

# Functional Art: Seating Along the Todd River

*Expression of Interest (EOI) Public Art Commission*



For enquiries, please contact:

**Rachael Davis**

Public Art & CBD Engagement Officer  
Alice Springs Town Council

Phone: 08 8950 0582

Email: [rdavis@astc.nt.gov.au](mailto:rdavis@astc.nt.gov.au)



*Alice Springs Town Council recognises the Arrernte people as the traditional owners of Mparntwe and is grateful for their continued custodianship of the local lands and waterways.*

*We acknowledge and celebrate the continuation of a living culture that has held, and continues to hold, a unique role within the Mparntwe region for over 60,000 years.*

*Council embraces Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander living cultures as a vital part of Australia's identity and recognises, celebrates and pays respect to the existing family members of the Arrernte people and to Elders past, present and future.*

Alice Springs Town Council invites artists (individuals or in groups) to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for the development of a series of functional art pieces that will double as public seating to be placed along the Todd River.

**If you are an emerging artist who may not have previously completed a submission, please note that application support can be made available to you.**

## Background

The ephemeral river known as the Todd River, or Lhere Mparntwe, runs through the centre of the Alice Springs municipality and is fundamental to the character and identity of the town.

Community Feedback provided as part of the [Alice Springs Public Art Master Plan 2020-2030](#) identified functional art as a preferred public art concept with placement to be along the Todd River with focus on the corridor from the Todd River foreshore to the CBD.

## Project Aims

This project aims to provide seating (and could include tables) in the form of creative art which will allow the user to enjoy the magnificence of the scenery as well as connect to country through interpretative story telling. 3 to 5 benches should be considered for the project.

## Themes

Lhere Mparntwe has a deep connection for both Arrernte culture and early settlers, and the project aims to showcase and educate the community on these Local Stories and connections.

The artwork benches should explore the themes of living water and focus on local stories of our connection to the Todd River.

A great source of reading is the [Cultural Values Associated with Alice Springs Water](#) by Dick Kimber.

## Artwork Location

The Installation will be installed in the CBD along the Todd River, with exact locations to be confirmed.

## Artwork Details

### Material

Artists are encouraged to consider a broad range of potential materials and approaches.

The materiality is open and not limited, but the following points should be taken into account by the artist. The artwork must:

- be made from durable, robust, high-quality, low maintenance materials
- be able to withstand our climate in all seasons including flooding
- be as resistant to vandalism as possible
- Meet all relevant safety standards
- be achievable within the Council timeframe and budget
- consider mounting systems/installation.

### The Artwork must:

- contribute to a welcoming place which provides a sense of belonging for those who visit the area;
- be prominent enough to create interest so that people will want to visit and learn about local culture, even become a setting for photo opportunities;
- respond to the natural environment and encourage a connection to country; and
- be suitable for use by people with a wide range of needs including children, the aged and people with disabilities.

## Constraints

No further constraints identified at this time.

## Life of the Work

It is intended that the lifespan of the work be 10-15 years.

# The Project Team

### The Commissioner

» Alice Springs Town Council

### Project Manager

» Rachael Davis, Public Arts & CBD Engagement Officer

### Project Sponsor

» Kate Walsh, Manager Community & Cultural Development

### Infrastructure Manager

» Joel Andrew, Director Technical Services

### Key Stakeholder Native Title

» Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation

### Subject Matter Expert

» Successful Commissioned Artist (The Artist)

## Process

The Project will be delivered through the following stages:

<b>Stage 1</b>	Expression of Interest (EOI)
<b>Stage 2</b>	Shortlisted Artists – Concept Development
<b>Stage 3</b>	Final Assessment & Council Approval
<b>Stage 4</b>	Selected Artist Contract & Design Development
<b>Stage 5</b>	Fabrication and Installation of Artwork

## Stage 1: Expression of Interest (EOI)

### Eligibility

Artists (individuals and/or groups) who meet the following criteria are invited to submit an EOI:

- » Applicants must have a strong understanding of Arrernte culture;
- » Applicants should have community art experience; and
- » Applicants must be prepared to meet Council timelines and requirements, and work with contractors.

## Support Documentation

1. A resume or CV outlining experience
2. A 400-word written response that outlines how the artist plans to deliver a series of functional art seating that tells the tales of Alice Springs' connection to the Todd River.
3. Three to six examples of previous artworks/projects which include:
  - an image and title of the work
  - the date the work was produced,
  - the location of the work (if applicable),
  - dimensions of the work and material details.

