhere to?

Not at this stage. Refer to the FAQ slide 1 above.

**if the city is covering engineering certification costs, will that sit separately to the 50k budget?
or will we need to include it inside of the 50k**

Engineering costs do not need to be covered by artists. Refer to the Budget slide in the presentation above.

**to all artist - the best insurance is from NAVA =20 million. can your staff photograph and video
fly through for non local people - as photos of the site are standard.**

Sorry, photos are not available.

Artist Briefing – Zoom Chat – Questions and Answers 11

Is there any restriction on the use of helium/air gas?

Not as far as we are aware. But public artworks need to withstand the elements and wear and tear from public interactions. Safety is paramount.

I have to share re: insurance

I have been producing temporary public art installations in public space for 6 years, the NAVA policy unfortunately does not cover works of that nature

We understand public liability is part of NAVA membership. Refer to FAQ slide 1 above.

given the short time can you submit work that has already been exhibited elsewhere but reimagined for this application?

Yes. The City understands that this may be the most expeditious way to deliver artworks within the timeframe.

In regards to proposed concepts, would Mural art be a preferred component as apposed to other components such as installation, projected visuals etc?

No. Easy solutions are not always the best. We encourage artists to be inventive.

If you have a question regarding the artist brief that is not covered in this presentation you can email CityArt@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au