



PARRAMATTA ARTISTS STUDIOS INFORMATION

Parramatta City Council is working to make Parramatta a 'Creative City'. Building on the success of the Riverside Theatres and the Heritage Centre, Council has adopted an ambitious strategy to increase the opportunities for artists and the community to participate in the arts. As part of this strategy, Parramatta City Council, with assistance from the NSW State Government through Arts NSW, has established the Parramatta Artists Studios in the heart of Parramatta.

The Parramatta Artists Studios will provide affordable accommodation to both emerging and established professional contemporary artists. The Studios aim to support the development of the individual artist, their practice and their contribution to arts as well as improving the opportunities for artists and the community in Parramatta.

The Focus of the Parramatta Artists Studios will be on contemporary arts and craft, including but not limited to painting, sculpture, photography, film making, design, sound, music and digital media. Artists will be encouraged to practise the full range of their arts within the capacity of the studio space provided. Parramatta Artists Studios will also contribute to the broader community through an annual program of events, workshops and arts activities. Activities will revolve around the making, learning and sharing of contemporary arts in all its forms.

The philosophy of the Parramatta Artists Studios is built on being

- **Affordable** – the weekly rental charge will be affordable for artists and sit within an industry range of rental charges for similar subsidised studio spaces across the country
- **Developmental** – the emphasis of the studio program and selection processes will be on the development of both the artist and their practice
- **Service-oriented** – the Studios will provide a quality service to artists and the wider community
- **Partnership-driven** – the Studios will seek to work in partnership with all stakeholders and supportive parties

Practicing artists within Parramatta, Western Sydney, New South Wales, Australia and across the world are welcome to apply and become a part the Parramatta Artists Studios.

General description of the Studio complex

The Parramatta Artists Studios are:

- Funded by Parramatta City Council and Arts NSW.
- Operated by Parramatta City Council.
- Staffed by a full-time coordinator.
- Available to individual artists at varying lengths of tenure at subsidised rates ranging from \$20 to \$60 per week.
- Comprised of 14 non-residential studios and 1 residential studio of varying sizes (each approx 10sqm to 25sqm). 2 non-residential studios are wheelchair accessible.
- Adjacent to St John's Church and Church Street Mall.
- Accessible by people with disabilities.
- Comprised of an exhibition space and program managed by the Studios.





Studio Tenure and Agreement

- Artists will be required to enter into a formal agreement with Council outlining length of tenure, rent to be paid and other conditions. These will include times and level of use of the studio, security procedures, participation in programs and functioning of the Studios.
- 2 non-residential studios will be available for long-term tenure of 2 years for established Parramatta or Western Sydney artists whose contribution to the arts would be greatly enhanced by access to long term studio space. These artists would be expected to provide leadership in terms of professional development, workshops, public engagement and collaborative projects.
- 2 studios are expected to be allocated to short-term tenancies of 2 weeks – 3 months to support artists producing or finishing work for exhibitions.
- 12 studios are expected to be available to practicing artists for tenures of 3 to 12 months.
- 1 residential studio will be available for international, interstate and regional artists for a period of up to 3 months. This studio is self contained with a kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and laundry. It is approximately 45sqm and has a working studio with-in it. All services (excluding telephone calls) are included in the rental fee of \$60. It is encouraged that artists will contribute to the Studios program.
- A bond of \$400 will be used as security for a studio.
- No smoking is allowed in any part of the Studios.

Studio Program

The Studios will provide a program of workshops and events to support its studio facilities and position it as a centre of contemporary arts production and innovation. It should be noted that while the Studios are being established, this program will be progressively developed during the first years of operation and may not be active in the initial stages. Activities will be externally and internally focussed and may include:

- Collaborative projects
- Professional development programs
- Mentorship programs
- Exhibitions
- Open days
- Community workshops and events
- Artist talks
- Professional support programs

Selection of Artists

Studio places will be publicly advertised and offered to practicing artists who take part in a selection process and address the selection criteria provided.

Selection of artists will be undertaken by a Selection Committee established by Council. Final selections will be made balancing a mix of art forms, gender, ethnicity, career stage and experience within the complex, in order to encourage diversity and fairness.

Students in full-time study are ineligible to apply unless they are in the last semester of their course. Students should utilise facilities provided by their educational institution. If selected, full-time students may only take up a studio once their course is complete.





Selection Criteria will include:

- Originality of ideas
- Quality of artist's work
- Value of the studio to the development of the individual artist
- Suitability of art form for the studios

The Selection Committee will also consider the following in order to achieve the objectives of the Parramatta Artists Studios, particularly those requiring a balance of artists using the Studios:

- Career stage of the artist
- Professional and studio experience
- Willingness to actively participate in programs conducted as part of the Studios
- Length of tenancy required
- Commitment of time to using the studio

Preference will be given to artists living in the Parramatta Local Government Area, who successfully meet the selection criteria.

Due Date

The next round of applications will close on the 30 March 2007. Applications can be downloaded from the Parramatta City Council website www.parracity.nsw.gov.au.

Enquiries

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Parramatta Artists Studios is an Initiative of Parramatta City Council supported by the NSW Government through Arts NSW.

