

# 2024-2025 curator program guide



**firstdraft**



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# about the program callout

Firstdraft is now seeking proposals for our 2024 - 25 program.  
We invite ideas that champion experimentation, risk and inclusion.

We want to know about you, your practice, your ideas, and why the opportunity would benefit you. We particularly encourage applications from First Peoples, culturally and linguistically diverse people, and people living with disability.

Applications can only be submitted online. We recommend preparing your answers for the online form and requested support material information before completing the application form, which should take between 20 and 30 minutes to complete.

If you need support applying, or if you have a disability that requires adjustment to the application process or an alternative application pathway, please contact:  
[program@firstdraft.org.au](mailto:program@firstdraft.org.au)

Before applying, we strongly encourage you to review all the information on the relevant program here: [firstdraft.org.au/program-callout](https://firstdraft.org.au/program-callout)

## key dates

Callout opens

**Friday 12 April 2024 5:00PM**

Online information session #1

**Wednesday 24 April 2024 6:30PM**

Online information session #2 (auslan interpreted)

**Friday 26 April 2024 6:30PM**

Last day to request application support

**Friday 3 May 2024**

Callout closes

**Friday 10 May 2024 11:59PM**

**All applicants notified in early June**

# who can apply?

We welcome proposals from curators engaging with early-career artists, as well as proposals that create a dialogue between artists at all stages of their career.

Our curator program is designed to support curator-driven projects, placing a special emphasis on projects where the curator is not also an exhibiting artist.

## successful applicants receive:

- 1,500 curator/s fee per exhibition;
- \$600 artist fee per artist capped at \$3,000;
- Access to Travel Fund up to \$1,000 if regional or interstate based;
- A fully subsidised six-week exhibition in Gallery 1;
- Access to Firstdraft's equipment and resources;
- Marketing and communications support, including professional documentation;
- An opening night event and an artist/s talk;
- Professional exhibition invigilation.

# what does our application look like?

## First of all, tell us about yourself (the applicant)

1. Email
2. What is your full name?
3. What are your pronouns?
4. What is your best contact number?
5. What is your address? (number, street address, city, state, Traditional Place Name)
6. What is your postcode?
7. What is your date of birth?
8. Please upload your CV / Portfolio / brief overview of your prior experience or provide us with your website/social media information.
9. Do you identify as:
  - Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people
  - Culturally or linguistically diverse people
  - LGBTQIA+
  - People living with disability
  - People with access needs
  - Young people (ages 18-25)

## Tell us about your project

10. Please describe your project in approximately 300-500 words
11. Or upload your proposal on a single A4 page or an audio/video file under 4 minutes that describes your project
12. Please provide participant full names, pronouns, and exhibiting name
13. Any other relevant support material to demonstrate the nature of the project (examples include: images or videos of prior work, website, work-in-progress notes, floor plans)
14. When can your exhibition take place?
  - December 2024 - January 2025
  - February - March 2025
  - April - May 2025
  - June - July 2025
  - August- September 2025
  - October - November 2025

# what does our application look like?

15. Are there any challenges you foresee in delivering your project such as cost (for freight or production), timing, capacity of participants, fragility of work? How do you plan to address these?
16. If available, please provide any other information on potential equipment required (Firstdraft has a small selection of AV equipment available for use, subject to availability and negotiation within the exhibition program)

Ready to apply? [Click here.](#)

# submission guide

## your proposal

- Give as much information as you can to help us understand what you have in mind. You might consider including information about the following:
- **WHAT** are material or ideas that you are exploring;
- **HOW** your idea could fit into a specific gallery space at Firstdraft or, for the live program, how your idea might run as an event and be attended by audiences;
- **WHY** your idea responds to experimentation, risk and inclusion;
- **WHO** you are, including important details about your practice and any relevant background about your experience(s)

## These guidelines may also help you to streamline your proposal:

- Keep things clear and to the point, using straightforward language.
- Don't go over the suggested word limits. If long form writing is not your strength, use dot points.
- Ask someone who doesn't know a lot about your practice to read over your writing. If they can understand what you're thinking of doing in the first three sentences, you're on the right track.
- Don't feel the need to over complicate things or include a lot of work in your proposal – sometimes simple is better.
- You could note how the proposed work builds on, or is a departure from existing practice.

