

Exhibition Development Fund (EDF) FAQs

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Applicants

Who is eligible to apply?

NETS Victoria's Exhibition Development Fund (EDF) is open to independent curators and incorporated not-for-profit arts organisations in Australia (including Local Councils, public galleries, festivals and other arts organisations).

All applicants must have a history of supporting visual arts projects. If the applicant is an independent curator, they must have relevant qualifications and experience. They must either have their own ABN or be auspiced by an arts organisation with an ABN.

Independent artists and State-owned Government agencies are not eligible to apply.

NETS Victoria board members and members of its Artistic Program Advisory Committee, First Nations Advisory Committee and Development and Fundraising Committee are eligible to apply. Should they apply, they cannot participate in any aspect of decision making.

Do applicants need to be organisations?

No. The EDF is also open to independent curators.

If the applicant is an independent curator, they must have relevant qualifications and experience. They must either have their own ABN or be auspiced by an arts organisation with an ABN.

Do applicants need to be based in Victoria?

As the EDF is funded by Creative Victoria, the primary beneficiaries of EDF funded projects should be Victorian artists, curators, arts organisations, public galleries and audiences. However, exhibitions can include some interstate or international artists, and initial research, curatorial development and initial public outcomes may take place interstate.

Who is ineligible to apply?

Artists.

State-owned government agencies.

Applicants who have been an exhibition partner with NETS Victoria in the previous two years (whether that tour was supported by the EDF or not). This time period will be measured as between the first date of the first venue of a previous exhibition to the submission due date of the current application round.

Ineligible activities include:

- Exhibitions that have already been staged.
 - Exhibitions that include more than 50% historical material.
 - Exhibitions that include less than 50% living artists.
 - Solo exhibitions of a deceased artist.
 - Solo exhibitions of an artist that has had a NETS Victoria solo exhibition in the previous eight years from the date of application (whether that exhibition was supported by the EDF or not).
 - Development of art prizes or awards.
 - Development of permanent exhibitions or displays.
 - Projects which will be academically assessed as part of the curator or artists' studies.
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Projects

What sort of project can I apply for?

The EDF supports the development of new, curated exhibitions of contemporary visual arts, craft and design.

Applications up to \$10,000 can be for exhibition research and curatorial development, which may or may not include a public outcome. Applications between \$10,000-\$40,000 must result in a public outcome in Victoria.

Public outcomes may include activities such as staging the exhibition in a single venue or online, or producing an exhibition catalogue.

Applications that include public outcomes must:

- Be open to the public at regular and/or specified times.
- Use gallery or non-gallery venues with environmental controls appropriate to the nature of the exhibition.
- Have good disability access (including flat-floor entry to exhibition spaces and/or accessible digital programs or publications).
- Be restricted to a single venue or activity (not a multi-venue tour).

All EDF projects must be developed with the intention to tour the exhibition in partnership with NETS Victoria (pending confirmation of additional tour funding and future program priorities).

Do activities need to have a public outcome?

No. EDF projects may be entirely research and development.

Do activities need to take place in Victoria?

As the EDF is funded by Creative Victoria, the primary beneficiaries of EDF funded projects should be Victorian artists, curators and/or arts organisations, public galleries and audiences. However, exhibitions can include some interstate or international artists, and initial research, curatorial development and/or initial public outcomes may take place interstate.

Do activities need to take place in a particular type of gallery or venue?

No. EDF supports activities in both gallery and non-gallery venues, as long as they:

- Are open to the public at regular and/or specified times.
- Have environmental controls appropriate to the nature of the exhibition.
- Have good disability access (including flat-floor entry to exhibition spaces and/or accessible digital programs or publications).

When should activities take place?

All activities must take place between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2027.

Can I apply for an exhibition that has already been publicly displayed?

No.

Can I apply for a touring exhibition?

No. Pending confirmation of additional tour funding and future program priorities, NETS Victoria will tour the exhibition to venues in regional Victoria (and beyond).

