

2024- live 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

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

who can apply?

We support proposals from early career artists of all ages; mid-career or more established artists must demonstrate that their proposal is of an experimental nature and represents a departure from their current practice.

live program

Firstdraft's Live Events and Public Programs engage our community and activate our spaces through transformative on-site and online experiences.

Does your practice or idea not fit within an exhibition format? Does it deal with live and/or interactive performance, digital engagement, sound, music, multimedia, food, community engagement and/or workshops? Firstdraft is looking for programs that engage the community and activate either our physical space or online space. It could be a one-off event, or exist over multiple nights.

We want to hear how we can support these types of practices through ideas, big or small, that provide moments to share our spaces with others. Proposals can include curated performance evenings or more discrete activations of space over multiple days.

We understand that some projects are time sensitive and respond to community need so applications for our live events and public programs operate on a rolling EOI basis with no strict deadline. However, we ask you to submit your applications with sufficient advance notice. Applications for large scale projects (involving multiple performers or components) are required at least 6 - 8 weeks prior to the proposed start date.

If the proposed program is open to children, you will need a Working With Children Check prior to delivering your project.

live program

successful applicants receive:

- Up to \$1,000 producer or curator/s fee based on scale of event ;
- Up to \$2,500 in artist/s fees per event in line with NAVA codes;
- In-kind and financial production support to produce the event across any of Firstdraft's spaces and courtyard, alongside the current Firstdraft exhibitions (scope to be determined in consultation with the Firstdraft team);
- Access to Firstdraft's equipment and resources;
- Marketing and communications support, including professional documentation;
- Professional event production and invigilation.

how to apply?

- Prepare all the information prior to commencing the application form
- The application form supports file uploads up to 10MB
- Complete the application form and enter any information or details requested about you or any collaborators/participants included in your proposal.

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)
10. Have you been involved with Firstdraft in the past? Preference is generally given to applicants and participants who have not been programmed at Firstdraft in the past 2 years, however, this is considered on the balance of applications received.

Tell us about your project

11. Please describe your project in approximately 300-500 words or upload your proposal on a single A4 page or an audio/video file under 4 minutes that describes your project
12. Proposed date/s or timeframe for the event

what does our application look like?

13. Who else is involved? Please provide names, pronouns and roles in this project
14. Is their participation confirmed?
15. If available, please provide any other information on potential equipment, furnishings, staging, or lights required
16. Any other relevant support material to demonstrate the nature of the project or previous work (examples include: run sheets, floor plans, images or videos of prior work, website, work-in-progress notes)
17. 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?

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.

submission guide

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.

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.

submission guide

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.

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.

submission guide

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?

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.