

Cultural Connections Application Form 2026

Form Preview

Cultural Connections

About this Grant

The Cultural Connections program provides funding to artists and community leaders from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background, People of Colour and people who identify as culturally diverse for creative projects. The program provides up to \$8,000 in funding, along with one-on-one support to deliver a creative project.

Applications close: 3pm (AEST), Tuesday 28 July, 2026 **Need help?** Call us on (02) 9335 2293 or (02) 9392

Email: raffaella.cavadini@innerwest.nsw.gov.au or hannah.rouse@innerwest.nsw.gov.au

EOI 7 - Cultural Connections 2026 / 2027 (Internal Reference Number)

What You'll Need

- Contact details and ABN if you have one
- Activity dates
- Budget (income and expenses, with quotes for items over \$500)
- Examples of the type of creative work you are proposing
- Details of your/ your groups relevant experience for the project you are proposing
- Partner letters of support (if applicable)
- Letters of Support from industry mentors/leaders/community/key stakeholders (supporting your work / demonstrating need for the project)
- First Nations cultural protocol documentation (if applicable)
- Public Liability Certificate of Currency (if you already have it)

Instructions

- Please provide a response to all relevant questions
- When you have completed all of the questions on a page, click on **Next Page** to view the next page of the application
- Click **Save** regularly so you do not lose any information you have entered
- You can jump to any page in the application form by using the **Application Form Navigation** table on the right side
- Once you have completed all the pages the last page will provide you with the opportunity to **Review** your application. If you are happy with your application you can **Submit**.
- If you have answered all of the required questions a **Confirmation Message** will be displayed to acknowledge your application has been submitted
- Please keep a copy of your login name and password

Applicants are encouraged to read The Grant Guidelines and review the FAQ area on our website before applying: <https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funded-programs/cultural-connections>

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Accessibility Support

Need help with this form?

We want to support all applicants to apply. If you need help because of:

- Disability access needs
- Language barriers
- First time applying for grants

Please contact us and we'll help you.

Phone support: (02) 9335 2293 or (02) 9392 5307

Deaf or hard of hearing: Contact the National Relay Service on 1300 555 727 or visit their website, <https://www.accesshub.gov.au/about-the-nrs/nrs-call-numbers-and-links>

Need an interpreter? Call 131 450 and ask them to call Council on (02) 9392 5000 (free service)

Disability access needs: Let us know what adjustments you need - we're here to help.

Eligibility

* indicates a required field

Applicant type

Who are you applying as? *

Individual requirements

I declare I am over 18 years of age *

- Yes
 No

Australian residency status

I declare I am an Australian resident *

- Yes
 No

Identity

Individual - Do you identify with any of the terms below? - you can choose more than one option *if your project represents a particular community you must be from that community *

- Aboriginal
 Torres Strait Islander

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- Person of Colour
- Culturally Diverse
- Disabled
- LGBTIQ+
- Other:

- None of the above

You are eligible to apply as an Individual but must meet the following general eligibility criteria also:

Please continue filling in your application

If you see this message you ARE ELIGIBLE - please answer yes to the next question:

Are you eligible to apply as an Individual?

- Yes
- No

You are not eligible to apply for this funding program as an Individual based on the information provided

Please check the information you have provided in the Eligibility area. To apply for this Grant Program as an Individual you must:

- Be over the age of 18
- Be an Australian resident
- Identify as either First Nations, a Person of Colour, or Culturally Diverse

If you believe you are eligible to apply but have received this message, please contact the grant administrator - (02) 9335 2293 or (02) 9392 5307.

Please read the Cultural Connections Guidelines and review the eligibility criteria - more suitable funding may be found online here:- [Create NSW](#)- [Creative Australia](#)- [Arts Hub](#)- [Club Grants](#)

Community Arts / Not For Profit Organisation requirements

I declare we are a Not For Profit Community or Arts Organisation *

- Yes
- No

Incorporation Status

Incorporation status just means whether your group or organisation is officially registered as a legal entity

I declare we are an Incorporated organisation *

- Yes

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No

Organisation type

This grant program supports individuals and groups who identify as First Nations, culturally and linguistically diverse, People of Colour (PoC), and/or Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BiPoC). How does your organisation engage with and support these communities?