However, you are welcome to include evidence of how the concept or work responds or are relevant to an identified interest, need or audience.

Can I apply for a solo exhibition?

Yes, as long as:

- It is not for yourself (as artists cannot apply).
- It is not for a deceased artist.

- It is not for any artist that has had a NETS Victoria solo exhibition in the previous eight years (whether that exhibition was supported by the EDF or not).

Can I apply for a permanent exhibition or display?

No.

Can I apply for an art prize or award?

No.

What sort of projects is NETS Victoria interested in?

The EDF supports the development of new, curated exhibitions of contemporary visual arts, craft and design.

The program seed funds innovative exhibitions of high-quality work and accompanying public programs that engage, inspire and develop artists, curators, arts organisations, public galleries and audiences across Victoria (and beyond).

The majority of work in the exhibition should be new work. Exhibitions that include more than 50% historical material are not eligible.

The majority of artists in the exhibition should be living artists. In some cases, NETS Victoria will consider exhibitions that include both living and deceased artists, as long as they explore contemporary ideas or narratives and/or use the work of deceased artists to reflect or bear witness to the past in order to better understand the world we live in today. Exhibitions that include less than 50% living artists are not eligible.

The program also aims to increase representation of First Nations artists and curators, showcase new and diverse voices, build the capacity of artists, curators, applicants and audiences, and create new touring models that contribute to environmental sustainability.

All EDF projects must be developed with the intention to tour the exhibition in partnership with NETS Victoria (pending confirmation of additional tour funding and future program priorities). This means that NETS Victoria is also interested in the tour-ability of your concept and design, including:

- Flexibility to be installed in multiple venues (of various types and scales).
- Ease of installation and maintenance for galleries with limited staffing.
- Potential public and education programs.
- Evidence of how the concept or work responds or are relevant to an identified interest, need or audience.
- Evidence of in-principle support from potential venues.
- Size, diversity and location of potential audiences.

What sort of applications are successful?

The most successful applications are innovative, have a strong curatorial premise and potential tour-ability, and help meet NETS Victoria's priorities.

Applications with strong education and public programs that are designed to engage, inspire and develop artists, curators, arts organisations, public galleries and diverse audiences are also highly considered.

Projects must also be financially viable and have a realistic budget.

What audience engagement strategies should I consider?

Applications should consider potential public and education programs (such as artist or curator talks, education kits, learning programs, etc.).

Budgets

How much can I apply for?

Applications up to \$40,000 will be considered (from a total funding pool of \$40,000).

Applications between \$10,000-\$40,000 must result in a public outcome in Victoria. Average grants to previous applicants have been around \$10,000.

What can I include in my budget?

We recommend you spend time researching potential costs to ensure the project's success.

Eligible costs include:

- Victorian-based Independent or external curator fees (for research, development and artist liaison).
- Victorian-based Artist fees (including commission and loan fees at appropriate industry rates).
- Research costs (including travel, accommodation and per diems).
- Contribution towards initial public outcome, such as:
 - Exhibition furniture, framing and technology.
 - Education and public program development and delivery.
 - Marketing, promotion, printing or digital platform delivery.
 - Documentation (including photographer, videographer and writer fees).

Ineligible costs include:

- Touring costs.

- Existing staff costs.

Check out the EDF Application and Budget Form for other suggestions.

Can I apply if my project has other funding?

Yes. We encourage applicants to explore a variety of funding streams.

Process and timeline

When are applications due?

Applications must be emailed to info@netsvictoria.org no later than **5pm** on the deadline date published on NETS Victoria's website.

What should my application include?

Applications must include:

- Completed EDF Application and Budget Form.
- Support material (in a single combined PDF document):

What should my support material include?

