

Melbourne Fringe at Abbotsford Convent 2020

Expressions of Interest

Just four kilometres from Melbourne's CBD and spread over 16 acres, Abbotsford Convent is Australia's largest multi-arts precinct. We work collaboratively with artists and arts organisations across all art forms to present a year-round program of contemporary work that engages, surprises and delights audiences, encourages investigation and learning, and sparks important new conversations.

In addition to being the home of Fringe Furniture, we are inviting Expressions of Interest for projects across all art forms. In particular we're looking for creative projects that respond to the 'new normal' of our physically distanced world—rethinking the artist-audience relationship in imaginative and innovative ways. From one-on-one gigs, to outdoor galleries, to physically distanced performances in one of the Convent's heritage venues—our precinct is your oyster. Any outdoor projects must consider how to adapt to the weather.

In a post-COVID world, the Convent's unique performance spaces—which include numerous outdoor areas and venues of various scales—present an exciting opportunity for artists to explore and reimagine how works and performances can be staged, and how audiences can safely watch, participate and engage with work. So if you've been iso-dreaming up an idea, we want to hear from you!

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Venues

SPACE	CAPACITY	DIMENSIONS	FEATURES
Industrial School	270 standing 120 Theatre	22.91m x 7.66m plus 22.46m x 5.7m (303 m ²)	Concrete and wooden floors. Raw aesthetics. Versatile space. Can be divided in two distinct halves.
Oratory	200	7.52m x 23.1m (174 m ²)	Stained glass windows and distressed walls, dimmer lighting on single track around ceiling and a central raised area stage.
Packing Room	60 standing 30 Theatre	11.5m x 7.70m (86 m ²)	Raw industrial interior, concrete floor and light filled space. Wet Room capabilities.
Rosina Auditorium	300	Hall: 13.5m x 25m (336m ²) Stage: 13.5m x 5.7m (78m ²)	Includes a proscenium stage with a dividable backstage area that can be separated by a concertina-dividing wall. It features ground floor access, strong timber floors and mirrored wall.

Outdoor Spaces

To be discussed with ACF Producer or their appointed representative.

SPACE	CAPACITY	DIMENSIONS	FEATURES
Mercator Lawn	880	889m ²	Lawn area on eastern side of site in front of Mercator building.
Heritage Gardens	1300	1: 1375m ²	Large grass area, lawn is divided in three sections.
	2200	2: 2250m ²	
	600	3: 625m ²	
Gate 1 (Hospital lawn, Providence lawn inclusive)	1700	1750m ²	Rough grassed area with brick wall along St Heliers Street. Large gum on eastern side. Noise kept to a minimum in this area (see noise restriction in FAQs).
Sacred Heart Courtyard	800	850m ²	Concrete area, adjacent to the Sacred Heart building's ground floor venues.
Cloisters	200	212m ²	Large timber pieces in situ with tanbark on ground.

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FAQs

What do I need to consider if I want my project to be in an outdoor public area?

- Consider theft as a possibility. How will your work be secured? If you can't secure it, who will be keeping an eye on it? What will you do in the event of damage?
- Consider public safety.

What noise restrictions are there?

- Please consider the noise impact of your project on the Convent community.
- Noise and noise bleed around the main Convent building needs to be kept to a minimum. This is particularly important around the Eastern wing where wellbeing practitioners and writers are located.
- In the areas around the main buildings (especially the main Convent building), any amplified sound and noise cannot be heard above 65 decibels in the indoor spaces.
- Please contact our Producer to discuss your project and any noise concerns you may have.

Is there funding available?

No, but we do offer subsidised venue hire rates, limited marketing and communications support, producer support and the opportunity to be part of a supportive artistic community.

What are the subsidised venue hire rates?

These are dependent on the type of project, the space requested and the duration. The Abbotsford Convent Foundation (ACF) are committed to supporting artists' sustainably. Please discuss your project with the ACF Venues Team and a quote will be provided.

Is there any technical support?

No, technical support is not provided. You will need to provide us with a timeline of your project, and your production staff contact details, and duties.

Do I need insurance?

Any public event will require you to have public limited liability insurance for \$10 million. You will need to present the insurance certificate to the ACF in advance of the event.

What about security?

The ACF does not provide security for your project or your equipment. Depending on the type, time and expected attendance at your event, this might be something you need to factor in.

Can I serve food and/ or alcohol?

If you are planning to serve food or alcohol as part of your event, you will be required to organise and present all relevant permits and discuss details in advance with the ACF Venues Team.

Does the Convent run a box office?

The ACF does not have a box office function. This is the responsibility of the artist.

Can I arrange a time for a site visit?

Yes, please contact the Venues team on venuehireabbotsfordconvent.com.au.

Please visit our website for venues specs, photographs and online resources at <https://abbotsfordconvent.com.au/venues/>

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Things to consider when presenting at the Convent

- Context – how presenting in the Convent environment will influence the work.
- Experimental, and participatory new approaches of engaging with communities and audiences in the current time in safe and inspired ways.
- Adaptability throughout the process of creating, testing, and presenting in a COVID-19 socially distanced and changed world.
- Works that surprise and intrigue our diverse audiences.

Note: As a multi-use site, the Abbotsford Convent has a vast array of activities happening at any one time. The physical footprint of each activity will consequently need to be considered within the broader context of the precinct. Consideration needs to be given to the impact of space, sound and number of people across the site, as well as the interface between the project and regular Convent events, such as the monthly markets.

To apply

Please submit your application via: <https://bit.ly/Fringe2020Convent>

Applications close Sunday 23 August 2020