Indicate which category describes your organisation best *

- It provides services to the target groups identified in the guidelines (Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, PoC, CALD, Disabled, LGBTIQ)
- We are a peak org serving one or more of these communities
- We have specialist staff who identify as belonging to one or more of the target groups and they will be running our proposed project
- Other:

None of the above

Please describe your suitability in the other field

You are eligible to apply as an Organisation but must meet the following general eligibility criteria also:

Please continue filling in your application

If you see this message you ARE ELIGIBLE - please answer yes to the next question:

Are you eligible to apply as an Organisation?

- Yes
- No

You are not eligible to apply for this funding program as an Organisation based on the information provided

Please check the information you have provided in the Eligibility area. To apply for this Grant Program as an Organisation you must:

- Be a Not for Profit Arts or Community organisation
- Be an Incorporated Organisation
- Be providing services to the target groups identified (i.e. First Nations, a People of Colour, or Culturally Diverse)

If you believe you are eligible to apply but have received this message, please contact the grant administrator - (02) 9335 2293 or (02) 9392 5307.

Please read the Cultural Connections Guidelines and review the eligibility criteria - more suitable funding may be found online here:- [Create NSW](#)- [Creative Australia](#)- [Arts Hub](#)- [Club Grants](#)

Non-Australian Resident or Unincorporated group with an Auspice requirements

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You may ask your Auspice organisation to help you fill in the information about them.

An Auspice organisation is a Not For Profit Organisation which has agreed to support you deliver this project, they may ask to manage the funds, work closely with you to deliver the project and provide you with their insurance.

I have a Not For Profit Auspice organisation *

- Yes
- No

Incorporation Status

Incorporation status just means whether your Auspicing organisation is officially registered as a legal entity

I declare the Auspicing Organisation is an Incorporated organisation *

- Yes
- No

Auspicing agreement

Upload an email/ letter from your Auspice organisation confirming the agreement between you and them, detailing what their role will be (e.g. financial management / project supervisor and who will be the contact for the project)

*

Attach a file:

Identity

Do you/ your group identify with any of the terms below? - you can choose more than one option *if your project represents a particular community you must be from that community *

- Aboriginal
- Torres Strait Islander
- Person of Colour
- Culturally Diverse
- Disabled
- LGBTIQ+
- Other:

- None of the above

You are eligible to apply as a Non-Australian Resident or Unincorporated group with an Auspice but must meet the following general eligibility criteria also:

Please continue filling in your application

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If you see this message you ARE ELIGIBLE - please answer yes to the next question:

Are you eligible to apply as a Non-Australian resident or Unincorporated group with an Auspice?

- Yes
- No

You are not eligible to apply for this funding program as a Non-Australian Resident or Unincorporated group with an Auspice based on the information provided

Please check the information you have provided in the Eligibility area. To apply for this Grant Program as a Non-Australian Resident or Unincorporated group with an Auspice you must:

- Have a Not for Profit Auspicing Organisation
- Have an Auspicing Organisation that is an Incorporated Organisation
- Identify as either First Nations, a Person of Colour, or Culturally Diverse

If you believe you are eligible to apply but have received this message, please contact the grant administrator - (02) 9335 2293 or (02) 9392 5307.

Please read the Cultural Connections Guidelines and review the eligibility criteria - more suitable funding may be found online here:- [Create NSW](#)- [Creative Australia](#)- [Arts Hub](#)- [Club Grants](#)

General Eligibility requirements

Confirmation you have read and agree to the terms set out in the Cultural Connections Guidelines

The terms are all the things listed in the Guidelines that refer to the rules, requirements, and responsibilities that applicants must agree to and follow.

I have read and agree to the terms set out in the Cultural Connections 2026 Guidelines *

- Yes
- No

Benefit to Inner West community

Your project must benefit the [Inner West Local Government Area](#) community

Do you agree your project will benefit the Inner West community? *

- Yes
- No

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Confirmation of project location

To check your project location please use the following website [Find your local council | Office of Local Government](#) - add your address and confirm the project is located in the Inner West Local Government Area.