Support material should be submitted in a single combined PDF document. This can include:

- Biographies and website links (URLs) for all artists, curators and other practitioners (researchers, writers, etc.) involved in the project. No more than 200 words per person.
- Between 5-10 images of artwork AND/OR website links (URLs) for up to 10 minutes of video work.
- Up to 5 A4 pages of written material, such as biographies, examples of curator's written work, media articles, exhibition reviews, examples of publicity from previous projects (including source, date, and publication details).
- Up to 3 A4 letters of support from relevant organisations and individuals, which may include evidence of how the concept or work responds or is relevant to an identified interest, need or audience.

Can I submit more than one application?

No. Applicants may only submit one application for one project per round.

Should I talk to NETS Victoria before submission?

Not necessarily. Applicants must read the EDF Guidelines and EDF Frequently Asked Questions before submission.

If you have a question that isn't answered in the EDF Frequently Asked Questions, contact NETS Victoria on 03 8620 2007 or info@netsvictoria.org.

What happens after submission?

Applications will be checked for eligibility then assessed by our Artistic Program Advisory Committee.

NETS Victoria will notify applicants of their outcome by email. We reserve the right to grant partial allocations of funding to multiple applicants.

How will my application be assessed?

Applications will be checked for eligibility then assessed by our Artistic Program Advisory Committee against the following selection criteria:

1. Artistic merit

- Quality of ideas (concept) and work (content).
- Quality of previous projects undertaken by artists and curators.
- Quality and innovation of curatorial rationale.

2. Strategic alignment

All applications should align with one or more of NETS Victoria's strategic priorities, which are:

- Representation of First Nations artists and curators.
- Representation of diverse and new voices (as artists and/or curators).
- Capacity building of Victorian-based artists, curators, arts organisations and audiences.
- Environmental sustainability.

3. Presentation, interpretation and reach

- Quality, reach and impact of public outcomes (if any).
- Tour-ability of concept and design, including:
 - Flexibility to be installed in multiple venues (of various types and scales).
 - Ease of installation and maintenance for galleries with limited staffing.
 - Potential public and education programs.
 - Evidence of how the concept or work responds or are relevant to an identified interest, need or audience.
 - Evidence of in-principle support from potential venues.
 - Size, diversity and location of potential audiences.

4. Viability

- Capacity to professionally deliver the proposed activity and achieve the described outcomes to the highest possible standard.
- Realistic and accurate budget.
- Intention to tour the exhibition in partnership with NETS Victoria.

If I get an EDF grant, what happens?

EDF funded projects must not commence before July 2025. Funds will not be available until completed Grant Agreement is returned to NETS Victoria with a valid invoice.

Successful applicants will be required to agree to the following conditions:

1. Sole purpose

- The grant recipient must use the grant solely for the purpose for which it was approved.
- If any part of the grant is used for purposes other than those originally named, the grant recipient must inform NETS Victoria immediately. A variation agreement may be required if new purposes are approved.
- NETS Victoria reserves the right to terminate this agreement and request the return of funds should the grant recipient not adhere to these terms.

2. Compliance

- If the grant recipient is unable to undertake or complete the activity, NETS Victoria Board of Management reserves the right to terminate this agreement and request the return of part or all funds.

3. Acknowledgement

- All marketing material and publicity associated with the project must acknowledge the financial assistance of NETS Victoria using appropriate logos and credit lines on all publications.

4. Invitations

- Where relevant, 12 invitations to the opening of the initial public outcome must be forwarded to NETS Victoria for distribution to its Board of Management.
- The grant recipient will invite a NETS Victoria representative to speak at the opening or launch of the public outcome/s, where appropriate.

5. Preparation of other agreements

- This agreement is made on the understanding that the grant recipient will enter into standard contracts and loan agreements with all curators, artists and other practitioners involved in the project.

6. Acquittal

- The grant recipient is required to submit an acquittal report to NETS Victoria within one month of the project's completion or 24 months after receipt of the grant (whichever comes first). This will include:

- Overview of the project.
- Benefits to the applicant, artists, curators and community.
- Where grant activities included a public outcome:
 - Details of exhibition, public and education programs.
 - Attendance and diversity statistics.
 - Photographs, media clippings and brochures.
- Information and materials for NETS Victoria to apply for tour funding.

