

CLWS FAQs from week ending 30/8/2024

Can the rooftop be used for creative practice purposes?

At this time, the rooftop is only for laundry use.

If my recent tenancy ledger is not ideal, due to the high rent costs in the private market, will that count against my application?

The tenancy checks for this program happen once the recommended applicants have been selected. This process ensures tenants can meet the financial requirements of the lease (\$200 rent per week). At this point we will request information (payslips, income etc) that will help us see that you can meet the rent requirement of this program.

My creative practice is dance. Are you allowed to dance in the apartment?

Yes. Please review the virtual tours and floorplans to determine which apartment best suits your practice.

How many applicants typically apply and how frequently is this opportunity offered?

This opportunity was last offered in 2022 and attracted around 80 applications. This opportunity is offered every 18-24 months.

Is there a virtual tour of the rooftop.

No, there is no virtual tour of the rooftop at this time.

My most recent landlord is overseas. Is this ok for the tenancy checks?

Tenancy checks happen once recommended applicants have been notified. Email details of an overseas landlord would be acceptable.

Are you allowed to study as part of your creative practice?

As long as you can meet the financial requirements of the lease and can demonstrate a suitable creative practice will be ongoing, studying during the tenancy is acceptable.

Do the apartments have air-conditioning?

No.

How wide are the stairs?

Recommended applicants will inspect the property (including the stairs to access the apartments) before signing a lease.

Is there any noise spill between the apartments and are there noise restrictions?

We have not received complaints from previous tenants about noise bleed between apartments. There is a light well in the building which is common to multiple tenancies and sound could transfer through this. Your responsibility as a tenant around the peace, comfort and privacy of neighbours are covered by the provisions in the NSW Residential Tenancy Agreement. Please review this document on our website.

What media opportunities are tenants obliged to participate in?

Media interviews, photography shoots and research surveys are examples of the media opportunities tenants are expected to participate in.

Which apartments are on which floors?

Units 1, 2, and 3 are on the first floor. Units 4, 5, and 6 are on level 2.

I may not be able to move in until late December – is this ok?

Ability to occupy the apartments by the specified date is one of the assessment criteria, so if there is a significant delay in an applicant's ability to occupy the apartment by the specified date, their application may be less competitive. Please provide as much information as possible in your application to help us understand your situation.

If my creative practice involves audience participation, are there venues operated by the City that can support me in this program?

Support for use of venues for eligible activities is available through the [Fee Waiver for Hiring Community Spaces](#) grant.

What sort of support is offered through this program for tenants?

Networking and professional development opportunities are examples of support this program can offer.

Can I amend my application after I have submitted it?

If you want to amend your application before the closing date, please email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au who can reopen your application. Please ensure you resubmit before the closing date.

How does the stage of my creative career (early, mid, late) matter in the assessment process?

This information helps us assess an applicant's need for this opportunity.

I have multiple creative practices. Do I need to pick one to focus on for my application?

How you present your creative practice in your application is entirely up to you. Previous tenants in the program have had multiple practices as well as single practices.

Is there any support persons that can be contacted during the tenancy?

The [Cultural Spaces and Sector Development team](#) is the relationship manager of this program and support tenants during their time in the program.

Are ceramics, oil paints or aerosols suitable for this program?

We have had many different creative practitioners live and work in these apartments in the past. Please outline how you would manage any hazards related to the materials you use in your practice in your application. Please note there are no paint traps on the sinks in the apartments.

Are the apartments carpeted?

As part of the refurbishments, all apartments will have hard flooring.

Are the apartments furnished?

The apartments are unfurnished. Tenants need to provide their own furniture and appliances, including a fridge.

If my work as a performance artist requires me to tour or travel, and I will be away from the apartment for periods, is this ok?

This program is primarily designed to provide housing opportunities in the inner city for creative practitioners. We understand that touring for creatives is important for career development. Please provide as much detail in your application so we can understand your situation.

Are pets permitted?

Pets that are suitable for small apartment living are permitted but you must apply for this as part of the tenancy check..

Are the funding priorities equally weighted?

The funding priorities are for applications that show potential for:

- increased opportunity for, and awareness of creative practitioners to live and work in the city
- strengthened cultural sector connections and networks in the city.

These priorities are of equal importance.

In the section of the application where you tick which apartments you apply for, does that mean you won't be considered or selected for the ones you don't tick?

This part of the application gives us an indication of your preference and is not an assessable element of your application. The apartments you tick do not preclude you from being considered for the program overall.

What does it mean that the tenancy is practice based?

This means that you do not need to propose a particular project or new work in your application. The program is aimed at supporting ongoing creative practice and it is expected that tenants continue their creative practice throughout the tenancy. We will work with tenants to monitor this throughout their tenancy.

What does it mean that my practice mustn't conflict with City values?

Projects that breach the ethics framework in the [City of Sydney Grants Policy](#) are not eligible for their program.

If I am not a recommended applicant, can I get feedback on what I could do better?

If you would like feedback on your application, please email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

What things have past tenants found beneficial about the location of the apartments?

The location of the apartments is a hub for music, theatre, dance and visual arts sectors and making new and productive connections in these sectors has been a highlight for previous tenants. Having reduced travel time to creative opportunities has also been reported as a benefit of the program. For more information on previous tenants, please see these articles:

2016 tenants:

<https://news.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/emerging-artists-find-creative-spaces-in-sydney>

2017 tenants:

<https://news.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/artists-make-themselves-at-home-in-creative-hub>

2020 tenants

<https://www.broadsheet.com.au/sydney/art-and-design/article/room-ones-own-finding-space-creatives-sydney>

2023 tenants

<https://news.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/articles/nurturing-creative-talent-in-the-heart-of-the-city>