If your location isn't confirmed yet please respond if you agree to delivering your project in the Inner West.

Do you agree your project will take place in the Inner West Local Government Area?

- Yes
- No

Creative Outcome

Applicants do not need to identify as creatives, but projects must have a creative outcome.

For example this could be a podcast, a short film, an exhibition, a creative workshop, activity or event.

Do you confirm that your project has a creative outcome? *

- Yes
- No

First Nations Cultural Protocol Documentation

Projects that included elements with First Nations content must provide evidence in their application that the appropriate approvals have been provided

If your project involves First Nations content, do you agree to provide evidence that the appropriate cultural protocols have been followed *

- Yes
- No
- My project does not include First Nations content

For example, if you do not identify as First Nations have you reached out to local Elders, Council's Cultural Advisor, the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Lands Council

Working with Children Check (WWCC) declaration

If your project involves Working with Children do you declare all relevant people will have a WWCC? *

- Yes
- No
- My project does not involve working with children

Public Liability

You may wish to contact a range of insurers to determine whether they can provide cover suitable for your specific activity. Some providers offer lower-cost, short-term or date-specific policies, which may be appropriate for one-off events.

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Public Liability Insurance (PLI) can be sourced from various providers. Common insurers within the arts sector include:

- National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA)
- Duck for Cover
- Local Community Insurance Services (LCIS)

If your application is successful you will be required to have Public Liability Insurance (PLI) for \$20 million that covers your project date/s *

- I already have PLI that covers our project date/s
- I will purchase PLI if I am successful
- Other:

- I will not purchase PLI

If your funding is approved you will need to provide a PLI certificate of currency that covers your project dates when you sign your contract

You meet all eligibility criteria and are eligible to apply

If you see this message you ARE ELIGIBLE - please answer yes to the next question:

Please confirm you are eligible to apply

- Yes
- No

You are not eligible to apply for this funding program

Please check the information you have provided in the Eligibility area. To apply for this Grant Program you must:

- Have confirmed you have read and agree to the terms set out in the Cultural Connections 2026 Guidelines
- Be proposing a project that benefits the Inner West
- Be delivering your project in the Inner West
- Be delivering a project with a creative outcome
- Agree to provide evidence that cultural protocols have been followed (if proposing a project with First Nations content)
- Declare that relevant people will have a WWCC (if the project involves working with children)
- Agree to have Public Liability for \$20 million to cover the project dates (if your project is funded)

If you believe you are eligible to apply but have received this message, please contact the grant administrator - (02) 9335 2293 or (02) 9392 5307.

Please read the Cultural Connections Guidelines and review the eligibility criteria - more suitable funding may be found online here:- [Create NSW](#)- [Creative Australia](#)- [Arts Hub](#)- [Club Grants](#)

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About You

* indicates a required field

Individual Details

Name of applicant

First Name

Last Name

What are your pronouns

- She / her / hers
- They / them / their
- He / him / his
- She / They
- He / They
- Other:

Phone Number

Must be an Australian phone number.

Email

Must be an email address.

Address

Address

Website

Must be a URL.

please add full web address including http://

Social media

Must be a URL.

E.g. Instagram / Facebook

Where did you find out about the 2026 Cultural Connections Program

- Arts Hub website / promotion
- Inner West Council Instagram
- Inner West Council website
- Word of Mouth
- Targeted email
- Other:

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Inner West Council Facebook

ABN Status

You **do not** need an ABN to apply.

If you do not have an ABN and your application is successful you will need to provide a [Statement by Supplier form](#) when you submit your invoice. If you are applying as an organisation or as an individual with an auspice organisation please add their ABN

Do you have an ABN?

- Yes
 No
 Other:

ABN

The ABN provided will be used to look up the following information. Click Lookup above to check that you have entered the ABN correctly.

Information from the Australian Business Register	
ABN	
Entity Name	
ABN Status	
Entity Type	
Goods & Services Tax (GST)	
DGR Endorsed	
ATO Charity Type	More information
ACNC Registration	
Tax Concessions	
Main Business Location	

Must be an ABN.

