

## Call for Artists: Biophilic Public Art Lab

### Expression of Interest

Are you a visual artist with a passion for the natural world? Do you have experience in public art? The City of Melville invites you to apply for the **Biophilic Public Art Lab**, a unique professional development opportunity designed to explore how public art can serve not just our own species, but the displaced and disturbed species within our environment.

### What is the Biophilic Art Lab?

Melville's Biophilic Public Art Lab is a four-day immersive experience co-convened with acclaimed consulting ecologist and science communicator Mandy Bamford. Artists will engage with experts from ecology, life sciences, and government departments to imagine our urban environments through the lens of another species and consider innovative solutions for integrating art and ecology. Artist Labs bring artists together to exchange ideas, collectively inspire, acquire new knowledge and be curious about a range of perspectives. This Lab will be a fertile seeding ground, inspiring artists to consider how these insights might be woven into proposals for future biophilic public artworks. Artists will be offered an honorarium in recognition of the value of their time, and for attendance at a public discussion forum at the close of the lab.

### Background

The most powerful act of care for another species must be the protection of habitat. In areas where this is not possible - such as densely built-up Canning Bridge - we might consider public art as a source of respite for other animals. Streetlamps currently serve as safe roosting places for many of our resident water birds, but cause exposure to particle, light and noise pollution. Safe watering points for other birds are already provided - such as cockatoo watering stations at Yagan Mia and Piney Lakes - but remain purely functional structures, missing an opportunity for imagination and artist engagement in their design. In a drying, heating environment, our art could serve a critical dual purpose.



*Image credit: Cockitrough Bird waterers*



## Lab Details:

- **Date:** Tuesday 3 June to Friday 6 June, 2025 (with a Q&A Panel on Friday, 6 June, 6-8.00pm)
- **Venue:** Yagan Mia / Wireless Hill Park, Telefunken Drive, Ardross.
- **Honorarium:** \$1200 (paid for participation to each artist/artist team)
- **Inclusions:**
  - Learn from experts on the key challenges and needs of native species.
  - Insights and examples of public art intersecting with ecology.
  - Discover practical considerations from DBCA and City of Melville staff.
  - Networking and collaborations with ecologists and other artists.
  - Opportunity for workshopping ideas with subject matter experts.
  - Bus tour to significant natural sites in Melville.
  - Catering (dietary requirements will be requested)



## Who Should Apply?

- **Visual artists or artist teams** with at least five years of experience.
- Artists interested in the intersection of art, ecology, and the natural world.
- Artists with an established public art practice and/or the potential for incorporating 3-dimensional works into their practice.



### Special Considerations:

- Two places are reserved for **regional artists** (with travel subsidies and shared accommodation available).
- Two places are prioritised for **First Nations artists**.
- Artists residing in the City are encouraged to apply.

### How to Apply:

Submit the following by **midnight, Monday, 7 April 2025**:

1. **Portfolio**: Up to 10 images showcasing your relevant work (max 1mb each).
2. **Statement of Interest** (max 500 words) – Explain why this Lab aligns with your artistic practice and interest in nature.
3. **Public Art Experience**: (max 500 words) Describe your experience in public art projects.
4. **Contact Details**: Name (or artist team), email, and phone number.
5. **Access Requirements**: List any specific access needs. Are you seeking a travel subsidy?
6. **Availability: Confirm your** availability for all four days and the Q&A panel.

To submit your application, please email: [arts.melville@melville.wa.gov.au](mailto:arts.melville@melville.wa.gov.au)

If you would like to submit your proposal through another method, such as an oral or video presentation, please contact the Public Art Curator to discuss your ideas.

### Selection

All applications will be reviewed by the selection panel. Up to 14 artists/artist teams will be selected.

Artists will be notified by **Wednesday, 16 April**.

Successful artists will be sent the itinerary one month prior to the Lab.

Artists will be paid an honorarium as compensation for lost income upon completion of the Lab and submission of the invoice and feedback survey.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to connect with experts, explore new ideas, and shape the future of biophilic public art!

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*For more information or if you need assistance with the application process, contact Hannah Katarski, Public Art Curator at (08) 9364 0645 or [hannah.katarski@melville.wa.gov.au](mailto:hannah.katarski@melville.wa.gov.au).*