## Selection Criteria

- » Quality of portfolio;
- » Demonstrated ability to deliver the project,
- » Demonstrated capacity to support the vision and principles as outlined within the [Alice Springs Town Council Public Art Masterplan 2020-2030](#)
- » Demonstrated connection with First Nations community and/or culture.

## Stage 2: Shortlisted Artists - Concept Development

If your Submission is selected, you will progress to Stage 2.

Artists involved in this stage will:

- » Receive any relevant site documentation from Alice Springs Town Council;
- » Have the opportunity to consult with other members of Council's Technical Services team including landscape architects and/or engineers;
- » Work with Council to develop a detailed budget based on indicative quotes from potential project partners and suppliers.

## What to Include:

Shortlisted Artist(s) will be given a further four weeks to submit final Concept Designs which will include:

- » Artwork Title
- » A Short and Concise statement about the proposed artwork
- » Details which may include;
  - » Concept and Ideas;
  - » Response to the Project Brief;
  - » Aesthetic Response to the site;
  - » Conceptual depth and lasting interest; and
  - » Viewer experience.

- » Technical Details Including:
  - » Design plans and elevations
  - » visual renderings and/or models;
  - » Material samples where applicable;
  - » A preliminary description of the proposed installation method;
  - » Key Maintenance Issues;
  - » Anti-graffiti and vandalism considerations
  - » Durability for withstanding flooding
- » Proposed Community Engagement including:
  - » How users will engage with the artwork,
  - » Move through or sit in the space; and
  - » Consultation on design
- » Indicative project timeline outlining an estimate of the time required for fabrication and installation; and
- » A detailed budget that includes, at a minimum, a breakdown of the following costs:
  - » Artist fee;
  - » Engineering and certification;
  - » All materials and fixings;
  - » Paint and finishings;
  - » Fabrication costs;
  - » Technical costs;
  - » Installation costs;
  - » Lighting costs;
  - » All transport, accommodation and travel costs if applicable
  - » Subcontractor fees required for the project from concept to launch;
  - » Public liability, product and transit insurance; and
  - » Contingency (10%)

### **Stage 3: Final Assessment & Council Approval**

#### **Final Assessment Process**

Shortlisted artists may be asked to present their concepts to the project panel online or in person, with all final submissions assessed against the following criteria:

#### **Concept**

- » The Concept and ideas;
- » Response to the Project Brief;
- » Aesthetic response to the site;
- » Conceptual depth and lasting interest; and
- » Viewer experience.

#### **Material**

- » Appropriateness of materials;
- » Appropriateness of mounting systems and installation;

- » Maintenance requirements;
- » Artwork life expectancy;
- » Achievable in available budget; and
- » Achievable in available timeline.

Once the project team have assessed the submission, a recommendation will be made to Council for the preferred proponent. Once an Appointment has been made, artist/s will be notified.

### **Stage 4: Selected Artist Contract & Design Development**

The successful artist/s will sign an Artist Contract with Alice Springs Town Council. The contract will set out the obligations and conditions of all parties and include a work program, milestones and payment schedule.

The artist will further develop and refine their ideas, designs, materials and technical requirements for their proposal.

The artist will have up to five (5) weeks dedicated to this stage to advance their proposal to be ready for fabrication and installation. This stage will include any further research and provide an opportunity to refine and improve the design, incorporating any comments, feedback or considerations offered by the Project Team.

Once stakeholders have approved the Final Design, the Artist will be engaged to undertake the Fabrication and Installation of the Artwork.

### **Stage 5: Fabrication & Installation**

The artist will be responsible for the creation of the artwork and the installation of the work physically and/or through overseeing and direction onsite.

The production of the artwork may involve the artist creating the artwork themselves, supervising its fabrication or a combination of both. During this stage, the artist will be required to meet the milestones outlined in the contract. Upon achievement of these milestones, progress payments will be released.

During production, the artist will be responsible for providing regular updates on the progress of the artwork to the Project Manager and/or Project Team.

Council will undertake an inspection for any defects and concept compliance. As part of the handover process, the artist will also be required to provide a **Maintenance Plan**.

## The Budget

The budget is to cover:

- » The artist fee and that of any assistants
- » Attendance at meetings and any administration;
- » All costs associated with research and design development documentation prior to fabrication;
- » Reasonable costs incurred in the fabrication of the work, including: materials, expendables and studio overheads;
- » Costs associated with lighting the work;
- » Contractors and subcontractors;
- » Technical consulting advice;
- » Appropriate legal and insurance costs including Public Liability of (min. \$10 million);
- » All costs associated with transporting the artworks to the site and any travel and accommodation required by the artist;
- » Any costs incurred in installation including: all labour and associated trades costs involved in the physical installation of the artwork such as crane or equipment hire, excavation and footings, installers preliminary costs including site safety/temporary fencing etc.; and
- » All costs associated with preparing a maintenance manual that conforms to the proforma provided.