Organisation Details

If you are applying with an Organisation or an Individual or Group with an Auspice Organisation please enter in these details

Organisation Name *

Organisation Name

Organisation Address *

Address

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Contact person at Organisation

First Name

Last Name

Position title of contact at the Organisation *

E.g. Producer, Administration, Manager

Project details

* indicates a required field

Project Title *

Word count:

Must be no more than 250 characters no more than 30 words.

When do you plan to deliver your project? *

October 2026 November 2026 December 2026 January 2027 February 2027 March 2027 April 2027 May 2027 June 2027 I am flexible with my date

You may choose multiple months if programming runs over more than a month. Please note all programming must be completed by the end of June 2027

If you have a specific date please enter it here

Must be a date.

Where will your project take place? *

Is this venue confirmed? *

- Yes
 No

Is the project location wheelchair accessible? *

- Yes
 No
 I don't know

Will the project be based outdoors? *

- Yes
 No

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Outdoor projects may require:

- a wet weather plan
- a Development Application (DA)
- approval to use the space
- booking the location
- arranging access to a power source

These elements may include extra costs which need to be added to your budget. Please talk to the Parks Team if you want to use a park to understand what is involved. Email recreation@innerwest.nsw.gov.au

Council Venues

Council has a range of halls and spaces available for use - funded Cultural Connections projects can request to use one of these spaces for free (pending availability).

To view the full list of available spaces please visit Council's website: [Venues for hire | Inner West Council](#).

To be eligible projects must have low-cost tickets (i.e. under \$30pp) and justify the need for the free venue in their budget (for example, the \$8,000 and ticketing income is required to cover the cost of the project being delivered).

Do you require a Council Hall or space for this project? *

- Yes
- No
- Other:

If yes, which hall or Council venue? *

- Annandale Town Hall
- Ashfield Town Hall
- Balmain Town Hall
- Leichhardt Town Hall
- Marrickville Town Hall
- Petersham Town Hall
- St Peters Town Hall
- Marrickville Pavilion
- Council community space (list name in "Other" field)
- Council meeting room (list name in "Other" field)
- Other:

Description of Project

Type of project (you can select more than one) *

- Talk
- Music
- Written work
- Workshop
- Storytelling
- Research
- School incursion (visit)
- Dance
- Visual Art / exhibition
- Podcast
- Food / beverage
- Theatre work
- Festival / Community Event
- Forum / panel
- Film
- Interviews
- Other:

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What language(s) will your project be delivered in *

Word count:

Which age group does your project target *

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0-5 year old | <input type="checkbox"/> 40-50 year olds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6-12 year olds | <input type="checkbox"/> 50-60 year olds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13-18 year olds | <input type="checkbox"/> 60-70 year olds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 19-25 year olds | <input type="checkbox"/> 70 + year olds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 26-40 year olds | <input type="checkbox"/> No particular age / cross generational |

Explain what your project is and how you will deliver it

Tell us:

- What will you do? (e.g., produce a performance, provide a series of workshops, present an exhibition, deliver a community arts program or event)
- Who is it for? (e.g., are you targeting a particular group)
- Where will it happen? (Location, venue, or online)
- How will you do it? (e.g., do you have some components confirmed, who is your audience and how will you engage them)
- Who else is involved? (Collaborating artists, performers, venues, community partners, or other organisations)
- When will it happen? (Start and end dates /times)

Describe your project *

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

Describe your or the group's experience delivering similar projects *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

How will you promote your project and reach inner west audiences / participants?

*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social media | <input type="checkbox"/> Email |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Council's What's On calendar | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Posters | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="text"/> |

Add any other engagement details here

For example, if working with school age children, do you have contacts for these groups in the Inner West? Have you had any initial communication that shows an interest from a group to participate?

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What Cultural Connection aims does your project meet? *

- Diverse representation in the arts
- Cross cultural understanding
- Engagement of children and young people in arts programming with a cultural perspective
- Recognition of cultural diversity as an asset and contributor to innovative arts practice
- Sharing stories about our local area and who we are

Choose which are best connected to your project

Describe how your project best meets two of the aims above *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

What are the benefits of your project to the community? *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Will you be evaluating your project? If so what measures will you use? *

Word count:

Must be no more than 50 words.