7. Liaison and intention to tour

- The grant recipient is expected to liaise with NETS Victoria throughout the development and delivery of this project.
- All EDF projects must be developed with the intention to tour the exhibition in partnership with NETS Victoria (pending confirmation of additional tour funding and future program priorities).
- NETS Victoria will use the 6-18 months after receiving the acquittal report to confirm additional tour funding and future program priorities. The grant recipient must agree not to tour the exhibition themselves or in partnership with another organisation during that time.
- If successful, a NETS Victoria tour will follow. If unsuccessful, the grant recipient will be able to tour the exhibition themselves or in partnership with another organisation.

What should I include in my acquittal?

The grant recipient is required to submit an acquittal report to NETS Victoria within one month of the project's completion or 24 months after receipt of the grant (whichever comes first).

Applicants must intend to tour the exhibition in partnership with NETS Victoria and agree to provide relevant and timely acquittal content to NETS Victoria (to support funding applications). This will include:

- Overview of the project.
- Benefits to the applicant, artists, curators and community.
- Where grant activities included a public outcome:
 - Details of exhibition, public and education programs.
 - Attendance and diversity statistics.
 - Photographs, media clippings and brochures.
- Information and materials for NETS Victoria to apply for tour funding:
 - Project Description: 100-word and 250-word versions (Word document).
 - Curatorial Rationale: 150-words articulating why the exhibition is important to tour (Word document).

- Biographies of all artists and curators involved: 150-words per person indicating pronouns and whether they identify as culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD), disabled, First Nations Australian, or international (Word document).
- 2-4 Public Program Ideas/Engagement Strategies: 100-words per idea (Word document).
- Draft List of Works, including thumbnail images, artist, title, year, medium, dimensions and owner (Word or Excel document). This will be further developed in consultation with NETS Victoria.
- 12 x high res images, including full captions (artist, title, year, medium, dimensions, courtesy).
- Dimensions/details of any exhibition furniture, framing and technology required for tour (Word document).
- Draft 1-page support letter from curator (Word document). This will be further developed in consultation with NETS Victoria.
- 1 x PDF of emails from artists confirming interest in their work/s being on tour and their involvement in public programs (i.e. giving talks at venues across Australia). This will be further developed in consultation with NETS Victoria.

Does an EDF grant always lead to a NETS Victoria tour?

No. All EDF projects must be developed with the *intention* to tour the exhibition in partnership with NETS Victoria.

However, whether or not the tour takes place will depend on:

- Confirmation of additional tour funding; AND
- Confirmation of future program priorities.

NETS Victoria will use the 6-18 months after receiving the acquittal report to confirm additional tour funding and future program priorities. During that time, you will be unable to tour the exhibition yourself or in partnership with another organisation.

If successful, a NETS Victoria tour will follow. If unsuccessful, you will be able to tour the exhibition yourself or in partnership with another organisation.

When would a tour take place?

NETS Victoria will use the 6-18 months after receiving the acquittal report to confirm additional tour funding and future program priorities. If successful, a NETS Victoria tour will follow.

What is the benefit of a NETS Victoria tour?

NETS Victoria is the peak body for visual art, craft and design touring and the State's only full-service visual arts touring organisation.

If successful, we will manage all aspects of exhibition and tour development and delivery including: co-design; income generation (including grant applications); project management; provision of expert advice; itinerary development and coordination; registration; logistics (scheduling, manual development, museum-standard packing and crating); preventative conservation; exhibition design, layout and assistance with installation; marketing support; design and production of publications and interpretive resources; and facilitating audience engagement.

A partnership with NETS Victoria will also help you build your profile and professional network in galleries and communities across Australia, reach a wider audience, and capitalise on the investment you make in your project.