**Note:** All installation/construction works are to comply with relevant Australian Standards and Building Codes.

## Council Logistics

Council will coordinate and cover costs associated with permits, approvals, traffic management and road closure (if applicable) in conjunction with the artist.

## Design of Place

The work program for the artist will include, if required, dedicated time to collaborate with an Alice Springs Town Council Landscape Architect to design the landscape surrounding the place where the marker will be situated.

This may include the design of site features to create an experience of place that will meet the requirements agreed upon by the Project Team.

## Conditions

### Site context

The artwork will be commissioned in the context of broader Council policies, plans and frameworks relating to:

- » Planning, heritage and environmental/sustainability
- » Public safety, occupational health and safety, and access
- » Site-specific engineering and climate conditions

### Signage

Signage will be produced by Council in consultation with the artist and the Project Team, with this to be installed at an appropriate on-site location in order to acknowledge the artist and the significance of the work, as well as any other key stakeholders.

### Publicity

Photos will be taken of the artworks and added to the Alice Springs Town Council Public Art Map and for documentation purposes. An audio interview will be recorded with the Artist and to be used for promotion of the artwork and the Town Council.

### Maintenance

The ongoing maintenance of the public artwork will be managed by the Alice Springs Town Council. Council will use the Maintenance Manual provided by the artist in order to guide this process. If required, the Artist will be given the first preference to undertake any maintenance work. The Artist will be responsible in rectifying, without charge to Council, latent defects that become apparent within twelve months of the installation.

## Decommissioning

If the artwork has been damaged or destroyed, or is no longer safe, there may be a need to remove or relocate it. Before an artwork is de-commissioned all reasonable attempts will be made to contact and consult with the artist.

## Budget

A maximum budget of **\$88,200** (excluding GST) is allocated for the commissioned work. This includes both the artist fee and fabrication/installation of both of the finished art installations.

## Timeline

Please see the timeline below for an understanding of key dates:

**EOIs Close** 1 March 2024

**Shortlisted artists notified** 4 - 6 March 2024

**Artist(s) Briefing onsite** 7 - 12 March 2024

**Stage Two Submissions due** 29 March 2024

**Shortlisting (Artist Presentations)** 7 - 10 March 2024

**Selected artist notified** 24 April 2024

**Fabrication** Due by 1 July 2024

**Final installation** Due by 31 July 2024

**Formal Launch** August 2024

*Please note: these dates are a guide only and are subject to change.*

**For enquiries or assistance with your submission, please contact:**

**Rachael Davis**  
CBD Engagement and Public Arts Officer  
Alice Springs Town Council  
Phone: 08 8950 0582  
Email: [rdavis@astc.nt.gov.au](mailto:rdavis@astc.nt.gov.au)

## How to Submit

1. Familiarise yourself with this document.
2. Fill in the [Online Application Form](#)
3. Upload all of the support documentation
4. Submit your application by **midnight 1 March 2024.**

You can also submit your EOI via the following methods:

### Email

Please submit via email to: [rdavis@astc.nt.gov.au](mailto:rdavis@astc.nt.gov.au)

**Note:** If you are emailing your application, please use Dropbox or OneDrive to include any support documentation if it exceeds 10mb.

### Hardcopy

Hardcopies may be mailed by the submission date to:

**Rachael Davis**  
Alice Springs Town Council  
PO Box 1071  
Alice Springs NT 0871

**Note:** Please take into consideration that Alice Springs Town Council will be unable to return any original support material that is mailed in.

## Support Documentation Checklist

- ☒ A resume or CV outlining experience
- ☒ A 400-word written response that outlines how the artist plans to deliver a series of functional art seating that tells the tales of Alice Springs' connection to the Todd River.
- ☒ Three to six examples of previous artworks or projects which include:
  - an image and title of the work
  - the date the work was produced
  - the location of the work (if applicable)
  - dimensions of the work and material details.



## Need Some Inspiration?

Here are some examples of art works that may help to inspire!



*Seat of Acknowledgement by Nic Compton and Sharyn Egan*



*The Happy Place Project by Gloria Richards*



*Chaffey Installation by Glenn Romanis*



*Bean by Valerie Theberge*



*On the Bayou by John V. Weber*



*Sound of Healing by Michelle Old, Kevin Giuseppetti, Stacy Moore & Derek Giuseppetti*