For example, survey, number of people, recording feedback

Considerations

Considerations may make your work more accessible and responsible, opening up opportunities for more people to participate and delivering better outcomes for your project. Think about what things could improve your project. You may like to add items to your budget that help you deliver on these considerations.

A great example of important work around accessibility and diversity can be found here: https://content.acca.melbourne/uploads/2021/09/ACCA-Equity-Action-Plan-2020-2022_website.pdf.

Some ideas for reducing waste in businesses can be found here: <https://businessrecycling.com.au/research/>

What considerations will you make for your project? *

- Cultural safety
- Disability accessibility
- Environmental
- Work health and safety
- Other:

Support

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Council provides one on one support to funded groups - support can range from project planning to locating a venue or assistance with event delivery. See pages 6 - 7 of the [Cultural Connections Guidelines](#) for more details.

Would you like support for your project, if yes please describe? *

Word count:

Must be no more than 80 words.

This year

Budget

* indicates a required field

Have you ever received any funding or in-kind support from Inner West Council in the last 5 years? *

- Yes
- No

If yes, please describe the support here

For example list any funding received or other support

Marketing Stipend

You can access an additional \$500 to support promotion of your activity. Council encourages you to promote your activity through your own community networks and recognises the time and costs involved in creating content, sending communications, and sharing your activity in ways that best reach your audience

Will you be applying for the \$500 Marketing Stipend? *

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

If yes, please describe what you will use the funds for - add this cost to your budget below

E.g. pay for radio advertising, film a social media reel, boost social media content, pay for graphic designer to design a poster

Access Stipend

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You can access an additional \$1,000 to support you with your own access requirements or increase the accessibility of your work from an audience perspective. It is in addition to the grant amount.

Will you be applying for the \$1,000 Access Stipend? *

- Yes
- No

Ticketing at your event

Council encourages free / low cost experiences for the community, consider covering costs in your budget to eliminate fees / high fees to the community. Tickets over \$30 are not considered accessible.

Consider if you are able to offer discounted or concession tickets to community.

Any ticketing income generated from your activity must be reinvested back into the project.

Will you be charging ticket fees at your activity? *

- Yes
- No

Please list your ticket fee here (per person) and any details about concession tickets

Budget Breakdown

Council supports fair wages for creatives, consider using peak body guidelines to set fees: [NAVA Code of Practice](#) (visual arts) [MEAA](#) (film and entertainment) [ASA](#) (writers and illustrators).

Please include all costs associated with delivering your project including the Marketing and Access Stipends.

Some possible cost items have been added to the budget - please delete any budget lines that are not necessary for your project - feel free to add your own items not listed.

The total available budget for projects is \$8,000. If you are applying for the Access Stipend \$500 can be added to this total. If you are applying for The Access Stipend up to \$1,000 more can be added to your budget - Access Stipend costs must be explained in the Budget Expenditure.

What is the total budget you are requesting to deliver your project? *

\$

Must be a dollar amount and no more than 9500.

Budget Income

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This area outlines all the money or in-kind contributions that will be used to deliver the project. Please confirm if the money or in-kind support is "confirmed" or "pending" in the last column.

In-kind contributions are non-monetary support, such as time, services, or resources provided by you or others at no cost to the project.

You can delete any "Income" lines that are not relevant to your activity by pressing the minus button. You can add other "income" lines by pressing the plus button.

Income	Income Amount \$	Confirmed or Pending
(Money coming in)		
Cultural Connections Grant		
Other Grant		
Ticket Sales		
Merchandise Sales		

Income uploads

This area can be used to upload confirmation of other funding sources or partners delivering in-kind contributions.

Please upload evidence of any other confirmed sources of income

Attach a file:

If you have applied for other grants for this project, how would you adjust your project if this funding is not received

For example, reduce your offering

Budget Expenditure

This section shows how the money you've listed in the income area will be spent to deliver your project.

Your budget must balance. This means the total money coming in should equal the total money going out.