## images

If you are submitting images as support material, we suggest that this is provided as a link to a PDF of up to 10 images. You may also provide a link to a website or media article where your work/work-in-progress is featured.

We understand that not all applicants have access to professional photographs of their work, so we also accept photos taken using your phone camera.

# submission guide

**Below are some questions and guidelines that may help inform how you format and select images you include as support material:**

- Is the image clear?
- Does the image need cropping or editing?
- Does the viewer get a sense of scale or context? – this might be facilitated by including dimensions/location in caption for the image
- We accept images of works in progress, but make it clear that this is what the image shows.
- You could provide a mixture of images/sketches of the proposed work and alongside previous works to give an indication of your practice and the evolution of your idea.
- If possible, show us what your work will look like in the space through text, images and/or simple floor plan mockups.

## **your cv / portfolio / brief overview of your prior experience**

We encourage application from artists at different stages of their career. If this is your first show your CV will look very different to an artist who is seeking an opportunity to experiment or push the boundaries of their practice to date.

We do not judge applications based on the extensiveness or scope of your CV. Your CV helps us understand where you are at in your career and gives us an idea of how your proposed project will benefit you right now.

# submission guide

## your cv

Your CV should exceed no more than one page, and be supplied as a link to a PDF. A good CV should be regularly updated, and include your name, contact details (address, email, website, mobile), and basic biographical details (year and place of birth).

Other information you could include:

- Your education details;
- Details of mentorships, internships, volunteering experience you've undertaken;
- Solo or group exhibitions you've presented/curated;
- Scholarships or prizes you've been awarded or shortlisted for
- Grants or residencies you've received;
- Public lectures or programs you've presented;
- Publications you've authored or that have included your work;
- Private or public collections in which your work is held.

## your website / social media

- If you haven't summarised your work history in a CV or Portfolio, please provide the following:
- Links to personal artist websites or platforms showcasing your work;
- Links to media articles you have authored or where your work has been reviewed;
- Links to view your work on third party media sharing websites such as SoundCloud, YouTube or Vimeo;
- Links to a blog or work-in-progress page which demonstrates your current research or ideas to date.
- Links to your professional social media profiles, ensuring they are visible to everyone and not set to private.



# assessment criteria

## how do we assess your proposal?

Applications are read and assessed by a programming committee consisting of Firstdraft Staff, board members and cultural advisor/s.

Firstdraft assesses applications against several different criteria, including:

- artistic merit;
- emergent and experimental nature of the practices presented;
- advancement of the applicant/s' artistic and professional practice;
- responsiveness to contemporary contexts;
- geographic, demographic and art form diversity.

Applicants should also consider the following:

- New work and/or work that has not been exhibited in Sydney is preferred.
- Mid-career and more established artists must demonstrate that the work is of an experimental nature and represents a departure from their current practice.
- Preference is given to artists who have not shown at Firstdraft in the past two years.

Some of the questions we ask when assessing a proposal include:

- Does the project reflect Firstdraft's aims of supporting emerging and experimental practices?
- Is the project well conceived and practical in our spaces?
- Is this project relevant to current critical and cultural discourse?
- Has the proposed work been shown before?
- Does this project make sense in terms of the direction of the artist's practice? Are we supporting a progression in their work?
- Does this project push a medium, technique, field of enquiry, or area of practice?
- Is the project clearly defined in terms of who is involved and are all participants confirmed?

# assessment criteria

If your proposal is unsuccessful, we encourage you to apply again. Many successful artists are programmed after their second or third application.

However, if you do apply again, show us that you have developed your ideas and refined your work since the last application, as this demonstrates a real commitment to your practice. It is ok to use the same support images but if you have recent works, include those too.