Please provide details in the "Budget Notes" section, such as a breakdown of hours, dates, times, and fees. You can also include how costs were calculated, who will deliver the work, and what each cost relates to in your project.

Please delete any "Expenditure" lines that are not relevant to your activity by pressing the minus button and add any items not listed by pressing the plus button.

Expenditure	\$	Budget Notes
--------------------	-----------	---------------------

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(Money being spent)		
Artist/Project lead fees		
Artist fees 2		
Facilitator fees		
Facilitator fees 2		
Creative Fees		
Creative Fees 2		
Production staff fees		
Production staff fees 2		
Consultants / Specialty Staff		
Venue hire		
Props and Materials		
Equipment Hire		
Technical Costs		
Marketing and promotion		
Website / Digital		
Graphic Design		
Bump In/Out		
Documentation		
First Nations Protocols		
Translating / Interpreting		
Ticketing Charges		
Writers Royalties		
Music Licensing		
Copyright / Licensing Fees		
Working With Children Checks		
Public Liability Insurance		
Auspice fee (usually 5% of grant)		
Marketing Stipend (\$500)		
Access Stipend (Up to \$1,000)		

Budget Totals

This section is worked out for you. If the "Income - Expenditure" total in Column 3 isn't 0, your budget doesn't balance and needs to be fixed.

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Total Income Amount

This number/amount is calculated.

Total Expenditure Amount

This number/amount is calculated.

Income - Expenditure

This number/amount is calculated.

Expenditure Uploads

Please upload any quotes for items over \$500 listed in your Budget Expenditure

Attach a file:

Supporting Material

* indicates a required field

Samples of the work you are proposing

This can include sound files / image files / video files / music files/ word files / of similar work you have delivered.

If this isn't something you have delivered before and you can't share files you can upload mood board images, planning notes or sketches related to the work you are proposing.

Sample 1 *

Attach a file:

A maximum of 1 file may be attached.

Description of upload *

E.g. what are we viewing?

Sample 2

Attach a file:

A maximum of 1 file may be attached.

Description of upload

Marketing images for your activity

Attach a file:

A maximum of 3 files may be attached.

If you have a hero image for your project please upload it here

If your activity is funded, can Council use any images you provide for promotional purposes (e.g. social media)?

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- Yes
- No

This will just be for initial promotion

Image credits:

If yes, Please provide an image credit

Project, Photographer, Year

Letter of Support

Provide one reference from someone who has worked with you - do they support you / your work and can they vouch for your proposed activity? *

Attach a file:

Evidence of Approvals & Cultural Protocols - First Nations Cultural Protocol

Projects that included elements with First Nations content must provide evidence in their application that the appropriate approvals have been provided.

Upload evidence you have confirming approvals and that appropriate cultural protocols have been followed *

Attach a file:

For example, if you do not identify as First Nations have you reached out to local Elders, Council's Cultural Advisor, or the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Lands Council seeking guidance - upload any communications here

Other Relevant Support Material

This could include confirmation from collaborators or partners listed in your application

Please upload any other support material for your application

Attach a file:

Finalisation and Declaration

* indicates a required field

I am aware my project must take place between October 2026 - June 2027

- Yes

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I am aware that my project or activity (if funded) will be marketed under the Cultural Connections banner and will be promoted on Council's website / social media *

Yes

I declare that to the best of my knowledge the information in this application is true and correct *

Yes

I have read and agree to the Requirements for Successful Applicants on page 9 of the Cultural Connections Guidelines 2026 - 2027 *

Yes

Opportunities to Partner with Council Events / other Programs

Funded activities may have the opportunity to be delivered in partnership with Council [events](#) and programs, such as the [Town Halls Alive](#) program.

This may require:

- flexibility with when and where your project is delivered
- agreement for the Mayor or a Council representative to speak at your event
- promoting your activity in line with existing Council or program branding and communication materials

This could result in broadening your activity reach or having boosted promotion.

This question is not assessed as part of your application. Partnering with Council events or programs is optional and will not impact your assessment score.

Are you open to the idea of partnering with Council events / other Programs? *

Yes

No

Unsure